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Standard Guide for Development of Specifications for Fiber Reinforced Carbon-Carbon Composite Structures for Nuclear Applications[1]

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1. Scope

1.1 This document is a guide to preparing material specifications for fiber reinforced carbon-carbon (C-C) composite structures (flat plates, rectangular bars, round rods, and tubes) manufactured specifically for structural components in nuclear reactor core applications. The carbon-carbon composites consist of carbon/graphite fibers (from PAN, pitch, or rayon precursors) in a carbon/graphite matrix produced by liquid infiltration/pyrolysis and/or by chemical vapor infiltration.

1.2 This guide provides direction and guidance for the development of a material specification for a specific C-C composite component or product for nuclear reactor applications. The guide considers composite constituents and structure, physical and chemical properties, mechanical properties, thermal properties, performance durability, methods of testing, materials and fabrication processing, and quality assurance. The C-C composite materials considered here would be suitable for nuclear reactor core applications where neutron irradiation-induced damage and dimensional changes are a significant design consideration. (**1-4**)[2]

1.3 The component specification is to be developed by the designer/purchaser/user. The designer/purchaser/user shall define and specify in detail any and all application-specific requirements for necessary design, manufacturing, and performance factors of the ceramic composite component. This guide for material specifications does not directly address component/product-specific issues, such as geometric tolerances, permeability, bonding, sealing, attachment, and system integration.

1.4 This guide is specifically focused on C-C composite components and structures with flat panel, solid rectangular bar, solid round rod, or tubular geometries.

1.5 This specification may also be applicable to C-C composites used for other structural applications discounting the nuclear-specific chemical purity and irradiation behavior factors.

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

1.7 *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.*

1.8 *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:*[3]

C242 Terminology of Ceramic Whitewares and Related Products

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

C561 Test Method for Ash in a Graphite Sample

C577 Test Method for Permeability of Refractories

C611 Test Method for Electrical Resistivity of Manufactured Carbon and Graphite Articles at Room Temperature

C625 Practice for Reporting Irradiation Results on Graphite

C709 Terminology Relating to Manufactured Carbon and Graphite (Withdrawn 2017)[4]

C714 Guide for Thermal Diffusivity of Carbon and Graphite by Thermal Pulse Method

C769 Test Method for Sonic Velocity in Manufactured Carbon and Graphite Materials for Use in Obtaining an

[1] This guide is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee C28 on Advanced Ceramics and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee C28.07 on Ceramic Matrix Composites.

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[2] The boldface numbers in parentheses refer to the list of references at the end of this standard.

[3] 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.

[4] The last approved version of this historical standard is referenced on www.astm.org.

