

# Electric Submersible Pump Testing

API RECOMMENDED PRACTICE 11S2  
THIRD EDITION, MAY 2025



American  
Petroleum  
Institute

## Special Notes

API publications necessarily address problems of a general nature. With respect to particular circumstances, local, state, and federal laws and regulations should be reviewed. The use of API publications is voluntary. In some cases, third parties or authorities having jurisdiction may choose to incorporate API standards by reference and may mandate compliance.

Neither API nor any of API's employees, subcontractors, consultants, committees, or other assignees make any warranty or representation, either express or implied, with respect to the accuracy, completeness, or usefulness of the information contained herein, or assume any liability or responsibility for any use, or the results of such use, of any information or process disclosed in this publication. Neither API nor any of API's employees, subcontractors, consultants, or other assignees represent that use of this publication would not infringe upon privately owned rights.

Users of this standard should not rely exclusively on the information contained in this document. Sound business, scientific, engineering, and safety judgment should be used in employing the information contained herein.

API is not undertaking to meet the duties of employers, manufacturers, or suppliers to warn and properly train and equip their employees, and others exposed, concerning health and safety risks and precautions, nor undertaking their obligations to comply with authorities having jurisdiction.

API publications may be used by anyone desiring to do so. Every effort has been made by the Institute to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the data contained therein. However, the Institute makes no representation, warranty, or guarantee in connection with this publication and hereby expressly disclaims any liability or responsibility for loss or damage resulting from its use or for the violation of any authorities having jurisdiction with which this publication may conflict.

API publications are published to facilitate the broad availability of proven, sound engineering and operating practices. These publications are not intended to obviate the need for applying sound engineering judgment regarding when and where these publications should be utilized. The formulation and publication of API publications is not intended in any way to inhibit anyone from using any other practices.

Any manufacturer marking equipment or materials in conformance with the marking requirements of an API standard is solely responsible for complying with all the applicable requirements of that standard. API does not represent, warrant, or guarantee that such products do in fact conform to the applicable API standard.

All rights reserved. No part of this work may be reproduced, translated, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without prior written permission from the publisher. Contact the publisher, API Publishing Services, 200 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Suite 1100, Washington, DC 20001.

## Foreword

Nothing contained in any API publication is to be construed as granting any right, by implication or otherwise, for the manufacture, sale, or use of any method, apparatus, or product covered by letters patent. Neither should anything contained in the publication be construed as insuring anyone against liability for infringement of letters patent.

The verbal forms used to express the provisions in this document are as follows.

Shall: As used in a standard, “shall” denotes a minimum requirement in order to conform to the standard.

Should: As used in a standard, “should” denotes a recommendation or that which is advised but not required in order to conform to the standard.

May: As used in a standard, “may” denotes a course of action permissible within the limits of a standard.

Can: As used in a standard, “can” denotes a statement of possibility or capability.

This document was produced under API standardization procedures that ensure appropriate notification and participation in the developmental process and is designated as an API standard. Questions concerning the interpretation of the content of this publication or comments and questions concerning the procedures under which this publication was developed should be directed in writing to the Director of Standards, American Petroleum Institute, 200 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Suite 1100, Washington, DC 20001. Requests for permission to reproduce or translate all or any part of the material published herein should also be addressed to the director.

Generally, API standards are reviewed and revised, reaffirmed, or withdrawn at least every five years. A one-time extension of up to two years may be added to this review cycle. Status of the publication can be ascertained from the API Standards Department, telephone (202) 682-8000. A catalog of API publications and materials is published annually by API, 200 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Suite 1100, Washington, DC 20001.

Suggested revisions are invited and should be submitted to the Standards Department, API, 200 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Suite 1100, Washington, DC 20001, [standards@api.org](mailto:standards@api.org).

Currently in preview, click buy full version

## Contents

	Page
<b>1 Scope</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>1.1 General</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>1.2 Coverage</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>2 Normative Reference</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>3 Terms, Definitions, and Abbreviations</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>3.1 Terms and Definitions</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>3.2 Abbreviations</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>4 Data and Charts: Pump Performance Curves</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>5 Test Procedure</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>5.1 Test Points</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>5.2 Certified Data</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>5.3 Efficiency</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>5.4 Special Testing Considerations</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>5.5 Test Orientation</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>5.6 Test Fluid</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>5.7 Test Run-In Time</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>5.8 Test and Nominal Speed Variations</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>5.9 Inlet Pressure Requirements</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>5.10 Instrumentation Accuracy</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>6 Test Certification</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>6.1 Limits</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>6.2 Acceptance</b> .....	<b>11</b>
<b>6.3 Validity Period</b> .....	<b>12</b>
<b>6.4 Test Data Reporting</b> .....	<b>12</b>

### Figures

<b>1 Total Differential Head</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>2 Pump Performance Curve (Typical)</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>3 Pump Performance Multi-frequency Curve (Typical)</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>4 Pump Test Points Plotted on Published Curves</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>5 Pump Test Acceptance Limits from Published Curve</b> .....	<b>11</b>

### Tables

<b>1 Overall Instrument Accuracy</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>2 Pump Test Acceptance Limits From Published Curve</b> .....	<b>12</b>

Currently in preview, click buy full version

# Electric Submersible Pump Testing

## 1 Scope

### 1.1 General

This recommended practice provides guidelines and procedures covering electric submersible pump performance testing. These recommended practices are considered appropriate for most pump applications, including gas handlers and high-speed pumps.

### 1.2 Coverage

This recommended practice covers the acceptance testing of electric submersible pumps (sold as new) by the manufacturer, vendor, or user to the prescribed minimum specifications. This recommended practice does not include other electric submersible pump system components.

## 2 Normative Reference

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.

API Recommended Practice 11S8, *Recommended Practice on Electric Submersible System Vibrations*

## 3 Terms, Definitions, and Abbreviations

### 3.1 Terms and Definitions

#### 3.1.1

##### affinity laws

Relationships between pump performance and pump speed ratios. For test purposes, the speed ratios are between rated rpm and test rpm.

a) Speed adjusted flow =  $\frac{\text{rated rpm}}{\text{test rpm}} \times \text{test flow}$

b) Speed adjusted head =  $\left(\frac{\text{rated rpm}}{\text{test rpm}}\right)^2 \times \text{test head}$

c) Speed adjusted brake horsepower =  $\left(\frac{\text{rated rpm}}{\text{test rpm}}\right)^3 \times \text{test brake horsepower}$

#### 3.1.2

##### allowable head-flow rate performance band

A region on either side of a published head-flow rate performance curve (see Figure 2). The limits of this band are defined by a series of vectors with their origin on the published head-flow rate performance curve. The vectors are defined by application of the head and flow tolerances in Table 2.