Standard Test Method for
Viscosity of Asphalts by Vacuum Capillary Viscometer

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D 2171; 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. This is also a standard of the Institute of
Petroleum issued under the fixed designation IP 222. The final number indicates the year of last revision.

This test method has been approved by the sponsoring committees and accepted by the cooperating societies in accordance with
established procedures.

1. Scope

1.1 This test method covers procedures for the determination of viscosity of asphalt (bitumen) by vacuum capillary viscometers at 140°F (60°C). It is applicable to materials having viscosities in the range from 0.036 to over 200 000 P.

NOTE 1—This test method is suitable for use at other temperatures, but the precision is based on determinations on asphalt cements at 140°F (60°C).

1.2 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

ASTM Standards:
E 1 Specification for ASTM Thermometers
E 11 Specification for Wire-Cloth Sieves for Testing Purposes
E 77 Test Method for Inspection and Verification of Liquid-In-Glass Thermometers

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions:

3.1.1 Newtonian liquid—a liquid in which the rate of shear is proportional to the shearing stress. The constant ratio of the shearing stress to the rate of shear is the viscosity of the liquid. If the ratio is not constant, the liquid is non-Newtonian.

3.1.2 viscosity—the ratio between the applied shear stress and rate of shear is called the coefficient of viscosity. This coefficient is thus a measure of the resistance to flow of the liquid. It is commonly called the viscosity of the liquid. The cgs unit of viscosity is 1 g/cm·s (1 dyne·s/cm²) and is called a poise (P). The SI unit of viscosity is 1 Pa·s (1 N·s/m²) and is equivalent to 10 P.

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 The time is measured for a fixed volume of the liquid to be drawn up through a capillary tube by means of vacuum, under closely controlled conditions of vacuum and temperature. The viscosity in poises is calculated by multiplying the flow time in seconds by the viscometer calibration factor.

NOTE 2—The rate of shear decreases as the liquid moves up the tube, or it can also be varied by the use of different vacuum or different size viscometer. Thus, this method is suitable for the measurement of viscosities of Newtonian (simple) and non-Newtonian (complex) liquids.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 The viscosity at 60°C (140°F) characterizes flow behavior and may be used for specification requirements for cutbacks and asphalt cements.

6. Apparatus

6.1 Viscometers, capillary-type, made of borosilicate glass, annealed, suitable for this test are as follows:

6.1.1 Cannon-Manning Vacuum Viscometer (CMVV), as described in Appendix X1.

6.1.2 Asphalt Institute Vacuum Viscometer (AIVV), as described in Appendix X2.

6.1.3 Modified Koppers Vacuum Viscometer (MKVV), as described in Appendix X3. Calibrated viscometers are available from commercial suppliers. Details regarding calibration of viscometers are given in Appendix X4.

NOTE 3—The viscosity measured in a CMVV may be from 1 to 5 % lower than either the AIVV or MKVV having the same viscosity range. This difference, when encountered, may be the result of non-Newtonian flow.

6.2 Thermometers—Calibrated liquid-in-glass thermometers (see Table X4.2) of an accuracy after correction of 0.04°F (0.02°C) can be used or any other thermometric device of equal accuracy. ASTM Kinematic Viscosity Thermometers 47F and 47C are suitable for the most commonly used temperature of 140°F (60°C).

6.2.1 The specified thermometers are standardized at "total immersion," which means immersion to the top of the mercury column with the remainder of the stem and the

1 This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D-4 on Road
and Paving Materials and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D04.44 on
Rheological Tests. In the IP this test method is under the jurisdiction of the Standardization Committee.

published as D 2171 - 63 T. Last previous edition D 2171 - 92.


3 Supporting data are available from ASTM Headquarters, 1916 Race St.,
expansion chamber at the top of the thermometer exposed to room temperature. The practice of completely submerging the thermometer is not recommended. When thermometers are completely submerged, corrections for each individual thermometer based on calibration under conditions of complete submergence must be determined and applied. If the thermometer is completely submerged in the bath during use, the pressure of the gas in the expansion chamber will be higher or lower than during standardization, and may cause high or low readings on the thermometer.

6.2.2 It is essential that liquid-in-glass thermometers be calibrated periodically using the technique given in Test Method E 77 (see Appendix X5).

6.3 Bath—A bath suitable for immersion of the viscometer so that the liquid reservoir or the top of the capillary, whichever is uppermost, is at least 20 mm below the upper surface of the bath liquid and with provisions for visibility of the viscometer and the thermometer. Firm supports for the viscometer shall be provided. The efficiency of the stirring and the balance between heat losses and heat input must be such that the temperature of the bath medium does not vary by more than ±0.05°F (±0.03°C) over the length of the viscometer, or from viscometer to viscometer in the various bath positions.

