Flash Point Tests in the Paint & Chemicals Industry

Flash point is the property most commonly used to classify materials as flammable or combustible. By law all Manufacturer's must provide a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) showing basic information about the properties of a specific paint, chemical or solvent, including its flash point. UN, CLP, OSHA and many other classifications are based upon flash points determined by Setaflash Closed-Cup apparatus, test methods ASTM D3278, ASTM D3828, ISO 3679.

ISO 1523

Determination of flash point - Closed cup equilibrium method

An International Standard that specifies a method to determine the flash point of paints, varnishes, paint binders, solvents, petroleum or related products. This Standard is not applicable to waterborne paints which are tested using ISO 3679 (Setaflash method).

ISO 3679

Determination of flash no-flash and flash point - Rapid equilibrium (Setaflash) closed cup method

This International Standard is a closed cup equilibrium test method for the determination of the flash/no-flash point of paints, varnishes, binders for paints and varnishes, solvents, adhesives, petroleum and related products.

The apparatus specified in ISO 3679 enables a similar test result to ISO 1516 and ISO 1523 to be determined using a more rapid procedure and a smaller test portion (2ml or 4ml). In addition to use in a laboratory, the Setaflash is portable making it more suitable for on-site testing.

Setaflash - the preferred test method

The Setaflash instrument requires just 2ml of sample which enables the target temperature to be reached quickly, typically within 1-2 minutes. Many traditional flash point tests require a much larger volume of sample (typically 70-80ml) and also take 30 minutes or longer to perform, so most operators opt for the Setaflash Small Scale Closed Cup test - ASTM D3828, ISO 3679 which is fully specified for flash point testing of chemicals and solvents.

The Setaflash instrument is a simple and cost effective test that can be undertaken on-site with minimum operator skill. Results ensure that a product complies with transport safety regulations while the small sample volume reduces the wastage costs of flash point tests.

Further information about Setaflash small scale flash point testing can be found at www.stanhope-seta.co.uk/small-scale-flashpoint-testing.asp or by scanning the QR code below.

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