



Designation: ~~D5373—16~~ D5373 – 21

Standard Test Methods for Determination of Carbon, Hydrogen and Nitrogen in Analysis Samples of Coal and Carbon in Analysis Samples of Coal and Coke¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D5373; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

1. Scope

1.1 Test Method A covers the determination of carbon in the range of 54.9 % to 84.7 %, hydrogen in the range of ~~3.25 %~~ 3.26 % to ~~5.10 %~~ 5.08 %, and nitrogen in the range of 0.57 % to ~~1.80 %~~ 1.76 % in the analysis samples (8.1) of coal and of carbon in analysis samples of coke in the range of 86.6 % to 97.9 %.

1.1.1 Test Method B covers the determination of carbon in analysis samples of coal in the range of ~~58.0 % to 84.2 %~~, 57.7 % to 84.0 %, and carbon in analysis samples of coke in the range of 86.3 % to ~~95.2 %~~ 95.4 %.

NOTE 1—The coals included in the interlaboratory ~~studies~~ employed to derive the precision ~~statement~~ statements for this standard cover ASTM rank lignite A to low volatile bituminous. Additional information concerning the composition of these coals appears in [Annex A4](#) and [Annex A5](#). The cokes used in the interlaboratory study employed to derive the precision statement for coke for Method A included five each metallurgical (met) cokes and seven each petroleum (pet) cokes, and Method B included an equal number (five each) of met cokes and pet cokes.

1.2 All percentages are percent mass fractions unless otherwise noted.

1.3 Units—The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as standard. No other units of measurement are included in this standard.

1.4 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate ~~safety~~ safety, health, and health ~~environmental~~ environmental practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

1.5 *This international standard was developed in accordance with internationally recognized principles on standardization established in the Decision on Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations issued by the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

[D121 Terminology of Coal and Coke](#)

[D346/D346M Practice for Collection and Preparation of Coke Samples for Laboratory Analysis](#)

[D2013 Practice for Preparing Coal Samples for Analysis](#)

¹ These test methods are under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee [D05](#) on Coal and Coke and are the direct responsibility of Subcommittee [D05.21](#) on Methods of Analysis.

Current edition approved ~~Sept. 1, 2016~~ April 1, 2021. Published ~~September 2016~~ April 2021. Originally approved in 1993. Last previous edition approved in ~~2014~~ 2016 as ~~D5373—14~~ D5373 – 16.² DOI: ~~10.1520/D5373-16~~ 10.1520/D5373-21.

² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

[D3173 Test Method for Moisture in the Analysis Sample of Coal and Coke](#)

[D3176 Practice for Ultimate Analysis of Coal and Coke](#)

[D3180 Practice for Calculating Coal and Coke Analyses from As-Determined to Different Bases](#)

[D5865 Test Method for Gross Calorific Value of Coal and Coke](#)

[D7582 Test Methods for Proximate Analysis of Coal and Coke by Macro Thermogravimetric Analysis](#)

2.2 *ISO Standard*.³

[ISO 5725-6 Accuracy \(Trueness and Precision\) of Measurement Methods and Results Part 6: Use in Practice of Accuracy Values](#)

3. Terminology

3.1 For definitions of terms used in this standard, refer to Terminology [D121](#).

4. Summary of Test Methods

4.1 In Method A, carbon, hydrogen, and nitrogen in coal or carbon in coke are determined in a single instrumental procedure using a furnace operating at temperatures in the range of 900 °C to 1050 °C for carbon, hydrogen, and nitrogen in coal or 950 °C to 1150 °C for carbon in coke. The quantitative conversion of the carbon, hydrogen, and nitrogen into their corresponding gases (CO₂, H₂O, and NO_x) occurs during combustion of the sample at an elevated temperature in an atmosphere of oxygen. Combustion products which can interfere with the subsequent gas analysis are removed. Oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) are reduced to N₂ before detection. The carbon dioxide, water vapor and elemental nitrogen in the gas stream are determined by appropriate instrumental detection procedures.

4.2 In Method B, carbon in coal and coke is determined by combusting the sample in a 1350 °C furnace. The H₂O in the combustion gases is removed and CO₂ is determined by infrared absorption.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 Carbon and hydrogen values can be used to determine the amount of oxygen (air) required in combustion processes and for calculation of the efficiency of combustion processes.

