



**Designation: D6448 – 16 (Reapproved 2022)**

## Standard Specification for Industrial Burner Fuels from Used Lubricating Oils<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D6448; 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 ( $\epsilon$ ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

### 1. Scope

1.1 This specification covers four grades of fuel oil made in whole or in part with hydrocarbon-based used or reprocessed lubricating oil or functional fluids, such as preservative and hydraulic fluids. The four grades of fuel are intended for use in various types of fuel-oil-burning industrial equipment under various climatic and operating conditions. These fuels are not intended for use in residential heaters, small commercial boilers, combustion engines, or marine applications.

1.1.1 Grades RFO4, RFO5L, RFO5H, and RFO6 are used lubricating oil blends, with or without distillate or residual fuel oil, or both, of increasing viscosity and are intended for use in industrial burners equipped to handle these types of recycled fuels.

NOTE 1—For information on the significance of the terminology and test methods used in this specification, see [Appendix X1](#).

1.2 This specification is for use in contracts for the purchase of fuel oils derived from used lubricating oil and for the guidance of consumers of such fuels. This specification does not address the frequency with which any particular test must be run.

1.3 Nothing in this specification shall preclude observance of national or local regulations, which can be more restrictive. In some jurisdictions, used oil is considered a hazardous waste and fuels from used oil are required to meet certain criteria before use as a fuel.

NOTE 2—For United States federal requirements imposed on used oil generators, transporters and transfer facilities, reprocessors, marketers, and burners, see 40 CFR 279.

NOTE 3—The generation and dissipation of static electricity can create problems in the handling of distillate burner fuel oils. For more information on the subject, see Guide [D4865](#).

1.4 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as standard; non-SI units, when given, are for information only.

1.5 *This international standard was developed in accordance with internationally recognized principles on standard-*

*ization 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:<sup>2</sup>

- [D56 Test Method for Flash Point by Tag Closed Cup Tester](#)
- [D93 Test Methods for Flash Point by Pensky-Martens Closed Cup Tester](#)
- [D95 Test Method for Water in Petroleum Products and Bituminous Materials by Distillation](#)
- [D96 Test Method for Water and Sediment in Crude Oil by Centrifuge Method \(Field Procedure\) \(Withdrawn 2000\)<sup>3</sup>](#)
- [D97 Test Method for Pour Point of Petroleum Products](#)
- [D129 Test Method for Sulfur in Petroleum Products \(General High Pressure Decomposition Device Method\)](#)
- [D240 Test Method for Heat of Combustion of Liquid Hydrocarbon Fuels by Bomb Calorimeter](#)
- [D396 Specification for Fuel Oils](#)
- [D445 Test Method for Kinematic Viscosity of Transparent and Opaque Liquids \(and Calculation of Dynamic Viscosity\)](#)
- [D473 Test Method for Sediment in Crude Oils and Fuel Oils by the Extraction Method](#)
- [D482 Test Method for Ash from Petroleum Products](#)
- [D1217 Test Method for Density and Relative Density \(Specific Gravity\) of Liquids by Bingham Pycnometer](#)
- [D1250 Guide for the Use of the Joint API and ASTM Adjunct for Temperature and Pressure Volume Correction Factors for Generalized Crude Oils, Refined Products, and Lubricating Oils: API MPMS Chapter 11.1](#)
- [D1266 Test Method for Sulfur in Petroleum Products \(Lamp Method\)](#)
- [D1298 Test Method for Density, Relative Density, or API Gravity of Crude Petroleum and Liquid Petroleum Products by Hydrometer Method](#)

<sup>1</sup> This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee [D02](#) on Petroleum Products, Liquid Fuels, and Lubricants and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee [D02.P0](#) on Recycled Products.

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<sup>2</sup> For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, [www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org), or contact ASTM Customer Service at [service@astm.org](mailto:service@astm.org). For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

<sup>3</sup> The last approved version of this historical standard is referenced on [www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org).

**D1480** Test Method for Density and Relative Density (Specific Gravity) of Viscous Materials by Bingham Pycnometer

**D1481** Test Method for Density and Relative Density (Specific Gravity) of Viscous Materials by Lipkin Bicapillary Pycnometer

**D1552** Test Method for Sulfur in Petroleum Products by High Temperature Combustion and Infrared (IR) Detection or Thermal Conductivity Detection (TCD)

**D1796** Test Method for Water and Sediment in Fuel Oils by the Centrifuge Method (Laboratory Procedure)

**D2622** Test Method for Sulfur in Petroleum Products by Wavelength Dispersive X-ray Fluorescence Spectrometry

**D2709** Test Method for Water and Sediment in Middle Distillate Fuels by Centrifuge

**D2983** Test Method for Low-Temperature Viscosity of Automatic Transmission Fluids, Hydraulic Fluids, and Lubricants using a Rotational Viscometer