6.4 Vacuum System—A vacuum system capable of maintaining a vacuum to within ±0.5 mm of the desired level up to and including 300 mm Hg. The essential system is shown schematically in Fig. 1. Glass tubing of 6.35-mm (1/4-in.) inside diameter should be used, and all glass joints should be airtight so that when the system is closed, no loss of vacuum is indicated by the open-end mercury manometer having 1-mm graduations. A vacuum or aspirator pump is suitable for the vacuum source.

6.5 Timer—A stop watch or other timing device graduated in divisions of 0.1 s or less and accurate to within 0.05 % when tested over intervals of not less than 15 min.

6.6 Electrical Timing Devices may be used only on electrical circuits, the frequencies of which are controlled to an accuracy of 0.05 % or better.

6.6.1 Alternating currents, the frequencies of which are intermittently and not continuously controlled, as provided by some public power systems, can cause large errors, particularly over short timing intervals, when used to actuate electrical timing devices.

7. Sample Preparations

7.1 Heat the sample with care to prevent local overheating until it has become sufficiently fluid to pour, occasionally stirring the sample to aid heat transfer and to assure uniformity.

7.2 Transfer a minimum of 20 mL into a suitable container and heat to 275 ± 10°F (135 ± 5.5°C), stirring occasionally to prevent local overheating and taking care to avoid the entrapment of air.

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5 The vacuum control system marketed by Cannon Instrument Co., P. O. Box 16, State College, PA 16801, has been found satisfactory for this purpose.
stopcock closed in the line leading to the viscometer.

8.1.7 After the viscometer has been in the bath for 30 ± 5 min, start the flow of asphalt in the viscometer by opening the toggle valve or stopcock in the line leading to the vacuum system.

8.1.8 Measure to within 0.1 s the time required for the leading edge of the meniscus to pass between successive pairs of timing marks. Report the first flow time which exceeds 60 s between a pair of timing marks, noting the identification of the pair of timing marks.

8.1.9 Upon completion of the test, clean the viscometer thoroughly by several rinsings with an appropriate solvent completely miscible with the sample, followed by a completely volatile solvent. Dry the tube by passing a slow stream of filtered dry air through the capillary for 2 min, or until the last trace of solvent is removed. Periodically clean the instrument with a strong acid cleaning solution to remove organic deposits, rinse thoroughly with distilled water and residue-free acetone, and dry with filtered dry air.

8.1.9.1 Chromic acid cleaning solution may be prepared by adding, with the usual precautions, 800 mL of concentrated sulphuric acid to a solution of 92 g of sodium dichromate in 458 mL of water. The use of similar commercially available sulphuric acid cleaning solutions is acceptable. Nonchromium-containing, strongly oxidizing acid cleaning solutions may be substituted so as to avoid the disposal problems of chromium-containing solutions.

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6 A commercial source for a nonchromium-containing cleaning solution is Godax Laboratories Inc., 480 Canal St., New York, NY 10013.
8.1.9.2 Use of alkaline glass cleaning solutions may result in a change of viscometer calibration, and is not recommended.

9. Calculation
9.1 Select the calibration factor that corresponds to the pair of timing marks used for the determination, as prescribed in 8.1.8. Calculate and report the viscosity to three significant figures using the following equation:

\[ \text{Viscosity, } P = Kt \]

where:
- \( K \) = selected calibration factor, \( P/s \), and
- \( t \) = flow time, s.

10. Report
10.1 Always report the test temperature and vacuum with the viscosity test result. For example, viscosity at 140°F (60°C) and 300 mm Hg vacuum, in poises.

11. Precision and Bias
11.1 The following criteria (see Note 1) should be used for judging the acceptability of results (95% probability):
11.1.1 Repeatability—Duplicate results by the same operator using the same viscometer should not be considered suspect unless they differ by more than 7 % of their mean.
11.1.2 Reproducibility—The results submitted by each of two laboratories should not be considered suspect unless the two results differ by more than 10 % of their mean.

APPENDIXES
(Nonmandatory Information)

XI. CANNON-MANNING VACUUM CAPILLARY VISCOMETER (CMVV)\textsuperscript{7,8}

X1.1 Scope
X1.1.1 The Cannon-Manning vacuum capillary viscometer (CMVV) is available in eleven sizes (Table X1.1) covering a range from 0.036 to 80 000 P. Sizes 10 through 14 are best suited to viscosity measurements of asphalt cements at 140°F (60°C).