Approximate Value of Young's Modulus
C816 Test Method for Sulfur Content in Graphite by Combustion-Iodometric Titration Method
C838 Test Method for Bulk Density of As-Manufactured Carbon and Graphite Shapes
C1039 Test Methods for Apparent Porosity, Apparent Specific Gravity, and Bulk Density of Graphite Electrodes
C1179 Test Method for Oxidation Mass Loss of Manufactured Carbon and Graphite Materials in Air
C1198 Test Method for Dynamic Young's Modulus, Shear Modulus, and Poisson's Ratio for Advanced Ceramics by Sonic Resonance
C1233 Practice for Determining Equivalent Boron Contents of Nuclear Materials
C1239 Practice for Reporting Uniaxial Strength Data and Estimating Weibull Distribution Parameters for Advanced Ceramics
C1259 Test Method for Dynamic Young's Modulus, Shear Modulus, and Poisson's Ratio for Advanced Ceramics by Impulse Excitation of Vibration
C1274 Test Method for Advanced Ceramic Specific Surface Area by Physical Adsorption
C1275 Test Method for Monotonic Tensile Behavior of Continuous Fiber-Reinforced Advanced Ceramics with Solid Rectangular Cross-Section Test Specimens at Ambient Temperature
C1291 Test Method for Elevated Temperature Tensile Creep Strain, Creep Strain Rate, and Creep Time to Failure for Monolithic Advanced Ceramics
C1292 Test Method for Shear Strength of Continuous Fiber-Reinforced Advanced Ceramics at Ambient Temperatures
C1337 Test Method for Creep and Creep Rupture of Continuous Fiber-Reinforced Advanced Ceramics Under Tensile Loading at Elevated Temperatures
C1341 Test Method for Flexural Properties of Continuous Fiber-Reinforced Advanced Ceramic Composites
C1358 Test Method for Monotonic Compressive Strength Testing of Continuous Fiber-Reinforced Advanced Ceramics with Solid Rectangular Cross Section Test Specimens at Ambient Temperatures
C1359 Test Method for Monotonic Tensile Strength Testing of Continuous Fiber-Reinforced Advanced Ceramics With Solid Rectangular Cross Section Test Specimens at Elevated Temperatures
C1360 Practice for Constant-Amplitude, Axial, Tension-Tension Cyclic Fatigue of Continuous Fiber-Reinforced Advanced Ceramics at Ambient Temperatures
C1425 Test Method for Interlaminar Shear Strength of 1D and 2D Continuous Fiber-Reinforced Advanced Ceramics at Elevated Temperatures
C1468 Test Method for Transthickness Tensile Strength of Continuous Fiber-Reinforced Advanced Ceramics at Ambient Temperature
C1470 Guide for Testing the Thermal Properties of Advanced Ceramics
C1525 Test Method for Determination of Thermal Shock Resistance for Advanced Ceramics by Water Quenching
C1557 Test Method for Tensile Strength and Young's Modulus of Fibers
C1683 Practice for Size Scaling of Tensile Strengths Using Weibull Statistics for Advanced Ceramics
D2766 Test Method for Specific Heat of Liquids and Solids (Withdrawn 2018)[4]
D3171 Test Methods for Constituent Content of Composite Materials
D3529/D3529M Test Methods for Constituent Content of Composite Prepreg
D3800 Test Method for Density of High-Modulus Fibers
D3878 Terminology for Composite Materials
D4018 Test Methods for Properties of Continuous Filament Carbon and Graphite Fiber Tows
D4284 Test Method for Determining Pore Volume Distribution of Catalysts and Catalyst Carriers by Mercury Intrusion Porosimetry
D4850 Terminology Relating to Fabrics and Fabric Test Methods
D5528 Test Method for Mode I Interlaminar Fracture Toughness of Unidirectional Fiber-Reinforced Polymer Matrix Composites
D5600 Test Method for Trace Metals in Petroleum Coke by Inductively Coupled Plasma Atomic Emission Spectrometry (ICP-AES)
D5766 Test Method for Open-Hole Tensile Strength of Polymer Matrix Composite Laminates
D5961 Test Method for Bearing Response of Polymer Matrix Composite Laminates
D6484 Test Method for Open-Hole Compressive Strength of Polymer Matrix Composite Laminates
D6507 Practice for Fiber Reinforcement Orientation Codes for Composite Materials
D6671 Test Method for Mixed Mode I-Mode II Interlaminar Fracture Toughness of Unidirectional Fiber Reinforced Polymer Matrix Composites
D7136 Test Method for Measuring the Damage Resistance of a Fiber-Reinforced Polymer Matrix Composite to a Drop-Weight Impact Event
D7137 Test Method for Compressive Residual Strength Properties of Damaged Polymer Matrix Composite Plates
D7219 Specification for Isotropic and Near-isotropic Nuclear Graphites
D7542 Test Method for Air Oxidation of Carbon and Graphite in the Kinetic Regime
E6 Terminology Relating to Methods of Mechanical Testing
E111 Test Method for Young's Modulus, Tangent Modulus, and Chord Modulus
E132 Test Method for Poisson's Ratio at Room Temperature
E143 Test Method for Shear Modulus at Room Temperature
E228 Test Method for Linear Thermal Expansion of Solid Materials With a Push-Rod Dilatometer
E261 Practice for Determining Neutron Fluence, Fluence Rate, and Spectra by Radioactivation Techniques
E289 Test Method for Linear Thermal Expansion of Rigid Solids with Interferometry
E408 Test Methods for Total Normal Emittance of Surfaces Using Inspection-Meter Techniques

E423 Test Method for Normal Spectral Emittance at Elevated Temperatures of Nonconducting Specimens
E1269 Test Method for Determining Specific Heat Capacity by Differential Scanning Calorimetry
E1309 Guide for Identification of Fiber-Reinforced Polymer-Matrix Composite Materials in Databases (Withdrawn 2015)[4]
E1461 Test Method for Thermal Diffusivity by the Flash Method
E1922 Test Method for Translaminar Fracture Toughness of Laminated and Pultruded Polymer Matrix Composite Materials
E2586 Practice for Calculating and Using Basic Statistics

2.2 *Non-ASTM Standards:*
CMH-17 Composite Materials Handbook
ASME B46.1-2009 Surface Texture (Surface Roughness, Waviness, and Lay)[5]

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions:*

3.1.1 *General*—Many of the terms in this guide are defined in the terminology standards for graphite articles (C709), composite materials (D3878), fabrics and test methods (D4850), and mechanical testing (E6).

