

Australian Standard™

**Methods for the determination of the  
flash point of flammable liquids  
(closed cup)**

**Part 4: Determination of flash point—  
Rapid equilibrium closed cup method**

This Australian Standard was prepared by Committee CH-009, Safe Handling of Chemicals. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 5 April 2005. This Standard was published on 26 April 2005.

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The following are represented on Committee CH-009:

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Originated as part of AS 2106—1977.  
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## PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee CH-009, Safe Handling of Chemicals, to supersede AS/NZS 2106.4:1999, *Methods for the determination of the flash point of flammable liquids (closed cup)*, Part 4: *Determination of flash point—Rapid equilibrium method*. It is identical with, and has been reproduced from ISO 3679:2004, *Determination of flash point—Rapid equilibrium closed cup method*.

The objective of this Standard is to provide a test method for the determination of closed cup flash point, using a more rapid procedure and a smaller test portion (2 to 4 mL) than that required in ISO 1523 (AS 2106.6) or ISO 2719 (AS 2106.2). The test is carried out when the sample and the air/vapour mixture in the test cup are approximately in thermal equilibrium.

The main changes between this edition and that published in 1999 are the provision of additional information on sampling, and calibration (verification) of apparatus.

As this Standard has been reproduced from an international Standard, the following modifications apply:

- (a) Its number does not appear on each page of text and its identity is shown on the cover and title page.
- (b) In the source text ‘this International Standard’ should read ‘this Australian Standard’.
- (c) Substitute a full point for a comma when referring to a decimal marker.

References to the following International Standards should be replaced by the Australian/New Zealand Standard as follows:

<i>Reference to International Standard</i>	<i>Australian/New Zealand Standard</i>
ISO	AS/NZS
1513 Paints and varnishes—Examination and preparation of samples for testing	1580 Paints and related materials—Methods of test 1580.103.1 Method 103.1: Examination and preparation of samples for testing
	AS
1523 Determination of flash point—Closed cup equilibrium method	2106 Methods for the determination of the flash point of flammable liquids (closed cup) 2106.6 Part 6: Determination of flash point—Closed cup equilibrium method

Other International Standards referenced in the source document have not been adopted as Australian Standards.

The terms ‘normative’ and ‘informative’ have been used in this Standard to define the application of the annex to which they apply. A ‘normative’ annex is an integral part of a Standard, whereas an ‘informative’ annex is only for information and guidance.

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## INTRODUCTION

This International Standard describes one of two closed cup equilibrium methods for the determination of the flash point of paints, varnishes, paint binders, solvents, adhesives, petroleum and related products. When selecting a method, it should therefore be read in conjunction with the second method, ISO 1523 [4]. When used in conjunction with the flash detector (A.1.6), this International Standard is also suitable for the determination of the flash point of fatty acid methyl esters (FAME).

In both ISO 3679 and ISO 1523, the test is only carried out when the material under test and the air/vapour mixture above the material in the test cup are approximately in temperature equilibrium.

The apparatus specified in this International Standard enables a similar test result to be determined using a more rapid procedure and a smaller test portion (2 ml or 4 ml) than that required in ISO 1523. In addition, the apparatus can be made portable to the extent of being suitable for on-site testing in addition to its more normal use in laboratories.

Collaborative work (see [6] in the Bibliography) has shown that results obtained by these procedures are comparable. The interpretation of flash point results obtained on solvent mixtures containing halogenated hydrocarbons should be considered with caution, as these mixtures can give anomalous results (see [7] in the Bibliography).

Flash point values are not a constant physical-chemical property of materials tested. They are a function of the apparatus design, the condition of the apparatus used, and the operational procedure carried out. Flash point can therefore only be defined in terms of a standard test method, and no general valid correlation can be guaranteed between results obtained by different test methods or with test apparatus different from that specified.

## AUSTRALIAN STANDARD

# Methods for the determination of the flash point of flammable liquids (closed cup)

## Part 4:

### Determination of flash point—Rapid equilibrium closed cup method

**WARNING** — The use of this International Standard may involve hazardous materials, operations and equipment. This International Standard does not purport to address all of the safety problems associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this International Standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.

## 1 Scope

This International Standard specifies a method for the determination of the closed cup flash point of paints (including water-borne paints), varnishes, paint binders, adhesives, solvents, petroleum, and related products having closed cup flash points within the range of  $-30\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $300\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ . When used in conjunction with the flash detector (A.1.6), this International Standard is also suitable for the determination of the flash point of fatty acid methyl esters (FAME).

## 2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 1513:1992, *Paints and varnishes — Examination and preparation of samples for testing*

ISO 3170:2004, *Petroleum liquids — Manual sampling*

ISO 3171:1988, *Petroleum liquids — Automatic pipeline sampling*

ISO 15528:2000, *Paints, varnishes and raw materials for paints and varnishes — Sampling*

## 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

### 3.1

#### **flash point**

lowest temperature of the test portion (as measured in the prescribed manner), corrected to a barometric pressure of 101,3 kPa, at which application of a test flame causes the vapour of the test portion to ignite momentarily and the flame to propagate across the surface of the liquid under the specified conditions of test