



# Technical Bulletin 01-2

## IFIA Americas Committee Inc.

### Laboratory Subcommittee

#### **Position Paper - Follow Up**

#### **ASTM D 93-99c, Flash Point by Pensky-Martens Closed Cup Tester**

As published on February 15, 2000, the member companies of the International Federation of Inspection Agencies, Americas Committee, made known their position with regard to certain aspects of the referenced test method. By now, it is well known that ASTM D93 (PMcc Flash Point) was extensively revised, initially as D93-99c, and currently published as D93-00. For your information, a copy of the February 15 position paper, Technical Bulletin 00-1, is attached

With time and considerable experience of the different results likely to be obtained on the same sample when using both procedures (A and B), IFIA AC is particularly concerned about how the results produced by its Member Laboratories may be applied against the classification of "Flammable Liquid," clearly defined in 49 CFR 173.120 as a liquid having a flash point of not more than 60.5 °C (141 °F).

As a result, IFIA AC Member Companies who receive an instruction from one party within a multiple party nomination, requesting divergence from prevailing industry standards, will require confirmation from all known parties to that transaction before the applicable operation takes place. These requests will be accommodated, however, IFIA AC members will also perform and report the results from the procedure applicable to the product, as defined in the scope of the method.

Simply put, if we are requested to perform procedure A on a residual fuel oil sample, we will also perform procedure B to ensure there are no misunderstandings on the flammability issue.

We hope this clarifies the Inspection Company position in this matter, and that any customer wishing to use the obsolete methodology will be able to use this information to advise interested parties of the conditions under which the test reports will be generated. We look forward to the time when ASTM and its user community can resolve the confusion in this matter, and we can again use current standard methodology in all aspects of our business.

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# Technical Bulletin 00-1

## IFIA Americas Committee Inc.

### Laboratory Subcommittee

#### Position Paper

#### ASTM D 93-99c, Flash Point by Pensky-Martens Closed Cup Tester

The member companies of the International Federation of Inspection Agencies, Americas Committee, operating in the USA, wish to make known their position with regard to certain aspects of the referenced test method.

ASTM D93 (PMcc Flash Point) has been extensively revised and is published now as D93-99c. The key point of the revision is that residual fuels are now included in the scope of Procedure B. Until this change, Industry custom and practice was to perform flash points for residual fuels by Procedure A. Procedure B was rarely used for petroleum products. The revised distinctions are as follows.

**Procedure A** is applicable to distillate fuels, (diesel, kerosene, heating oil, turbine fuels), new lubricating oils, and other homogeneous petroleum liquids not covered in the scope of procedure B.

**Procedure B** is applicable to all grades of residual fuel oils (marine & land), cutback residua, mixtures of petroleum liquids with solids, petroleum liquids that tend to form a surface film under test conditions or are petroleum liquids of such kinematic viscosity that they are not uniformly heated under the stirring conditions of Procedure A. These liquids are now heated at a slower rate and faster stirring speed than previously.

Conditions	Heating	Stirring
Procedure A	5° - 6°C per minute	90 -120 rpm.
Procedure B	1° - 1.5°C per minute	250 +/- 10 rpm.

The change resulted from an extensive correlation study coordinated by the Institute of Petroleum, which demonstrated that Procedure B yielded greater precision for residual fuels than Procedure A. Results obtained by the two procedures from the same sample may differ considerably.

Most specifications, including but not limited to ASTM D396-98, Standard Specification for Fuel Oils, Grades 5 and 6, were published prior to the changes in ASTM D93 and specify neither Procedure A nor Procedure B. Therefore, those specifications may not reflect results obtained from this significant change in flash point methodology. IFIA members will report either D93A or D93B as applicable.

IFIA AC members request that all interested parties review this notice and ASTM D93-99c and make appropriate arrangements, within instructions and contracts, to accommodate the revision.

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