3.1.2 *apparent porosity, n*—the volume fraction of all pores, voids, and channels within a solid mass that are interconnected with each other and communicate with the external surface, and thus are measurable by gas or liquid penetration. (Synonym – open porosity) **C242**

3.1.3 *braided fabric, n*—a woven structure produced by interlacing three or more ends of yarns in a manner such that the paths of the yarns are diagonal to the vertical axis of the fabric. **D4850**

3.1.3.1 *Discussion*—Braided structures can have 2D or 3D architectures.

3.1.4 *bulk density, n*—the mass of a unit volume of material including both permeable and impermeable voids. **D7219**

3.1.5 *fabric, n—in textiles*, a planar structure consisting of yarns or fibers. **D4850**

3.1.6 *fiber, n*—a fibrous form of matter with an aspect ratio >10 and an effective diameter <1 mm. (Synonym – filament) A fiber/filament forms the basic element of fabrics and other textile structures. **D3878**

3.1.7 *fiber areal weight, n*—the mass per unit area of the fibrous reinforcement of a composite material. **D3529/D3529M**

3.1.8 *fiber content/fraction (volume or weight), n*—the amount of fiber present in a composite, expressed as either a percent by weight or a percent by volume. **D3878**

3.1.9 *fiber preform, n*—a preshaped fibrous reinforcement, normally without matrix, but often containing a binder to facilitate manufacture, formed by distribution/weaving of fibers to the approximate contour and thickness of the finished part. **D3878**

3.1.10 *fiber surface treatment, n*—a coating applied to fibers to improve fiber/fabric handleability during weaving and fabrication.

3.1.11 *fill, n—in a woven fabric*, the yarn running from selvage to selvage at right angles to the warp. **D3878**

3.1.12 *graphite, n*—allotropic crystalline form of the element carbon, occurring as a mineral, commonly consisting of a hexagonal array of carbon atoms (space group P 63/mmc) but also known in a rhombohedral form (space group R 3m). **C709**

3.1.13 *graphitization, n—in carbon and graphite technology*, the solid-state transformation of thermodynamically unstable amorphous carbon into crystalline graphite by a high temperature thermal treatment in an inert atmosphere. **C709**

3.1.13.1 *Discussion*—The degree of graphitization is a measure of the extent of long-range 3D crystallographic order as determined by diffraction studies only. The degree of graphitization affects many properties significantly, such as thermal conductivity, electrical conductivity, strength, and stiffness.

3.1.13.2 *Discussion*—A common, but incorrect, use of the term graphitization is to indicate a process of thermal treatment of carbon materials at T > 2200 °C regardless of any resultant crystallinity. The use of the term graphitization without reporting confirmation of long range three dimensional crystallographic order determined by diffraction studies should be avoided, as it can be misleading.

3.1.14 *hybrid, n*—(for composite materials) containing at least two distinct types of matrix or reinforcement. Each matrix or reinforcement type can be distinct because of its (a) physical or mechanical properties, or both, (b) material form, or (c) chemical composition. **D3878**

3.1.15 *injection molding, n—in composite fabrication*, the process of forcing liquid polymer under pressure into a closed mold that contains a fiber preform.

3.1.16 *knitted fabric, n*—a fiber structure produced by interlooping one or more ends of yarn or comparable material. **D4850**

3.1.17 *laminate, n*—any fiber- or fabric-reinforced composite consisting of laminae (plies) with one or more orientations with respect to some reference direction. **D3878**

3.1.18 *lay-up, n*—a process or fabrication involving the placement of successive layers of materials in specified sequence and orientation. **E1309, D6507**

3.1.19 *matrix, n*—the continuous constituent of a composite material, which surrounds or engulfs the embedded reinforcement in the composite and acts as the load transfer mechanism between the discrete reinforcement elements.

3.1.20 *matrix content, n*—the amount of matrix present in a composite expressed either as a percent by weight or a percent by volume. **D3878**

3.1.21 *ply, n—in 2D laminar composites*, the constituent single layer as used in fabricating, or occurring within, a composite structure. **D3878**

[5] Available from American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), ASME International Headquarters, Two Park Ave., New York, NY 10016-5990, http://www.asme.org.

