



Application Note AN-V-220

# Remaining Useful Life of Lubricants

## Fully automated determination of remaining antioxidant content using voltammetry

Testing of in-service lubricating oils for their remaining antioxidant content is critical for capital equipment uptime as well as reducing running costs and repair expenses. Test methodologies such as RPVOT (rotating pressure vessel oxidation test) are time consuming and expensive to perform. Remaining Useful Life is a proven voltammetric method for testing the remaining active antioxidant content in minutes. Depending on the electrolyte, aromatic amine and phenolic antioxidants or hindered phenolic antioxidants can be determined. For the first time, a fully automated system is

demonstrated, showing dramatically improved repeatability of data for confidence in reporting. Operator time is saved during sample preparation and irreproducible manual interpretation is eliminated via completely autonomous software processing. The user adds the sample into the vials, then the determination process of the sample series (including sample preparation and result calculations) is carried out automatically.

The system is based on methods ASTM D6810, ASTM D6971, ASTM D7527, and ASTM D7590.

## SAMPLES

Lubricating oils, hydraulic oils, turbine oils, and motor oils.

## ANALYSIS

The oil samples are added into the sample vials on the rack of the sample processor. During the determination procedure, supporting electrolyte is automatically added to the sample and mixed. Either a neutral or alkaline supporting electrolyte is used depending on the type of antioxidants in the sample. The sample solution is transferred into the measuring vessel of the 884 Professional VA and

the antioxidant determination carried out using the voltammetric parameters listed in either **Table 1** or **2**. The resulting peaks are automatically evaluated, and the concentration is calculated using a 1-point calibration, reporting the result as % remaining antioxidant compared to an unused fresh oil. The complete system is then rinsed before the next sample is started.



**Figure 1.** 884 Professional VA fully automated: 884 Professional VA with 858 Professional Sample Processor, three Dosinos, and 843 Pump Station

**Table 1.** Parameters for determination of aromatic amine and phenolic antioxidants in neutral supporting electrolyte

| Parameter             | Setting                 |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Mode                  | DP – Differential Pulse |
| Start potential       | 0 V                     |
| End potential         | +1.3 V                  |
| Peak potential amine  | +0.5 V                  |
| Peak potential phenol | +1.0 V                  |

**Table 2.** Parameters for determination of hindered phenolic antioxidants in alkaline supporting electrolyte

| Parameter             | Setting                 |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Mode                  | DP – Differential Pulse |
| Start potential       | -0.1 V                  |
| End potential         | +1.0 V                  |
| Peak potential phenol | +0.2 V                  |

## ELECTRODES

- Working electrode: Glassy carbon electrode tip with driving axle for RDE
- Reference electrode: Platinum rod electrode
- Auxiliary electrode: Platinum rod electrode

## RESULTS

The described method can be used to determine the remaining antioxidant content in various types of lubricating oils such as hydraulic oils, turbine oils, or motor oils.

The fully automated system setup allows unattended automatic runs of sample series.

The automated determination process includes the

sample preparation steps that are carried out automatically. In addition, curve evaluation and result calculation are carried out automatically in the viva software. These unique features significantly reduce the workload for the operators in the lab and increase reproducibility of the obtained results.



**Figure 2.** Aromatic amine and phenolic antioxidants compressor oil with neutral supporting electrolyte

**Table 3.** Results compressor oil in neutral electrolyte

| Antioxidant                 | Remaining content |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Aromatic amine antioxidants | 15.8%             |
| Phenolic antioxidants       | 83.5%             |



**Figure 3.** Hindered phenolic antioxidants in turbine oil with alkaline supporting electrolyte

**Table 4.** Result for turbine oil in alkaline electrolyte

| Antioxidant                    | Remaining content |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| Hindered phenolic antioxidants | 83.6%             |

## REFERENCES

1. ASTM D6971-09(2014) Standard Test Method for Measurement of Hindered Phenolic and Aromatic Amine Antioxidant Content in Non-zinc Turbine Oils by Linear Sweep Voltammetry
2. ASTM D6810-21 Standard Test Method for Measurement of Hindered Phenolic Antioxidant Content in Non-Zinc Turbine Oils by Linear Sweep Voltammetry
3. ASTM D7527-10(2018) Standard Test Method for Measurement of Antioxidant Content in Lubricating Greases by Linear Sweep Voltammetry
4. ASTM D7590-09(2014) Standard Guide for Measurement of Remaining Primary Antioxidant Content In In-Service Industrial Lubricating Oils by Linear Sweep Voltammetry

Internal references: AW VA CH4-0580-042019; AW

VA CH4-0581-042019

## CONTACT

117702  
100085

marketing@metrohm.com.cn

## CONFIGURATION

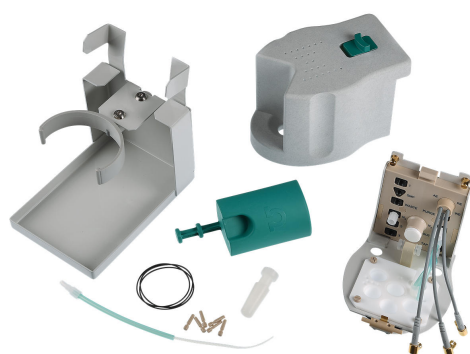


### 884 Professional VA

884 Professional VA Professional VA/CVS , pro  
scTRACE Gold, «»(CVS)«»(CPVS)(CP)/ **viva** ,,,

**viva**

884 Professional VA , **viva**



### RDE Professional VA / CVS

,



### 2 mm CVS

(Pt), 2 mm  $\pm 0.05$  mm,,, M3 0.3 mm:0-50°C