**D3245** Test Method for Pumpability of Industrial Fuel Oils (Withdrawn 2010)<sup>3</sup>

**D3828** Test Methods for Flash Point by Small Scale Closed Cup Tester

**D4052** Test Method for Density, Relative Density, and API Gravity of Liquids by Digital Density Meter

**D4057** Practice for Manual Sampling of Petroleum and Petroleum Products

**D4175** Terminology Relating to Petroleum Products, Liquid Fuels, and Lubricants

**D4177** Practice for Automatic Sampling of Petroleum and Petroleum Products

**D4294** Test Method for Sulfur in Petroleum and Petroleum Products by Energy Dispersive X-ray Fluorescence Spectrometry

**D4377** Test Method for Water in Crude Oils by Potentiometric Karl Fischer Titration (Withdrawn 2020)<sup>3</sup>

**D4865** Guide for Generation and Dissipation of Static Electricity in Petroleum Fuel Systems

**D4868** Test Method for Estimation of Net and Gross Heat of Combustion of Hydrocarbon Burner and Diesel Fuels

**D4980** Test Methods for Screening of pH in Waste (Withdrawn 2009)<sup>3</sup>

**D5185** Test Method for Multielement Determination of Used and Unused Lubricating Oils and Base Oils by Inductively Coupled Plasma Atomic Emission Spectrometry (ICP-AES)

**D5854** Practice for Mixing and Handling of Liquid Samples of Petroleum and Petroleum Products

**D6304** Test Method for Determination of Water in Petroleum Products, Lubricating Oils, and Additives by Coulometric Karl Fischer Titration

**D6450** Test Method for Flash Point by Continuously Closed Cup (CCCFP) Tester

**D6822** Test Method for Density, Relative Density, and API Gravity of Crude Petroleum and Liquid Petroleum Products by Thermohydrometer Method

**D7042** Test Method for Dynamic Viscosity and Density of Liquids by Stabinger Viscometer (and the Calculation of Kinematic Viscosity)

**D7094** Test Method for Flash Point by Modified Continuously Closed Cup (MCCCFP) Tester

2.2 *U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Standards:*<sup>4</sup>  
**EPA 600/4-79-020** Determination of Inorganic Anions by Ion Chromatography  
**EPA SW-846 Method 9000** Determination of Water in Waste Materials by Karl Fisher Titration  
**EPA SW-846 Method 9001** Determination of Water in Waste Lubricants by Quantitative Calcium Hydride Reaction  
**EPA SW-846 Method 9056** Determination of Inorganic Anions by Ion Chromatography

2.3 *Federal Code of Regulations Standards:*<sup>5</sup>  
**40 CFR 279** Standards for the Management of Used Oil

### 3. Terminology

#### 3.1 Definitions:

3.1.1 *burner fuel oil, n*—any petroleum liquid suitable for the generation of heat by combustion in a furnace or firebox as a vapor or a spray, or a combination of both.

3.1.1.1 *Discussion*—Different grades are characterized primarily by viscosity ranges.

3.1.2 *reclaiming, n*—the use of cleaning methods during recycling primarily to remove insoluble contaminants, thus making the oil suitable for further use. The methods may include settling, heating, dehydration, filtration, and centrifuging.

3.1.3 *recycling, n—in petroleum technology*, the acquisition of oil that has become unsuitable for its intended use, and processing it to regain useful materials.

3.1.4 *re-refining, n*—the use of refining processes during recycling to produce high quality base stocks for lubricants or other petroleum products. Re-refining may include one or more of the following: distillation, hydrotreating, or treatments employing acid, caustic, solvent, clay, or other chemicals, or combination thereof.

3.1.5 *used oil, n—in petroleum product recycling*, oil whose characteristics have changed since being originally manufactured, and that is suitable for recycling.

3.1.6 *waste oil, n—in petroleum technology*, oil having characteristics making it unsuitable either for further use or for economic recycling.

3.2 For definitions of other terms used in this specification, refer to Terminology **D4175**.

#### 3.3 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.3.1 *industrial burner, n*—a device that produces heat for industrial use through the combustion of liquid hydrocarbon fuels.

3.3.1.1 *Discussion*—Industrial burners are typically designed for one of two applications:

<sup>4</sup> Available from United States Environmental Protection Agency (US-EPA), Ariel Rios Bldg., Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington D.C. 20460. ([www.epa.gov/epaoswer/hazwaste/test/main.htm](http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/hazwaste/test/main.htm)).

<sup>5</sup> National Archives and Records Administration, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Available from U.S. Government Printing Office Superintendent of Documents, 732 N. Capitol St., NW, Mail Stop: SDE, Washington, DC 20401. [www.gpoaccess.gov/cfr/index.html](http://www.gpoaccess.gov/cfr/index.html).