X1.2 Apparatus
X1.2.1 Details of the design and construction of Cannon-Manning vacuum capillary viscometers are shown in Fig. 2. The size numbers, approximate bulb factors, \( K \), and viscosity ranges for the series of Cannon-Manning vacuum capillary viscometers are given in Table X1.
X1.2.2 For all viscometer sizes, the volume of measuring bulb \( C \) is approximately three times that of bulb \( B \).
X1.2.3 A convenient holder can be made by drilling two holes, 22 and 8 mm in diameter, respectively, through a No. 11 rubber stopper. The center-to-center distance between holes should be 25 mm. Slit through the rubber stopper between holes and also between the 8-mm hole and edge of the stopper. When placed in a 2-in. (51-mm) diameter hole in the bath cover, the stopper holds the viscometer in place. Such holders are commercially available.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Viscometer Size Number</th>
<th>Approximate Calibration Factor, ( K )\textsuperscript{a}</th>
<th>300 mm Hg Vacuum, ( P/s )</th>
<th>Viscosity Range, ( P/\text{s} )</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>0.002</td>
<td>0.0006</td>
<td>0.036 to 0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>0.006</td>
<td>0.002</td>
<td>0.12 to 2.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>0.006</td>
<td>0.38 to 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>0.06</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>1.2 to 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.06</td>
<td>3.6 to 80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>12 to 240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>36 to 800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>120 to 2 400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>20.0</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>360 to 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>60.0</td>
<td>20.0</td>
<td>1 200 to 24 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>200.0</td>
<td>60.0</td>
<td>3 600 to 80 000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\textsuperscript{a} Exact calibration factors must be determined with viscosity standards.
\textsuperscript{b} The viscosity ranges shown in this table correspond to a filling time of 60 to 400 s. Longer flow times (up to 1000 s) may be used.

X2. Asphalt Institute Vacuum Capillary Viscometer (AIVV)\(^7,8\)

X2.1 Scope

X2.1.1 The Asphalt Institute vacuum capillary viscometer (AIVV) is available in seven sizes (Table X2.1) from a range from 42 to 5,800,000 P. Sizes 50 through 200 are best suited to viscosity measurements of asphalt cements at 140°F (60°C).

X2.2 Apparatus

X2.2.1 Details of design and construction of the Asphalt Institute vacuum capillary viscometer are shown in Fig. 3. The size numbers, approximate radii, approximate bulb factors, \(K\), and viscosity range for the series of Asphalt Institute vacuum capillary viscometers are given in Table X2.1.

X2.2.2 This viscometer has measuring bulbs, \(B\), \(C\), and \(D\), located on the viscometer arm, \(M\), which is a precision bore glass capillary. The measuring bulbs are 20-mm long capillary segments, separated by timing marks, \(F\), \(G\), \(H\), and \(I\).

X2.2.3 A convenient holder can be made by drilling two holes, 22 and 8 mm in diameter, respectively, through a No. 11 rubber stopper. The center-to-center distance between holes should be 25 mm. Slit through the rubber stopper between the holes and also between the 8-mm hole and edge of the stopper. When placed in a 2-in. (51-mm) diameter hole in the bath cover, the stopper holds the viscometer in place. Such holders are commercially available.

### TABLE X2.1 Standard Viscometer Sizes, Capillary Radii, Approximate Calibration Factors, \(K\), and Viscosity Ranges for Asphalt Institute Vacuum Capillary Viscometers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Viscometer Size Number</th>
<th>Capillary Radius, mm</th>
<th>Approximate Calibration Factor, (K), (300) mm Hg Vacuum, P/s</th>
<th>Viscosity Range, (P)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>0.125</td>
<td>2, 1, 0.7</td>
<td>42 to 800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>0.25</td>
<td>8, 4, 3</td>
<td>180 to 3,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>0.50</td>
<td>32, 16, 10</td>
<td>600 to 12,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>128, 64, 40</td>
<td>2,400 to 52,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>400</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>500, 250, 160</td>
<td>9,600 to 200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>400R(^c)</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>500, 250, 160</td>
<td>600 to 1,400,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>800R(^c)</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>2000, 1000, 640</td>
<td>38,000 to 5,800,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^a\) Exact calibration factors must be determined with viscosity standards.
\(^b\) The viscosity ranges shown in this table correspond to a filling time of 60 to 400 s. Longer flow times (up to 1000 s) may be used.
\(^c\) Special design for roofing asphalt having additional marks at 5 and 10 mm above timing mark, \(F\) (see Fig. 3). Thus, using these marks, the maximum viscosity range is increased from that using the bulb B calibration factor.

