

Jim Wells

From: BatesTerryW@aol.com
Sent: Monday, October 18, 2004 2:39 AM
To: jbfoodie@attbi.com; Mc Geehan, James (JIAM); tom.franklin@perkinelmer.com
Subject: Elastomer test method_Acceptance Limits

Lyle/Jim/Tom

I propose sending the following e-mail to Becky Grinfield who is chairperson of the Elastomer Test Method Surveillance Group to keep her informed as to developments with the acceptance limits issue. Grateful if you could check that my understanding is correct to ensure we are all singing out of the same hymnbook.

Becky

The situation re acceptance limits is currently as follows:

1. Some members of D02.B0.10 (Standards Acceleration) do not consider it appropriate to have the acceptance limits as a mandatory part of the Elastomer Test Method. This is because the purpose of an ASTM test method is to produce a result. The acceptance limits effectively adjust (i.e. relax) the specification limits to take account of test variability. (The candidate oil must conform to the acceptance limits not the specification limits.) As such, the acceptance limits are a specification matter and should be covered in a specification (such as D 4485) and not in a test method. If we persist in including the acceptance limits in an Annex (which is mandatory) to the Test Method we will certainly get negative votes which will most likely be regarded by Subcommittee B as persuasive.
2. If the acceptance limits are not included as a mandatory part of the Elastomer Test Method, then they are currently in limbo in both ASTM and API. Thus they are not mentioned in D 4485 and API 1509 says "pass the elastomer limits specified in D 4485".
3. There are two options to ensure that the acceptance limits are properly covered in D 4485 (and hence in API 1509):
 - a) add an annex (mandatory) to D 4485 describing how to derive the acceptance limits from the specification limits
 - b) add an Appendix (non-mandatory) to the Elastomer Test Method describing how to derive the acceptance limits from the specification limits and add a footnote to Table 3 in D 4485 making the Appendix in the Test Method a mandatory part of D 4485.
4. With a view to implementing option 3a, an edited version of Appendix X1 of draft 15 of the Elastomer Method has been written as the first draft of an Annex for D 4485. A statistician appointed by the HDEOCP will use this as the basis for a second draft which will be presented to the HDEOCP on Nov. 11.
5. As I understand the situation, items to be discussed by the HDEOCP on Nov. 11 may include whether or not to allow the user the choice between using the experiment specific value for the reference oil or the industry average. Other items may also be raised.
6. In any event, the HDEOCP meeting on Nov. 11 will hopefully reach a decision on how best to proceed. One option might be for a ballot of the HDEOCP as precursor to a Subcommittee B ballot.
7. I propose delaying a ballot of the Elastomer Test Method until it is more clear what will happen with respect to the acceptance limits and D 4485. In principle we could still include the acceptance limits as a non-mandatory Appendix which could serve to complement the D 4485 Annex if the latter is more concise than our current Appendix X1.

Terry

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