



STANDARD

ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 41.4-2015
(Supersedes ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 41.4-1996)

Standard Method for Measuring the Proportion of Lubricant in Liquid Refrigerant

Approved by ASHRAE on April 30, 2015, and by the American National Standards Institute on May 1, 2015.

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ISSN 1041-2336



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NOTE

Approved addenda, errata, or interpretations for this standard can be downloaded free of charge from the ASHRAE Web site at www.ashrae.org/technology.

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FOREWORD

ASHRAE Standard 41.4 was last revised in 1996 (and reaffirmed in 2006), prior to the global commitment to use refrigerants with lower global warming potential that require the use of synthetic lubricants instead of mineral oils. The methods used in this revision apply to all lubricant-refrigerant combinations. This standard has been revised to comply with ASHRAE's mandatory language requirements and to more clearly specify the test requirements and procedures.

Safety is an important consideration for all procedures involving refrigerant—wear safety glasses and other personal protection equipment.

1. PURPOSE

This standard prescribes a method for measuring the proportion of lubricant in liquid refrigerant.

2. SCOPE

2.1 This standard uses the gravimetric method as the primary method, but alternative methods can be used if those methods are calibrated against the primary method.

2.2 This standard does not apply to collected samples that contain less than 0.001 g (0.015 grains) of lubricant.

3. DEFINITIONS AND SYMBOLS

3.1 Definitions

accuracy: the degree of conformity of an indicated value to an accepted standard value, or true value. The degree of inaccuracy is known as *total measurement error* and is the sum of bias error and precision error.

bias, fixed, or systematic error: the difference between the true or actual value to be measured and the indicated value from the measuring system that persists and is a characteristic of the particular instrument or measurement technique.

error: the difference between the true value of the quantity measured and an observed value. Because the true value is not known, it is estimated by the mean. The difference between the mean and an observed value is called its *deviation*.

lubricant circulation rate on the refrigerant basis: the ratio of the mass of lubricant to the mass of refrigerant in the sample.

lubricant circulation rate on the sample basis: the ratio of the mass of lubricant to the mass of refrigerant and lubricant in the sample.

mean: the sum of measurement values divided by the number of measurements. Mean is considered the best approximation of the true value.

packless all-metal diaphragm valves: valve manufacturers use this term to describe diaphragm valves that have polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) gaskets but have no elastomeric seals.

precision: the closeness of agreement among repeated measurements of the same characteristic by the same method under the same conditions.

random error (or precision error): a statistical error that is caused by chance and is not recurring. There are two types of random error:

additive errors: errors that are independent of the magnitude of the observations.

multiplicative errors: errors that are dependent on the magnitude of the observations.

resolution: the minimum observable difference between two values of a measured characteristic.

uncertainty: a measure of the potential error in a measurement or experimental result that reflects the lack of confidence in the result to a specified level.

3.2 Symbols, SI (I-P)

M_1 = mass of an empty cylinder assembly, g (grains)

M_2 = mass of a cylinder assembly plus the mass of the refrigerant-lubricant sample, g (grains)

M_3 = mass of a cylinder assembly plus the lubricant in the sample, g (grains)

M_4 = mass of an empty beaker, g (grains)

M_5 = mass of a beaker plus the lubricant in the sample, g (grains)

C_R = ratio of the mass of lubricant to the mass of refrigerant in the sample, dimensionless

C_S = ratio of the mass of lubricant to the mass of refrigerant and lubricant in the sample, dimensionless

\bar{C} = mean of the independent observations of the lubricant circulation rates (C_R or C_S), dimensionless

n = number of independent observations of lubricant circulation rates, dimensionless

4. REQUIREMENTS

4.1 Test Plan. A test plan is a document or other form of communication that specifies the tests to be performed and the required measurement accuracy for each test. Sources of the test plan include, but are not limited to, (a) the person or the organization that authorized the tests to be performed, (b) a method-of-test standard, (c) a rating standard, or (d) a regulation or code.

4.2 Values to Be Determined

4.2.1 The mean of the lubricant circulation rate on the sample basis (percent).

4.2.2 The lubricant circulation rate on the sample basis (percent) expressed as the mean plus or minus three times the standard deviation of the mean (SDM) if specified in the test plan.

4.2.3 Measurement uncertainty, unless otherwise specified in the test plan.