3.1.22 *prepreg, n*—the admixture of fibrous reinforcement and polymeric matrix used to fabricate composite materials. Its form may be sheet, tape, or tow. For thermosetting polymer, the polymer has been partially cured to a controlled viscosity called "B stage." **D3878**

3.1.23 *selvage, n*—the woven edge portion of a fabric parallel to the warp. **D3878**

3.1.24 *tow, n—in fibrous composites*, a continuous, ordered assembly of essentially parallel, collimated continuous filaments, normally without twist. (Synonym – roving) **D3878**

3.1.25 *unidirectional composite, n*—any fiber reinforced composite with all fibers aligned in a single direction. **D3878**

3.1.26 *warp, n*—the yarn running lengthwise in a woven fabric. **D3878**

3.1.27 *woven fabric, n*—a fabric structure produced by the interlacing, in a specific weave pattern, of tows or yarns oriented in two or more directions.

3.1.27.1 *Discussion*—There are a large variety of 2D weave styles, e.g., plain, satin, twill, basket, crowfoot, etc.

3.1.28 *yarn, n*—in fibrous composites, a continuous, ordered assembly of essentially parallel, collimated filaments, normally with twist, and of either discontinuous or continuous filaments. Single yarn – an end in which each filament follows the same twist. **D3878**

3.2 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

3.2.1 *1D, 2D, and 3D reinforcement, n*—a description of the orientation and distribution of the reinforcing fibers and yarns in a composite.

3.2.1.1 *Discussion*—In a 1D structure, all of the fibers are oriented in a single longitudinal (x) direction. In a 2D structure, all of the fibers lie in the x-y planes of the plate or bar or in the circumferential shells (axial and circumferential directions) of the rod or tube with no fibers aligned in the z or radial directions. In a 3D structure, the structure has fiber reinforcement in the x-y planes and in the z-direction in the plate or bar and in the axial, circumferential, and radial directions in a tube or rod.

3.2.2 *axial tensile strength, n*—for a composite tube or solid round rod, the tensile strength along the long axis of the rod or tube. For a composite flat plate or rectangular bar, the tensile strength along the primary structural axis/direction.

3.2.3 *carbon-carbon composite, n*—a ceramic matrix composite in which the reinforcing phase consists of continuous carbon/graphite filaments in the form of fiber, continuous yarn, or a woven or braided fabric contained within a continuous matrix of carbon/graphite. **(5-8)**

3.2.4 *carbon fibers, n*—Inorganic fibers with a primary (>90 %) elemental carbon composition. These fibers are produced by the high temperature pyrolysis of organic precursor fibers (commonly, polyacrylonitrile (PAN), pitch, and rayon) in an inert atmosphere. (Synonym – graphite fibers) **(8, 9)**

3.2.4.1 *Discussion*—The term carbon is often used interchangeably with "graphite"; however, carbon fibers and graphite fibers differ in the temperature at which the fibers are made and heat-treated, and the amount of elemental carbon produced. Carbon fibers typically are carbonized at about 2400 °F (1300 °C) and assay at 93 % to 95 % carbon, while graphite fibers are graphitized at 3450 °F to 5450 °F (1900 °C to 3000 °C) and assay at more than 99 % elemental carbon. **CMH-17**

3.2.5 *chemical vapor deposition or infiltration, n*—a chemical process in which a solid material is deposited on a substrate or in a porous preform through the decomposition or the reaction of gaseous precursors.

3.2.5.1 *Discussion*—Chemical vapor deposition is commonly done at elevated temperatures in a controlled atmosphere.

3.2.6 *durability, n*—the measure of the ability of a material or structure to endure and maintain its essential and distinctive chemical, physical, mechanical and other functional characteristics in a specific environment of use (temperature, atmosphere, stress, radiation, etc) for a designated period of time.

3.2.7 *fiber interface coating, n—in carbon-carbon composites*, a coating applied to fibers to control the bonding between the fiber and the matrix.

3.2.7.1 *Discussion*—The bonding between the carbon fibers and the matrix is generally weak, because the covalent atomic bonding between carbon atoms prevents sintering and bonding, even at high temperatures. A weak bond between the fiber and the matrix in the carbon-carbon composite permits the fibers to bridge matrix cracks and promote mechanical toughness; a strong bond between the matrix and the fiber produces low strain, brittle failure. In some cases a controlled fiber-matrix interfacial bond is needed; fiber interface coatings with controlled composition, phase content, morphology, and thickness are used to control that interface strength. **(5)**

3.2.8 *infiltration and pyrolysis densification, n—in carbon matrix composites*, a matrix production and densification process in which a liquid organic precursor (thermosetting resin or pitch) is infiltrated/impregnated into the porous perform or the partially porous composite. The organic precursor is then pyrolyzed in an inert atmosphere to convert the organic to a carbon form with the desired purity and crystal structure. The infiltration/pyrolysis process may be iteratively repeated to fill the porosity and build up the density in the composite.

