



Standard Test Method for Temperature Calibration of Rheometers in Isothermal Mode¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This test method describes the temperature calibration or conformance of rheometers. The applicable temperature range is 0 to 80°C however other ranges may be selected for the purpose at hand.

1.2 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as standard. No other units of measurement are included in this standard.

1.3 There are no ISO equivalents to this standard.

1.4 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*²

E473 Terminology Relating to Thermal Analysis and Rheology

E1142 Terminology Relating to Thermophysical Properties

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—Specific technical terms found in this standard are defined in Terminologies **E473** and **E1142**, including *rheometer* and *rheometry*.

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 An electronic thermometer of known characteristics is placed in the center of a dummy test specimen in contact with the torque applying instrument plates of a rheometer at constant (isothermal) temperature. The difference between the rheometer set temperature and that indicated by the thermometer is used to calibrate the rheometer temperature signal.

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee **E37** on Thermal Measurements and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee **E37.08** on Rheology.

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² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 Rheological properties such as viscosity and storage and loss modulus change rapidly with temperature. High quality determinations of these properties depend upon a stable and well-known temperature of the measuring apparatus.

6. Interferences

6.1 In many rheological experiments, temperature is varied with time. The calibration in this test method is made under stable and isothermal temperature conditions. Thus the effects of changes in temperature with time are not addressed. This isothermal calibration does not provide any information about the specimen under temperature scanning conditions.

7. Apparatus

7.1 An electronic thermometer that includes:

7.1.1 *Temperature sensor*, (such as a thermocouple, platinum resistance thermometer, thermistor, etc.) with an accuracy (traceable to a known absolute standard) and resolution of $\pm 0.1^\circ\text{C}$ and a range of 0 to 80°C.

NOTE 1—Sensors with other temperature ranges may be used at the operator's convenience.

NOTE 2—Some sensors are available already affixed with dummy test specimens from section 7.2

7.1.2 *Temperature indicator*, to convert the signal presented by the temperature sensor into a digital electronic temperature display with the accuracy and precision indicated in section 7.1.1.

7.2 *Dummy test specimen*, two polymer sheets each 1 mm in thickness of such a diameter to fill the space (that is, gap) between the instrument plates.

NOTE 3—The dummy test specimen may be composed of the material to be tested or some other representative polymer material. Polydimethylsiloxane (PDMS) (for example, "Silly Putty"³) may be used for this purpose.

NOTE 4—Polydimethylsiloxane may leave a residue of silicone oil on the surfaces of the instrument plates. This oil should be removed prior to subsequent use.

7.3 *Rheometer*, the essential instrumentation required providing the minimum rheological analytical capabilities for this test method include:

³ The trademark Silly Putty is registered to Crayola Properties, inc., Easton, PA, 18042.

7.3.1 A *drive actuator*, to apply torque or displacement to the specimen in a periodic manner capable of frequencies of oscillation from 0.01 to 10 rad/s (0.0016 to 1.6 Hz). This actuator may also be capable of providing static force or transient step or displacement of the test specimen.

7.3.2 A *coupling shaft*, or other means to transmit the torque or displacement from the actuator to the specimen.

7.3.3 A *geometry, tools or plates*, to fix the specimen between the coupling shaft and a stationary position. For the purposes of this test, parallel plates are the preferred configuration

7.3.4 Either a *torque sensor*, to measure force developed by the specimen or a position sensor to measure the angular displacement, either one being capable of measuring within limits appropriate to the specimen and test being performed.

7.3.5 A *temperature sensor*, to provide an indication of the specimen temperature readable to within $\pm 0.1^\circ\text{C}$.

7.3.6 A *furnace or heating/cooling element*, to provide controlled heating or cooling of a specimen to a constant temperature constant to within $\pm 0.1^\circ\text{C}$ over the temperature range of interest.

7.3.7 A *temperature controller*, capable of executing a specific temperature program by operating the furnace or heating/cooling element between selected temperature limits constant to within $\pm 0.1^\circ\text{C}$.

7.3.8 A *stress or strain controller*, capable of executing a specific unidirectional or oscillatory stress or strain program between selected stress or strain limits capable of controlling within limits appropriate to the specimen and test being performed.

7.3.9 A *data collecting device*, to provide a means of acquiring, storing, and displaying measured or calculated signals, or both. The minimum output signals required include applied force, position or frequency or calculated signal (such as viscosity, storage modulus, loss modulus, or tangent delta) using a linear or logarithmic scale and the independent experimental parameters (such as temperature, time, stress, strain, or frequency of oscillation).

7.3.10 Auxiliary instrumentation considered necessary or useful in conducting this test method includes:

7.3.10.1 A *cooling capability* to hasten cool down from elevated temperatures, to provide constant cooling rates, or to sustain an isothermal subambient temperature.

7.3.10.2 *Data analysis capability*, to provide determined signals (such as viscosity, storage, or loss modulus) or other useful parameters derived from the measured signals.

8. Preparation of Apparatus

8.1 Turn on the rheometer and allow it to equilibrate for at least 30 minutes prior to temperature calibration.

8.2 Assemble the rheometer with the instrument plates to be used during subsequent tests.

9. Calibration and Standardization

9.1 Perform any temperature calibration procedures recommended by the rheometer manufacturer as described in the instruments operations manual.

10. Procedure

10.1 Insert the temperature sensor so that it is located at the vertical and radial center of the dummy test specimen.

NOTE 5—This may be accomplished by placing the sensor between two sheets of the dummy test specimen.

10.2 Mount the dummy test specimen between the instrument plates. Close the gap to the dimension to be used for the test specimen, keeping the temperature sensor centered vertically and radially.

NOTE 6—Other gaps and plate diameters may be used but shall be reported.

NOTE 7—It is not necessary to trim the dummy test specimen but a large excess of material beyond the edges of the plates should be avoided.

10.3 Heat (or cool) the plates to the desired calibration temperature and equilibrate until the indicated temperature changes by less than $\pm 0.1^\circ\text{C}$ in 5 min.

10.4 Measure and record the temperature indicated by the thermometer as T_o and that of set temperature of the rheometer as T_s .

10.5 Determine the temperature calibration value according to 11.

NOTE 8—Depending upon the needs of the user, a single-point temperature calibration may be adequate. In this case, a single offset calibration value is determined. Others may prefer a two-point temperature calibration where the temperature values of interest are selected to encompass all test temperatures. Here, a linear interpolation of results between the two temperature calibration points may be used. Some users may wish to calibrate the apparatus at temperature intervals over the full range of the temperature range. In this case, a working curve composed of offset values as a function of temperature should be created.

11. Calculation or Interpretation of Results

11.1 The temperature response of the apparatus is assumed to be linear and is described by the equation:

$$T_o = S T_s + b \quad (1)$$

where:

T_o = observed temperature in $^\circ\text{C}$,

T_s = requested controller temperature in $^\circ\text{C}$,

S = slope of the plot of T_o versus T_s , dimensionless, and

b = temperature offset or bias (intercept of the T_o versus T_s plot) in $^\circ\text{C}$.

11.2 Single-Point Temperature Calibration:

11.2.1 In a single-point temperature calibration, it is assumed that the slope (S) for the instrument calibration is 1.00000 and that there is only an offset between the observed and requested temperature. This is a reasonable assumption where the temperature range to be used is narrow.

11.2.2 The offset or bias (b) is given by:

$$b = T_o - T_s \quad (2)$$

11.2.3 The value for b is determined by entering the values for T_o and T_s measured according to 10.4 into Eq 2.

11.2.4 The true value for an instrument requested temperature is then given by:

$$T = T_s + b \quad (3)$$