



Designation: C838 – 16 (Reapproved 2023)

Standard Test Method for Bulk Density of As-Manufactured Carbon and Graphite Shapes¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation C838; 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 This test method covers the determination of the density of as-manufactured carbon and graphite from measurements of mass and dimensions at room temperature.

1.2 This test method is applicable to boronated carbon and graphite.

1.3 This test method is not applicable to carbon- and graphite-containing materials that are thermally unstable at or below temperatures of 200 °C.

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

1.5 *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, health, and environmental practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

1.6 *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

C559 Test Method for Bulk Density by Physical Measurements of Manufactured Carbon and Graphite Articles

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions:*

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of Committee D02 on Petroleum Products, Liquid Fuels, and Lubricants and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D02.F0 on Manufactured Carbon and Graphite Products.

Current edition approved Dec. 1, 2023. Published December 2023. Originally approved in 1980. Last previous edition approved in 2016 as C838 – 16. DOI: 10.1520/C0838-16R23.

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.

3.1.1 *bulk density, n*—in carbon and graphite technology, the mass of a unit volume including both permeable and impermeable voids (and boron compounds in the case of boronated carbon or boronated graphite) present in the material at room temperature.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 This test method provides a means of determining bulk density on as-manufactured logs, blocks, or shaped articles.

4.2 This test method is suitable for manufacturing control and acceptance specifications.

4.3 Test Method **C559** may be used when a higher degree of accuracy is required.

5. Test Specimens

5.1 *Logs or Blocks*—May be measured and weighed as-manufactured or after rough ends have been squared by machining. The stock shall preferably have been indoors after heat treatment; if there is doubt that the piece is dry, weigh, dry, and reweigh it. Repeat, if necessary, until there is less than 0.1 % weight loss. The drying temperature should be from 110 °C to 200 °C.

5.2 *Shaped Articles*—Other than right circular cylinders or rectangular parallelepipeds may be measured, and a correction made for the cavities or protuberances if the specimen volume can be determined within 0.5 % (see 6.2).

6. Procedure

6.1 *Logs or Blocks*—Measure as-manufactured on the diameter or cross section at two different locations, taking care to avoid distortions. Take four length measurements on cylinders 90° apart on the periphery of the circular end faces. On rectangular pieces, make four length measurements, two each along opposite faces. Make additional measurements, if needed, to determine a valid mean for each dimension. Make dimensional and mass measurements with equipment accurate to 0.5 %.

NOTE 1—Corrections of mass measurements for buoyancy effects in air are generally negligible for the accuracy obtained.

6.2 *Shaped Articles*—Make dimensional and mass measurements with equipment accurate to 0.5 %.