5.2 Carbon and hydrogen determinations can be used in calculations including material balance, reactivity and yields of products relevant to coal conversion processes such as gasification and liquefaction.

5.3 Carbon and nitrogen values can be used in material balance calculations employed for emission accounting purposes.

NOTE 2—The bulk composition of coal changes at a rate that varies from coal to coal during storage. As a result, using coal for calibration can yield incorrect estimates of carbon, and hydrogen content in particular.

6. Apparatus

6.1 *Analytical Instrument for CHN Analysis in Coal or Carbon in Coke (Method A)*—An instrument capable of analyzing a test portion of 6 mg or greater. For coal, it includes a furnace capable of maintaining a temperature in the range of 900 °C to 1050 °C to ensure quantitative recovery of carbon, hydrogen, and nitrogen as their corresponding gases (CO₂, H₂O, and NO_x). For coke, it includes a furnace capable of maintaining a temperature in the range of 950 °C to 1150 °C. The use of combustion promoters, including tin foil or capsule, shall be utilized as required by the apparatus manufacturer for quantitative recovery of carbon in coke as its corresponding gas (CO₂). The combustion gases or a representative aliquot shall be treated to remove, separate out, or convert any components that can interfere with the measurement of carbon dioxide, water vapor, or nitrogen. The detection system shall

TABLE 1 Calibration Materials and Their Theoretical Contents of Carbon, Hydrogen, and Nitrogen (Method A)

Name	Formula	C %	H %	N %
EDTA	C ₁₀ H ₁₆ N ₂ O ₈	41.1	5.5	9.6
Phenylalanine	C ₉ H ₁₁ NO ₂	65.4	6.7	8.5
Acetanilide	C ₈ H ₉ NO	71.1	6.7	10.4
BBOT	C ₂₆ H ₂₆ N ₂ O ₂ S	72.5	6.1	6.5
Graphite	C	100.0		

³ Available from American National Standards Institute (ANSI), 25 W. 43rd St., 4th Floor, New York, NY 10036, <http://www.ansi.org>.

include provisions for evaluating the response in a manner that correlates accurately with the carbon dioxide, water vapor, and nitrogen present in the treated combustion gases.

6.2 *Analytical Instrumentation for Carbon in Coal and Coke Analysis (Method B)*—An instrument with a furnace capable of maintaining a temperature of at least 1350 °C at all times during the analysis. The high temperature helps ensure the quantitative recovery of carbon from cokes. The infrared absorption detection system shall include provisions for evaluating the response in a manner that correlates accurately with the carbon dioxide present in the dry combustion gases. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations for sample mass (typically 50 mg to 300 mg).

6.3 *Balance*—A stand-alone balance or a balance integrated with the instrument, with a resolution of at least 0.1 % relative of the test portion mass.

7. Reagents

7.1 *Purity of Reagents*—Reagent grade chemicals shall be used in all tests. Unless otherwise indicated, it is intended that all reagents shall conform to the specifications of the Committee on Analytical Reagents of the American Chemical Society, where such specifications are available.⁴ Other grades may be used, provided it is first ascertained that the reagent is of sufficiently high purity to permit its use without lessening the accuracy of the determination.

7.2 *Carrier Gas*, as specified for the instrument by the manufacturer.

7.3 *Oxygen*, as specified for the instrument by the manufacturer.

7.4 *Additional Reagents*, of types and qualities as specified for the instrument by the manufacturer.

7.5 *Calibration Materials*—Calibration materials shall be accompanied by a certificate of analysis stating the purity of the material. If the certificate of analysis does not provide assigned values for carbon, hydrogen, or nitrogen, use the purity as stated on the certificate to establish carbon, hydrogen, and nitrogen from the theoretical values. Store these pure substances in a desiccator under conditions that maintain the compounds in a dry state.

7.6 *Reference Materials*—Certified reference material (CRM) coal(s) prepared by a recognized authority to monitor changes in instrument response that can be affected by constituents not present in the calibration materials (**Note 3**) and to verify the acceptability of nitrogen results. Coal(s) and coke(s) traceable to a certified reference material (CRM) coal(s) and coke(s) can also be used. Follow instructions on the reference material certificate with respect to storage of the reference material and use of assigned values. Use only those carbon, hydrogen, and nitrogen values that have an assigned uncertainty or are traceable to a value with an assigned uncertainty.

NOTE 3—Coal contains mineral constituents as well as acid gas forming constituents that can affect the performance of chemicals used to ensure the consistent and uniform conversion and recovery of carbon, hydrogen, and nitrogen.

