



Designation: D2225 – 20

Standard Test Methods for Silicone Liquids Used for Electrical Insulation¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D2225; 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 These test methods cover the testing of silicone liquids for use in transformers, capacitors, and electronic assemblies as an insulating or cooling medium, or both. These methods are generally suitable for specification acceptance (Specification [D4652](#)), factory control, referee testing, and research.

1.2 Although some of the test methods listed here apply primarily to petroleum-based fluids, they are, with minor revisions, equally applicable to silicone liquids.

1.3 Silicone liquids are used for electrical insulating purposes because of their stable properties at high and low temperatures and their relative environmental inertness.

1.4 A list of the properties and standards are as follows:

Property Measured	Section	ASTM Test Method
<i>Physical:</i>		
Color	6	D2129
Flash point	7	D92
Fire point	7	D92
Polychlorinated biphenyl content	8	D4059
Pour point	9	D97
Refractive index	10	D1807
Specific gravity	11	D1298 , D1481 , D4052
Volatility	12	D4559
Viscosity	13	D445
<i>Chemical:</i>		
Acid number	14	D974
Water content	15	D1533
<i>Electrical:</i>		
Relative permittivity	16	D924 ²
Dielectric breakdown voltage	17	D877 ³
Dielectric breakdown voltage	17	D1816
Dissipation factor	18	D924 ²
Specific resistance	19	D1169 ²
Compatibility	20	D5282

1.5 *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 appro-*

priate safety, health, and environmental practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.

1.6 *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:⁴

- [D92 Test Method for Flash and Fire Points by Cleveland Open Cup Tester](#)
- [D97 Test Method for Pour Point of Petroleum Products](#)
- [D445 Test Method for Kinematic Viscosity of Transparent and Opaque Liquids \(and Calculation of Dynamic Viscosity\)](#)
- [D877 Test Method for Dielectric Breakdown Voltage of Insulating Liquids Using Disk Electrodes](#)
- [D923 Practices for Sampling Electrical Insulating Liquids](#)
- [D924 Test Method for Dissipation Factor \(or Power Factor\) and Relative Permittivity \(Dielectric Constant\) of Electrical Insulating Liquids](#)
- [D974 Test Method for Acid and Base Number by Color-Indicator Titration](#)
- [D1169 Test Method for Specific Resistance \(Resistivity\) of Electrical Insulating Liquids](#)
- [D1298 Test Method for Density, Relative Density, or API Gravity of Crude Petroleum and Liquid Petroleum Products by Hydrometer Method](#)
- [D1481 Test Method for Density and Relative Density \(Specific Gravity\) of Viscous Materials by Lipkin Bicapillary Pycnometer](#)
- [D1533 Test Method for Water in Insulating Liquids by Coulometric Karl Fischer Titration](#)
- [D1807 Test Methods for Refractive Index and Specific Optical Dispersion of Electrical Insulating Liquids \(Withdrawn 2014\)⁵](#)

¹ These test methods are under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee [D27](#) on Electrical Insulating Liquids and Gases and are the direct responsibility of Subcommittee [D27.02](#) on Gases and Non-Mineral Oil Liquids.

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² A modified cell cleaning procedure is given for Test Methods [D924](#) and [D1169](#).

³ A modified cell cleaning procedure is recommended for Test Method [D877](#).

⁴ 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 The last approved version of this historical standard is referenced on www.astm.org.

- D1816** Test Method for Dielectric Breakdown Voltage of Insulating Liquids Using VDE Electrodes
- D2129** Test Method for Color of Clear Electrical Insulating Liquids (Platinum-Cobalt Scale)
- D2864** Terminology Relating to Electrical Insulating Liquids and Gases
- D4052** Test Method for Density, Relative Density, and API Gravity of Liquids by Digital Density Meter
- D4059** Test Method for Analysis of Polychlorinated Biphenyls in Insulating Liquids by Gas Chromatography
- D4559** Test Method for Volatile Matter in Silicone Fluid
- D4652** Specification for Silicone Liquid Used for Electrical Insulation
- D5282** Test Methods for Compatibility of Construction Material with Silicone Fluid Used for Electrical Insulation

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions:

3.1.1 *fire point*—the temperature at which oil first ignites and burns for at least 5 s when a small test flame is passed across the surface under specified conditions.

3.1.2 *flash point*—the temperature at which vapors above the oil surface first ignite when a small test flame is passed across the surface under specified conditions.

3.1.3 *refractive index*—the ratio of the velocity of light (of a specified wavelength) in air at 25°C to its velocity in the substance under test.

3.1.4 *specific gravity*—the ratio of weight of a given volume of material to the weight of an equal volume of water. In this method, both weights are corrected to weight in vacuum, and the material is at 25°C using hydrometers calibrated at 60/60°F.

3.1.5 *volatility*—the weight percent of liquid lost when a specified weight of liquid is held at a specified elevated temperature for a specific period of time.

3.1.6 *water content*—the amount of water (mg/kg) dissolved in the liquid.

3.1.7 For additional terms refer to Terminology **D2864**.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 Tests covered in this standard may be used for quality control and design considerations.

4.2 Included in each test method is a brief statement describing its significance.

5. Sampling

5.1 Accurate sampling, whether of the complete contents or only parts thereof, is extremely important from the standpoint of evaluation of the quality of the product sampled. Obviously, examination of a sample that because of careless sampling procedure or contamination in the sampling equipment is not directly representative, leads to erroneous conclusions concerning quality.

5.2 Sample the silicone fluid in accordance with Practices **D923**.

6. Color

6.1 *Significance*—The chief significance of color as applied to silicone liquid lies in the fact that if the liquid is colored, some degree of contamination exists that may affect the physical, chemical, and electrical properties of the liquid.

6.2 *Procedure*—Determine the color in accordance with Test Method **D2129**.

7. Flash and Fire Points

7.1 *Significance*—The flash point of a silicone insulating liquid indicates the limit to which the material may be heated, under the specified test conditions, before the emitted vapors form a flammable mixture in air. The fire point of a silicone insulating liquid indicates the limit to which the material may be heated, under specified conditions, in which ignition is sustained for at least 5 s. Unusually low flash or fire points for a given product may indicate contamination.

7.2 *Procedure*—Determine the flash and fire points in accordance with Test Method **D92**.

8. Polychlorinated Biphenyl Content

8.1 Scope:

8.1.1 *Test Method D4059*—describes a quantitative technique for determining the concentration of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB's) in electrical insulating liquids.

8.2 Definition:

8.2.1 *PCB concentration*—is normally expressed in units of mg/kg on a weight by weight basis. Standard chromatograms of Aroclors 1242, 1254, and 1260 are used to determine the concentration of PCB in the sample.

8.3 *Summary of Test Method*—Following dilution of the sample in a suitable solvent, the solution is treated to remove interfering substances. A small portion is then injected into a packed gas chromatographic column where the components are separated and their presence measured by an electron capture or halogen-specific electrolytic conductivity detector. The method is made quantitative by comparing the response of a sample to that of a known quantity of one or more standard Aroclors obtained under the same conditions.

8.4 *Significance and Use*—National, state, and local regulations require that electrical apparatus and electrical insulating liquids containing PCB be handled and disposed of through the use of specific procedures as determined by the PCB content of the liquid. The results of this test method can be useful in selecting appropriate handling and disposal procedures.

9. Pour Point

9.1 *Significance*—The pour point is important as an index of the lowest temperature to which the material may be cooled without seriously limiting the degree of circulation of the liquid.

9.2 *Procedure*—Determine the pour point in accordance with Test Method **D97**.