X3. Modified Koppers Vacuum Capillary Viscometer (MKVV)\(^9,10,11\)

X3.1 Scope

X3.1.1 The Modified Koppers vacuum capillary viscometer (MKVV) is available in five sizes (Table X3.1) covering a range from 42 to 200,000 P. Sizes 50 through 200 are best suited to viscosity measurements of asphalt cements at 140°F (60°C).

### TABLE X3.1 Standard Viscometer Sizes, Capillary Radii, Approximate Calibration Factors, \(K\), and Viscosity Ranges for Modified Koppers Vacuum Capillary Viscometers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Viscometer Size Number</th>
<th>Capillary Radius, mm</th>
<th>Approximate Calibration Factor, (K), (300) mm Hg Vacuum, P/s</th>
<th>Viscosity Range, (P)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>0.125</td>
<td>2, 1, 0.7</td>
<td>42 to 800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>0.25</td>
<td>8, 4, 3</td>
<td>180 to 3,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>0.50</td>
<td>32, 16, 10</td>
<td>600 to 12,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>128, 64, 40</td>
<td>2,400 to 52,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>400</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>500, 250, 160</td>
<td>9,600 to 200,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^a\) Exact calibration factors must be determined with viscosity standards.
\(^b\) The viscosity ranges shown in this table correspond to a filling time of 60 to 400 s. Longer flow times (up to 1000 s) may be used.

X3.2 Apparatus

X3.2.1 Details of design and construction of the Modified Koppers vacuum capillary viscometer are shown in Fig. 4. The size numbers, approximate radii, approximate bulb factors, \(K\), and viscosity ranges for the series of Modified Koppers vacuum capillary viscometers are given in Table X3.1.

X3.2.2 This viscometer consists of a separate filling tube,


A, and precision-bore glass capillary vacuum tube, M. These two parts are joined by a borosilicate ground glass joint, N, having a 24/40 standard taper. The measuring bulbs B, C, and D, on the glass capillary are 20-mm long capillary segments, separated by timing marks F, G, H, and I.

X4.2.3 A viscometer holder can be made by drilling a 28-mm hole through the center of a No. 11 rubber stopper and slitting the stopper between the hole and the edge. When placed in a 2-in. (51-mm) diameter hole in the bath cover, it holds the viscometer in place.

### X4. CALIBRATION OF VISCOMETERS

#### X4.1 Scope

X4.1.1 This appendix describes the materials and procedures used for calibrating or checking the calibration of viscometers used in this method.

#### X4.2 Reference Materials

X4.2.1 *Viscosity Standards* having approximate viscosities are given in Table X4.1.

#### X4.3 Calibration

**X4.3.1 Calibration of Vacuum Viscometer by Means of Viscosity Standards**—Calibrate the vacuum viscometer as follows:

X4.3.1.1 Select from Table X4.1 a viscosity standard having a minimum flow time of 60 s at the calibration temperature.

X4.3.1.2 Charge a clean, dry viscometer by pouring the sample to within ±2 mm of fill line E (See Figs. 2, 3, and 4).

X4.3.1.3 Place the charged viscometer in the viscometer bath, maintained at the calibration temperature ± 0.02°F (±0.01°C).

X4.3.1.4 Establish a 300 ± 0.5-mm Hg vacuum in the vacuum system and connect the vacuum system to the viscometer with the toggle valve or stopcock closed in the line leading to the viscometer.

X4.3.1.5 After the viscometer has been in the bath for 30 ± 5 min, start the flow of standard in the viscometer by opening the stopcock or toggle valve in the line leading to the vacuum system.

X4.3.1.6 Measure to within 0.1 s, the time required for the leading edge of the meniscus to pass between timing marks F and G. Using a second timer, also measure to within 0.1 s, the time required for the leading edge of the meniscus to pass between timing marks G and H. If the instrument contains additional timing marks, similarly determine the flow time for each successive bulb.

X4.3.1.7 Calculate the calibration factor, K, for each bulb as follows:

\[
K = \frac{v}{t}
\]

where:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE X4.1 Viscosity Standards</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Viscosity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N30,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N190,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S30,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Available in 1-pt containers. Purchase orders should be addressed to Cannon Instrument Co., P. O. Box 16, State College, PA 16801. Shipment will be made as specified or by best means.

#### X4.3.2 Calibration of Vacuum Viscometer by Means of Standard Vacuum Viscometer—Calibrate the vacuum viscometer as follows:

X4.3.2.1 Select any petroleum asphalt having a flow time of at least 60 s. Select also a standard viscometer of known bulb constants.

X4.3.2.2 Mount the standard viscometer together with the viscometer to be calibrated in the same bath at 140°F (60°C) and determine the flow times of the asphalt by the procedure described in 8.1.