NOTE 4—The amount of nitrogen in the majority of coal employed for power production purposes is in the range of 0.5 % to 1.8 %. None of the calibrants yields percent nitrogen values within the ranges expected for coal. For this reason, reference material (RM) coal is used to check the acceptability of nitrogen results.

7.7 *Tungsten Oxide (WO₃)*, as specified for the instrument by the manufacturer.

7.8 *Tin (Sn)*, as specified for the instrument by the manufacturer.

8. Preparation of Analysis Sample

8.1 The sample shall be the analysis sample prepared to a top size of less than 250 μm (No. 60). Coal samples shall be prepared in accordance with Practice **D2013**. Coke samples shall be prepared in accordance with Practice **D346/D346M**.

⁴ *Reagent Chemicals, American Chemical Society Specifications*, American Chemical Society, Washington, DC. For suggestions on the testing of reagents not listed by the American Chemical Society, see *Analar Standards for Laboratory Chemicals*, BDH Ltd., Poole, Dorset, U.K., and the *United States Pharmacopeia and National Formulary*, U.S. Pharmaceutical Convention, Inc. (USPC), Rockville, MD.

9. Instrument Preparation

9.1 *Instrument Set-Up*—Verify all instrument operating parameters meet the specifications in the instrument operating manual. Verify the condition and quantities of all chemicals currently in use are satisfactory for the number of samples to be analyzed. Prior to any analysis, check for and, if necessary, correct any leaks in the combustion ~~system,system~~ and the carrier gas system.

9.2 *Blank Analyses*—Perform blank analyses to establish carbon, hydrogen₂ and nitrogen levels in the combustion and carrier gases as required by the specific method. The level of carbon, hydrogen₂ or nitrogen in these gases shall not exceed 1 % relative of the instrument response for the lowest mass of calibration material (9.4) for each analyte. Re-determine blank analyses whenever the carrier gas or oxygen supplies are changed or any chemicals are renewed.

9.3 *Conditioning*—Select a conditioning sample in the range of 75 % (or more) carbon dry basis. It is recommended that the moisture content be less than 3 %. Carry out four determinations on the conditioning sample. Discard the first determination. If the range of the three retained determinations for either carbon, hydrogen₂ or nitrogen values exceed $\pm 2.2r$, where r is the repeatability of this standard, instrument stability is suspect. In this case, take corrective action before proceeding with calibration.

9.4 *Calibration*—If the instrument has been previously calibrated in accordance with Annex A1, determinations can proceed provided the calibration is verified in accordance with Annex A2. Otherwise calibrate the instrument as described in Annex A1.

9.4.1 *Calibration for Carbon in Coal and Coke at $\pm 350^\circ\text{C}$ to $\pm 1350^\circ\text{C}$ (Method B)*—Use pure graphite to calibrate instruments operating at $\pm 350^\circ\text{C}$ to $\pm 1350^\circ\text{C}$ that are used for determining carbon in coal and coke analysis samples.

10. Procedure

10.1 Determination:

10.1.1 Carry out a determination of the moisture content of each analysis sample or each reference material, or both, in accordance with Test Method D3173 or Test Methods D7582 within 48 h of the determination of carbon, hydrogen₂ and nitrogen on each analysis sample.

10.1.2 Carry out the determination by weighing out a test portion of each analysis sample within a mass range recommended by the manufacturer. Conduct determinations on consecutive test portions of an analysis sample as needed to meet quality control requirements.

10.1.3 Verify the calibration upon completion of all test determinations and as needed to meet quality control requirements according to Annex A2.

10.1.4 Prior to conducting any test determinations, upon completion of all test determinations, and as needed to meet quality control requirements, conduct determinations on consecutive test portions of a reference material (RM) (7.6). Verify the acceptability of results for the RM in accordance with Annex A3.

NOTE 5—Appendix X2 provides guidance on the selection of the mass of a test portion that will yield for a mass of carbon similar to the mid range mass of the calibration material.

11. Calculation

11.1 Record the total carbon, hydrogen₂ and nitrogen as analyzed as a percentage by mass. Report the results on dry basis to the nearest 0.1 % for carbon, 0.01 % for hydrogen₂ and to the nearest 0.01 % for nitrogen.

