



ANSI/(NFPA)  
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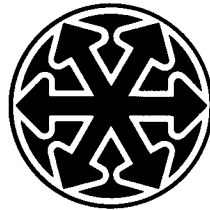
AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARDS INSTITUTE • A NATIONAL STANDARD FOR FLUID POWER

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**Recommended practice — Hydraulic fluid power —  
Use of fire-resistant fluids in industrial systems**

(Revision and redesignation of ANSI/B93.5-1979)

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Descriptors: hydraulic fluids; fluid power, changing fluids in a system, contamination, corrosive properties, effects on elastomers, effects on protective coatings, effects on strainers and filters, foaming and aeration, operating temperatures, piping and accessory precautions, product descriptions, safety in exposure to fluid, spills, viscosity control, wear resistant characteristics..

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Suggestions for improvement gained in the use of this standard will be welcome. They should be sent to the American National Standards Institute, 11 West 42nd Street, 13th Floor, New York, NY 10036-8002.

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## Foreword

This Foreword is not part of American National Standard *Recommended Practice — Hydraulic fluid power — Use of fire-resistant fluids in industrial systems*, ANSI/(NFPA) T2.13.1 R3-1998 (Revision of ANSI/B93.5-1978).

On 8 July 1994, ANSI/B93.5-1979 (T2.13.1 R2) was sent to ANSI Committee B93 for reaffirmation. One negative ballot was received with many comments. This comment was sent to the Fluids Technology Committee Chairman, Paul Schacht, to review. He suggested sending the comments to David Carson, Pall Corp. since he was on the original Project Group. David Carson agreed that the comments were valid and that the document should be revised.

Both Paul Michael, Benz Oil, and George Totten, Union Carbide, agreed to serve as Project Co-Chairmen. The TSP was approved by the Technical Board at their 13 April 1995 meeting.

Project Co-Chairman Michael, reviewed the document and noted the changes that should be made. This list was reviewed at the 21 September 1995, T2.13 meeting. Two changes were made to this list and Project Co-Chairman Totten was asked to revise clause 8 since he is an authority on water-glycol hydraulic fluids.

The document was updated at Headquarters on 12 October 1995 and marked as Draft No. 2. A revised draft from Co-Chairman Paul Michael was received at Headquarters on 17 November 1995. These changes were incorporated into the document.

At the 13 February 1996 T2.13 meeting it was voted on to make a few minor changes to the document and send it out for General Review. The document was updated and sent out for General Review on 9 April 1996. The General Review closed with comments from four companies. The comments were discussed at the 19 September 1996 T2.13 meeting. Letters to the commentators were sent out on 3 October 1996. All of the commentators signed off by 22 October 1996.

The document was granted approval to Ballot at the 5 December 1996 Technical Board meeting. The document was sent out for Ballot on 17 December 1996.

On 8 May 1997 the T2.13 Fluids Technology committee unanimously agreed to send the document to the Technical Board for final approval. The Technical Board met on 14 August 1997 and voted to approve this document and send to ANSI B93 for their approval.

Project Group members who developed this standard:

**Paul Michael**  
Project Co-Chairman &  
Fluids Technology Committee Secretary  
Benz Oil

**George Totten**  
Project Co-Chairman  
Union Carbide Corp.

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**Jean Flesch**  
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National Fluid Power Association

**Shirley C. Seal**  
Manager of Standards Development  
Industry/National  
National Fluid Power Association

On 29 August 1997, ANSI/(NFPA) T2.13.1 R3 was submitted to ANSI Committee B93 for Ballot. Balloting closed with no negative ballots. This document was granted final approval on 20 February 1998.

The membership roster of Standards Committee B93 at the time of Ballot:

**Jack C. McPherson**  
Chairman

**Daniel B. Shore**  
Vice Chairman

**Shirley C. Seal**  
Secretary

**American Society of Agricultural  
Engineers**  
W. L. Snyder\*

**Association for Manufacturing  
Technology**  
Anthony Bratkovich

**Compressed Air & Gas Institute**  
John Wiskamp  
John Addington (alternate)

**Fluid Controls Institute, Inc.**  
Jude Pauli  
John Addington (alternate)

**Fluid Power Society**  
Probir K. Chatterjea  
Art DesMarais III  
Greg Gordon  
Ray Hanley  
Bernard Larson  
Paul Prass (alternate)  
N. Pliny Smith  
James J. Staczek

**Fluid Sealing Association**  
Stephen B. Chapman  
Robert Ecker (alternate)

**Material Handling Institute**  
Jack C. McPherson

**National Fluid Power Association**  
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David Prevallet  
Paul Schacht  
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**US Department of Defense**  
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John Welker (alternate)  
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Russ Henke  
Richard Pettibone  
A. O. Roberts  
Daniel B. Shore  
Vince Torrusio  
Jack Walrad  
Tom Wanke  
James C. White  
Frank Yeaple

/jmf

## Introduction

In hydraulic fluid power systems, power is transmitted and controlled through a liquid under pressure within an enclosed circuit. One kind of fluid is a fire resistant fluid. A fire-resistant fluid is defined as "a fluid difficult to ignite which shows little tendency to propagate flame." Fire-resistant properties vary widely among the types of fluids. Therefore, fluid selection will depend on the type of hazard and equipment involved. Fluid suppliers should provide information on fire tests performed which relate to the intended application.

In general, industrial fluid power equipment is designed for use with petroleum oils. When such systems are converted to use fire-resistant fluids, reevaluate the design features, test requirements, operational techniques, maintenance procedures, and life expectancy of components. Since this practice presents only generalized recommended practices for the use of fire-resistant fluids, consult suppliers of fire-resistant fluids, as well as the component manufacturers for detailed consideration of any problem or complication which may arise.

Consider the environmental impact of these fluids prior to their use. Detailed discussion of this consideration is covered in another document, ANSI/(NFPA)T2.13.4.

Information given in fluid suppliers specification sheets shows that fire-resistant fluids differ widely in physical properties as well as in general lubrication values. Therefore, special consideration should be given to general lubrication values and fire resistance.

# Recommended practice — Hydraulic fluid power — Use of fire-resistant fluids in industrial systems

## 1 Scope

This practice provides a general educational publication covering the following aspects of each of the general industrial types of fire-resistant fluids used in hydraulic fluid power systems:

- product description;
- operating temperatures;
- foaming and aeration;
- corrosive properties;
- effects on protective coatings;
- wear resistant characteristics;
- viscosity control;
- fluid stability;
- safety in exposure to fluid;
- spills;
- contamination;
- effects on strainers and filters;
- effects on elastomers;
- piping and accessory precautions;
- changing fluids in a system.

This practice will:

- provide a composite reference of pertinent general data on fire-resistant fluids;
- facilitate the design of industrial fluid power systems that use fire-resistant fluids;
- improve the operation and increase the reliability of fluid power systems using fire-resistant fluids;
- clarify the maintenance of fire-resistant fluids;