X4.3.2.3 Calculate the constant, K, for each bulb as follows:

\[
K_1 = \frac{(t_2 - K_2)}{t_1},
\]

where:

\[
K_1 = \text{constant of viscometer bulb being calibrated},
\]

\[
t_1 = \text{flow time of viscometer bulb being calibrated},
\]

\[
K_2 = \text{bulb constant of standard viscometer},
\]

\[
t_2 = \text{flow time of corresponding bulb in standard viscometer}.
\]

**TABLE X4.2 Kinematic Viscosity Test Thermometers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test Temperature</th>
<th>Scale Error °C</th>
<th>Thermometer Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>°F</td>
<td>°C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>68 and 70</td>
<td>20 and 21.1</td>
<td>44F, C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>45F, C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>86</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>34F, C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>37.8</td>
<td>47F, C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>122</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>60F, C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>130</td>
<td>54.4</td>
<td>65F, C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>140</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>35F, C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>150</td>
<td>82.2</td>
<td>45F, C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>180</td>
<td>93.3</td>
<td>90F, C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200</td>
<td>98.9 and 100</td>
<td>65F, C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>210 and 212</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>32F, C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>275</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>121C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>275</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>1100F, C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The smallest graduation of the Fahrenheit thermometers is 0.1°F and for the Celsius thermometers is 0.05°C. The scale error for the Fahrenheit thermometers is not to exceed ±0.2°F (except for ASTM 110F which is ±0.3°F); for the Celsius thermometers it is ±0.1°C. These scale errors are required to apply only at the given test temperature. Complete construction detail is given in Specifications E 1.

c Complete construction detail is given in Part I of IP Standards for Petroleum and its Products.
X5. ICE POINT DETERMINATION AND RECALIBRATION OF KINEMATIC VISCOSITY THERMOMETERS

X5.1 To achieve an accuracy of ±0.02°C for calibrated kinematic viscosity thermometers, it is required that a check at the ice point be made and the corrections altered for the change seen in the ice point. It is recommended that the interval of checking be every six months; for a new thermometer, check monthly for the first six months.

X5.2 A detailed procedure for the measurement of the ice point and recalibration of thermometers is described in 6.5 of Test Method E 77. The suggestions in the following sections of this appendix are given specifically for the mercury-in-glass kinematic viscosity thermometers described in Table X4.2, and may not apply to other thermometers.

X5.2.1 The ice point reading of kinematic viscosity thermometers shall be taken within 60 min after being at the test temperature for not less than 3 min. The ice point reading shall be expressed to the nearest 0.01°C or 0.02°F.

X5.2.2 Select clear pieces of ice, preferably made from distilled or pure water. Discard any cloudy or unsound portions. Rinse the ice with distilled water and shave or crush into small pieces, avoiding direct contact with the hands or any chemically unclean objects. Fill the Dewar vessel with the crushed ice and add sufficient distilled and preferably precooled water to form a slush, but not enough to float the ice. As the ice melts, drain off some of the water and add more crushed ice. Insert the thermometer picking the ice gently about the stem, to a depth approximately one scale division below the 0°C (32°F) graduation. It may be necessary to repack the ice around the thermometer because of melting.

X5.2.3 After at least 3 min have elapsed, tap the stem gently, and observe the reading. Successive readings taken at least 1 min apart should agree within one tenth of a division.

X5.2.4 Record the ice point reading and compare it with the previous reading. If the reading is found to be higher or lower than the reading corresponding to a previous calibration, readings at all other temperatures will be correspondingly increased or decreased.

X5.2.5 The ice point procedure given in X5.1 through X5.2.4 is used for the recalibration of kinematic viscosity thermometers, and a complete new calibration of the thermometer is not necessary in order to meet the accuracy ascribed to this design thermometer.

X5.3 It is recommended that these kinematic viscosity thermometers be stored vertically when not in use so as to avoid the separation of the mercury column.

X5.4 It is recommended that these kinematic viscosity thermometers be read to the nearest 1/5 of a division using appropriate magnification. Since these thermometers are typically in a kinematic viscosity bath (which has vision through the front), the thermometer is read by lowering the thermometer such that the top of the mercury column is 5 to 15 mm below the surface of the bath liquid. Be careful to ensure that the expansion chamber at the top of the thermometer is above the lid of the constant temperature bath. If the expansion chamber is at elevated or lowered temperatures from ambient temperatures, a significant error can occur. This error can be as much as one or two thermometer divisions. A reading glass such as used for reading books may be useful to ensure reading the scale to 1/5 of a division.

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