



Designation: D1838 – 21

Standard Test Method for Copper Strip Corrosion by Liquefied Petroleum (LP) Gases¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D1838; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

1. Scope*

1.1 This test method covers the detection of the presence of components in liquefied petroleum gases which can be corrosive to copper.

NOTE 1—For an equivalent copper strip test applicable to less volatile petroleum products, see Test Method [D130](#).

1.2 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as standard.

1.2.1 *Exception*—The values given in parentheses are for information only.

1.3 *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, health, and environmental practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.* For specific warning statements, see [7.1](#), [10.3.1](#), and [Annex A1](#).

1.4 *This international standard was developed in accordance with internationally recognized principles on standardization established in the Decision on Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations issued by the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

[D130](#) Test Method for Corrosiveness to Copper from Petroleum Products by Copper Strip Test

[D1265](#) Practice for Sampling Liquefied Petroleum (LP) Gases, Manual Method

[D1835](#) Specification for Liquefied Petroleum (LP) Gases

[D3700](#) Practice for Obtaining LPG Samples Using a Floating Piston Cylinder

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee [D02](#) on Petroleum Products, Liquid Fuels, and Lubricants and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee [D02.H0](#) on Liquefied Petroleum Gas.

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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.

2.2 ASTM Adjuncts:

ADJD0130, ASTM Copper Strip Corrosion Standard for Petroleum³

3. Terminology

3.1 Abbreviations:

3.1.1 CAMI—Coated Abrasives Manufacturers Institute

3.1.2 FEPA—Federation of European Producers Association

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 A polished copper strip is immersed in approximately 100 mL of the sample and exposed at a temperature of 37.8 °C (100 °F) for 1 h in a cylinder of suitable working pressure. At the end of this period, the copper strip is removed and rated as one of the four classifications of the ASTM Copper Strip Corrosion Standard (ADJD0130).

5. Significance and Use

5.1 Copper corrosion limits provide assurance that difficulties will not be experienced in deterioration of the copper and copper-alloy fittings and connections that are commonly used in many types of utilization, storage, and transportation equipment.

6. Apparatus

6.1 *Corrosion Test Cylinder*, constructed of stainless steel with an O-ring removable top closure according to the dimensions given in [Fig. 1](#). Provide a flexible inert hose, such as one composed of aluminum or stainless steel, which permits inverting the test cylinder as required in the procedure (see [6.1.1](#)). The whole assembly, including the corrosion test cylinder, shall be constructed to withstand a minimum hydrostatic test pressure of 6900 kPa (1000 psig). No leak shall be discernible when tested at 3450 kPa (500 psig) with gas.

6.1.1 Swivel connections with an adapter to fit a 6.4 mm (¼ in.) pipe may be used.

6.1.2 The assembly shall be tested for compliance with the minimum pressure rating of 6900 kPa (1000 psig) by hydrostatic testing, or alternative testing protocol acceptable to the

³ Available from ASTM International Headquarters. Order Adjunct No. [ADJD0130](#).

*A Summary of Changes section appears at the end of this standard

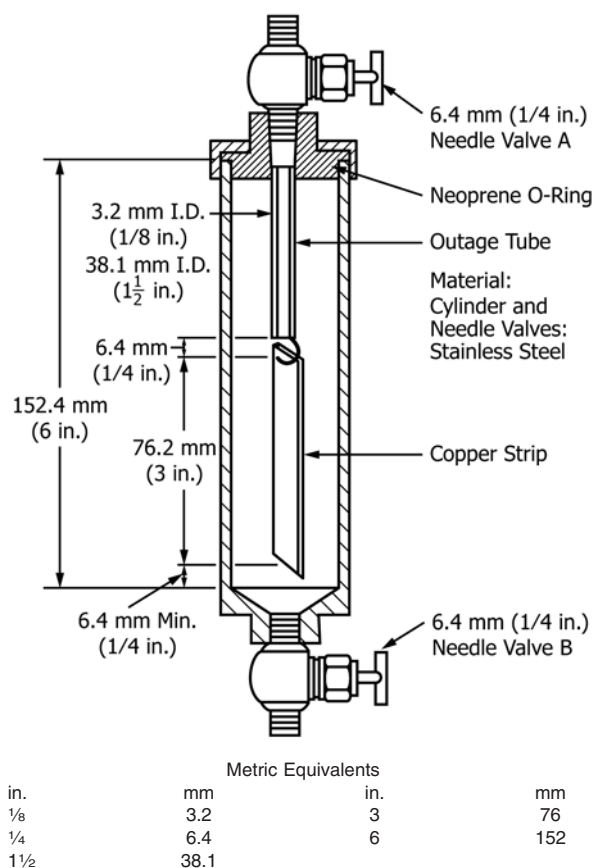


FIG. 1 Copper Strip Corrosion Test Cylinder

local authority having jurisdiction, prior to first use. Additional testing can be required by the local authority having jurisdiction.