11.2 Use the following equations for the calculation to dry basis:

11.2.1 For the carbon content:

$$C_d = C_{ad} \times \frac{100}{100 - M_{ad}} \quad (1)$$

11.2.2 For the nitrogen content:

TABLE 2 Mass Fractions Range and Limits for Repeatability and Reproducibility for Carbon, Hydrogen, and Nitrogen in Coal and Carbon in Coke (Method A)

Element	Mass Fraction Range, %	Repeatability Limit	Reproducibility Limit
Carbon in Coal	54.9 to 84.7	0.45	1.00
Hydrogen in Coal	3.25 to 5.10	0.10	0.25
Hydrogen in Coal	3.26 to 5.08	0.10	0.25
Nitrogen in Coal	0.57 to 1.80	0.05	0.15
Nitrogen in Coal	0.57 to 1.76	0.05	0.15
Carbon in Coke	86.6 to 97.9	0.85	2.20

$$N_d = N_{ad} \times \frac{100}{100 - M_{ad}} \quad (2)$$

11.2.3 For the hydrogen content:

$$H_d = (H_{ad} - 0.1119 \times M_{ad}) \times \frac{100}{100 - M_{ad}} \quad (3)$$

where:

d = dry basis,

ad = as determined (as analyzed) basis,

C = content of carbon, %,

N = content of nitrogen, %,

H = content of hydrogen, %, and

M_{ad} = moisture content of the sample as analyzed, %.

12. Precision and Bias⁵

12.1 The precision data for Test Method A for the determination of carbon, hydrogen, and nitrogen in coal and carbon in coke are shown in **Table 2**. The precision data for Test Method B for the determination of carbon in coal and coke are shown in **Table 3**.

TABLE 3 Concentration-Mass Fractions Range and Limits for Repeatability and Reproducibility for Carbon in Coal and Coke Determined Using 1350 °C Combustion (Method B)

Element	Concentration Range, %	Repeatability Limit, r	Reproducibility Limit, R
Element	Mass Fraction Range, %	Repeatability Limit, r	Reproducibility Limit, R
Carbon in Coke	86.3 to 95.4	0.87	1.68
Carbon in Coal	57.7 to 84.0	0.55	2.31

12.1.1 *Repeatability Limit (r)*—The value below which the absolute difference between two test results calculated to a dry basis (Practices **D3180** and **D3176**) of separate and consecutive test determinations, carried out on the same sample, in the same laboratory, by the same operator, using the same apparatus on samples taken at random from a single quantity of homogeneous material, may be expected to occur with a probability of approximately 95 %.

12.1.2 *Reproducibility Limit (R)*—The value below which the absolute difference between two test results calculated to a dry basis (Practices **D3180** and **D3176**), carried out in different laboratories, using samples taken at random from a single quantity of material that is as homogeneous as possible, may be expected to occur with a probability of approximately 95 %.

⁵ Supporting data have been filed at ASTM International Headquarters and may be obtained by requesting Research Reports RR:D05-1034, RR:D05-1046, and RR:D05-1048. Contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org.

NOTE 6—Information concerning precision statistics for carbon, hydrogen, and nitrogen in coal appears in [Annex A4 Table A4.1](#), [Table A4.2](#), and [Table A4.3](#), and the composition of the coals employed in the interlaboratory study (RR:D05–1034) appears in [Annex A5](#). Information collected during the determination of carbon in coal and coke at 1350 °C interlaboratory study (RR:D05–1046) appears in [Annex Table A4.4](#), [Annex A6](#) and [Table A4.5](#). Information collected during the determination of carbon in coke at 950 °C to 1150 °C interlaboratory study (RR: D05–1048) appears in [Table A4.6](#).

12.2 *Bias*—Two materials, EDTA and phenylalanine, distributed from a common source were included in the carbon, hydrogen, and nitrogen interlaboratory study (Method A) as reference pure substances. Each participating laboratory calibrated their instrument using one or more of the pure substances (7.5) obtained from a different source. The reference pure substances were analyzed in two phases of the study conducted one year apart. A comparison of the certificate of analysis values and those obtained in the interlaboratory study for the reference pure substances are shown in [Table 4](#).

12.2.1 During the interlaboratory study for the determination of carbon in coke (Method B), the ruggedness testing showed the analyses at 1350 °C are biased high when compared to analyses at either 1150 °C or 950 °C. The average values of these biases are shown in [Table 5](#) and both biases are significant at the 95 % confidence level. The ruggedness testing was done with a carbon analyzer using ceramic boats in an open combustion tube. No accelerants or combustion aids, such as those used in some analyzers, were used. The carbon values from this study are shown in [Annex A6](#).

