

Petroleum and Petrochemical Bulletin

ASTM D97, Pour Point of Petroleum Products

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The member companies of the International Federation of Inspection Agencies, wish to confirm their position with regard to certain aspects of the referenced test method.

ASTM D97 states that in some cases, (and there is no definitive statement on which cases) residual fuel samples should be maintained at room temperature for 24 hours before testing. IFIA members will not dispute the technical reasons for this option. However, the nature of the petroleum business, which does not tolerate 24-hour delays easily, makes this step impractical in the vast majority of circumstances.

To address the practical constraints in the use of the above method, and in recognition of the fact that the petroleum industry has effectively ignored the statement in question, IFIA members have resolved to clarify their position, as follows:

Unless specifically requested or in the event of dispute, IFIA member companies will perform the ASTM D97 test method for Pour Point WITHOUT the 24 hour waiting period.

The method also contains two distinct procedures: one for Upper Pour Point and one for Lower Pour Points. The Upper is the industry standard, though rarely requested or specified by name, and the Lower is seldom performed.

To avoid misconceptions in either the selection of the test method, or in the interpretation of results, IFIA members have resolved to clarify their position, as follows:

When performing & reporting Pour Point by ASTM D97, it should be understood that IFIA member companies will be using the Upper Pour Point procedure. IFIA member companies will only perform & report Lower Pour Point if specifically requested to do so.

Note: The above statements do not apply to other pour point methods, such as ASTM D5853 for crude oils, for which the 24 hour waiting period is critical.

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Revisions/Reaffirmations

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