6.1.3 The assembly shall be verified for gas tightness by leak testing at a minimum of 3450 kPa (500 psig) with inert gas prior to first use, whenever pressure-containing components of the assembly are replaced, or otherwise on an annual basis.

6.1.4 Note the presence and length (about 60 mm) of the outage tube shown in Fig. 1, to provide adequate ullage for safety. A safety pressure relief device may also be incorporated into the design of the corrosion test cylinder, if desired. If a pressure relief device is incorporated, ensure that the materials of its construction will not affect the test results.

6.2 *Water Bath*, capable of being maintained at 37.8 °C ± 0.5 °C (100 °F ± 1 °F). Incorporate suitable supports to hold the test cylinder in an upright position. Make the bath deep enough so that the entire cylinder and valves will be covered during the test.

6.3 *Temperature Sensing Device (TSD)*—Capable of monitoring the desired test temperature in the bath to within an accuracy of ±0.5 °C (1 °F) or better.

6.4 *Strip Polishing Vise*, to hold the copper strip firmly without marring the edges. For convenient vises see Test Method D130.

7. Materials

7.1 *Wash Solvent*—Any volatile, less than 5 mg/kg sulfur, hydrocarbon solvent may be used provided that it shows no tarnish at all when tested for 3 h at 50 °C (122 °F). 2,2,4-trimethylpentane (*isooctane*) of minimum 99.75 % purity is the referee solvent and should be used in case of dispute. (**Warning**—Extremely flammable, see Annex A1.)

7.2 *Copper Strip Specification*—Use strips that are 12.5 mm ± 2 mm (1/2 in.) wide, 1.5 mm to 3.2 mm (1/16 to 1/8 in.) thick, and cut 75 mm ± 5 mm (3 in.) long from smooth-surfaced, hard-temper, cold-finished copper of 99.9+ % purity; electrical bus bar stock is generally suitable. Drill a 3.2 mm (1/8 in.) hole approximately 3.2 mm (1/8 in.) from one end in the center of the strip. The strips may be used repeatedly but shall be discarded when the strip's surface shows pitting or deep scratches that cannot be removed by the specified polishing procedure, or when the surface becomes deformed, or the dimensions for the copper strip fall outside the specified limits.

7.3 *Surface Preparation/Polishing Materials*—00 grade or finer steel wool; silicon carbide grit paper or cloth of varying degrees of fineness including 65 µm grade (220-grit CAMI-grade or P220 FEPA-grade); also a supply of 105 µm (120-grit to 150-grit CAMI-grade or P120 to P150 FEPA-grade) size silicon carbide grain or powder and absorbent cotton. A commercial grade is suitable, but pharmaceutical grade cotton wool is most commonly available and is acceptable.

7.4 *ASTM Copper Strip Corrosion Standard (ADJD0130)*, Plaques are available.³ Their care and inspection for stability are described in detail in Test Method D130.

7.5 *Reagent Grade LPG*—Propane, butane, or mixture of propane and butane that has less than 1 mg/kg sulfur and passes this copper corrosion test with a No. 1 rating.

8. Preparation of Strips

8.1 *Surface Preparation*—Remove all surface blemishes from all six sides of the strip obtained from a previous analysis. One way to accomplish this is to use 00 grade or finer steel wool or silicon carbide paper or cloth of such degrees of fineness as are needed to accomplish the desired results efficiently. Finish with 65 µm grade (220-grit CAMI-grade or P220 FEPA-grade) silicon carbide paper or cloth, removing all marks that could have been made by other grades of paper used previously. Ensure the prepared copper strip is protected from oxidation prior to final preparation, such as by immersing the strip in wash solvent from which it can be withdrawn immediately for final preparation (polishing) or in which it can be stored for future use.

8.1.1 As a practical manual procedure for surface preparation, place a sheet of silicon carbide paper or cloth on a flat surface and moisten it with wash solvent. Rub the strip against the silicon carbide paper or cloth with a circular motion, protecting the strip from contact with the fingers by using ashless filter paper or wearing disposable gloves. Alternatively, the surface of the strip may be prepared by use of motor-driven machines using appropriate grades of dry paper or cloth.