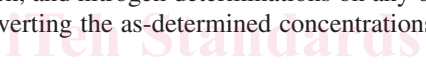
NOTE 7—Guidelines for reporting test sample results that do not meet the repeatability requirements of this standard when all calibration verification and reference material check sample acceptance requirements are met are provided in [Appendix X3](#).

13. Calculation to Other Bases

13.1 Report results from the carbon, hydrogen, and nitrogen determinations on any of the several common bases that differ solely with respect to moisture. Procedures for converting the as-determined concentrations to the other bases are specified in Practices [D3176](#) and [D3180](#).

14. Keywords

14.1 analysis sample; carbon; carbon dioxide; coal; coke; hydrogen; moisture; nitrogen


<https://standards.iteh.ai>
 Document Preview

[ASTM D5373-21](#)

<https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/2d127c88-8e91-4119-96d9-868c6e8a1f2d/astm-d5373-21>

TABLE 4 Comparison of Reference EDTA and Reference Phenylalanine Certificate of Analysis Values with Interlaboratory Values for Carbon, Hydrogen, and Nitrogen

Reference Pure Substance	Phase	Parameter	Number of Results	Certificate of Analysis Value	Interlaboratory Study Value	Bias	Significant (95 % Confidence)
EDTA	1B	Carbon	34	41.09	41.10	0.01	no
EDTA	1C	Carbon	24	41.09	40.99	-0.10	no
Phenylalanine	1B	Carbon	32	65.43	65.49	0.06	no
Phenylalanine	1C	Carbon	22	65.43	65.37	-0.06	no
EDTA	1B	Hydrogen	33	5.52	5.52	0.00	no
EDTA	1C	Hydrogen	24	5.52	5.54	0.02	no
Phenylalanine	1B	Hydrogen	32	6.71	6.72	0.01	no
Phenylalanine	1C	Hydrogen	24	6.71	6.71	0.00	no
EDTA	1B	Nitrogen	32	9.59	9.55	-0.04	yes
EDTA	1C	Nitrogen	21	9.59	9.54	-0.05	no
Phenylalanine	1B	Nitrogen	32	8.48	8.46	-0.02	no
Phenylalanine	1C	Nitrogen	21	8.48	8.45	-0.03	no

TABLE 5 Relative Biases for Carbon in Coke Determined for 10 Coke Samples at Different Combustion Temperatures

Parameter	Test Condition 1 Combustion Temperature	Test Condition 2 Combustion Temperature	Average Bias % (Absolute)	Significant (95 % Confidence)
Carbon in Coke	1350 °C	1150 °C	0.44	yes
Carbon in Coke	1350 °C	950 °C	0.96	yes

NOTE 1—Test Condition 2 is biased lower.

ANNEXES

(Mandatory Information)

A1. NUMBER OF CALIBRATION POINTS FOR METHODS A AND B

A1.1 To meet the precision requirements of this method, six calibration points are required for a linear fit and eight calibration points are required for a non-linear fit. These requirements are summarized for various fits in [Table A1.1](#). A calibration point consists of a determination on a single test portion of calibration material.

NOTE A1.1—The interlaboratory study employed to validate the precision of this test method required laboratories to employ six calibration points for a linear fit and eight for a non-linear fit. Additional calibration points can be used.

A1.2 Guidance on the selection of masses of pure substance for calibration is given in [Appendix X1](#).

A1.3 Verify the calibration according to [Annex A2](#). [ASTM D5373-21](#)

<https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/2d127c88-8e91-4119-96d9-868c6e8a1f2d/astm-d5373-21>

A2. CALIBRATION VERIFICATION FOR CARBON, HYDROGEN, AND NITROGEN (METHOD A)

A2.1 Some instruments allow for calibration drift correction. Verify the acceptability of a drift correction immediately after conducting the drift correction.

A2.2 Verify the acceptability of the calibration by determining the carbon, hydrogen, and nitrogen in % of a calibration material (7.5) not used for calibration. [Appendix X1](#) provides guidance on selection of the mass of verification material.

**TABLE A1.1 Minimum Number of Calibration Points for
Common Regressions**

Regression	Number of Calibration Points Required
Linear	6
Quadratic	8
Power	8