3.2.9 *primary structural axis, n—in a composite flat plate or rectangular bar*, the directional axis defined by the loading axis/direction with the highest required tensile strength. This is commonly the axis with the highest fiber loading. This primary structural axis may not be parallel with the longest dimensional axis of the plate/bar/structure.

3.2.10 *pyrolysis, n—in carbon matrix composites*, the controlled thermal process in which the hydrocarbon precursor is decomposed to elemental carbon in an inert atmosphere. (Synonym – carbonization)

3.2.10.1 *Discussion*—Pyrolysis commonly results in weight loss and the release of hydrogen and hydrocarbon vapors.

3.2.11 *rectangular bar, n*—a solid straight rod with a rectangular cross-section, geometrically defined by a width, a thickness, and long axis length.

3.2.12 *round rod, n*—a solid, straight elongated cylinder, geometrically defined by a outer diameter and an axial length.

3.2.13 *round tube, n*—a hollow elongated cylinder, geometrically defined by a outer diameter, an inner diameter, and an axial length.

3.2.14 *surface seal coatings, n*—an inorganic protective coating applied to the outer surface of a carbon-carbon composite component to protect against high temperature oxidation or corrosion attack or to improve wear and abrasion resistance. Such coatings are commonly hard, impermeable ceramic/glass coatings.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 Composite materials consist by definition of a reinforcement phase in a matrix phase. In addition, carbon-carbon composites often contain measurable porosity which interacts with the reinforcement and matrix. The composition and structure of the C-C composite are commonly tailored for a specific application with detailed performance requirements. The tailoring involves the selection of the reinforcement fibers (composition, properties, morphology, etc), the matrix (composition, properties, and morphology), the composite structure (component fractions, reinforcement architecture, porosity structure, microstructure, etc.), and the fabrication conditions (forming, assembly, forming, densification, finishing, etc.). The final engineering properties (physical, mechanical, thermal, electrical, etc.) can be tailored across a broad range with major directional anisotropy in the properties.

4.2 Specifications for specific C-C composite components covering materials, material processing, and fabrication procedures are developed to provide a basis for fabricating reproducible and reliable structures. Designer/users/producers have to write C-C composite specifications for specific applications with well-defined composition, structure, properties and processing requirements. But with the extensive breadth of selection in composition, structure, and properties in C-C composites, it is virtually impossible to write a "generic" composite specification applicable to any and all C-C composite applications that has the same type of structure and details of the commonly-used specifications for metal alloys. This guide is written to assist the designer/user/producer in developing a comprehensive and detailed material specification for a specific CMC application/component with a particular focus on nuclear applications.

4.3 The purpose of this guide is to provide guidance on how to specify the constituents, the structure, the desired engineering properties (physical, chemical, mechanical, durability, etc), methods of testing, manufacturing process requirements, the quality assurance requirements, and traceability for C-C composites for nuclear reactor applications. The resulting specification may be used for the design, production, evaluation, and qualification of C-C composites for structures in nuclear reactors.

4.4 The guide is applicable to C-C composites with flat plate, rectangular bar, round rod, and round tube geometries.

4.5 This guide may also be applicable to the development of specifications for C-C composites used for other structural applications, discounting the nuclear-specific chemical purity and irradiation behavior requirements.

5. Carbon-Carbon Composites for Nuclear Applications

5.1 Carbon-carbon composites are candidate structural materials for use in nuclear reactors, because of their high temperature stability and radiation tolerance compared to metals and for their damage tolerance, higher strength, and tailored anisotropic mechanical properties, compared to monolithic graphite. (**1-4**)

5.2 Carbon-carbon composites are composed of carbon/graphite fiber reinforcement in a carbon/graphite matrix. The combination of fibers and carbon matrix, the fiber architecture (the shape and morphology of the fiber preform, multidimensional fiber distribution, and volume content of the fiber reinforcement), the matrix phase composition, microstructure and the composite density and porosity are engineered to give the desired performance properties for the composite. The fibers may have a surface treatment to improve fiber/fabric handleability or to control the bonding between the fiber and the matrix. (**5-16**)

5.3 The mechanical, thermal, and physical properties of carbon-carbon (C-C) composites are determined by the complex interaction of the constituents (fiber, matrix, porosity) in terms of the constituent chemistry, phase composition, microstructure, properties, and fractional content; the fiber architecture; the fiber-matrix bonding, and the effect of fabrication on the constituent properties, morphology and their physical interactions. Each of these factors can be tailored to produce a structure/component with the desired mechanical, physical, and thermal properties. The C-C composite properties can be tailored for directional properties by the anisotropic architecture of the carbon fiber reinforcement. (**15-19**)

5.4 Carbon/graphite fibers are commonly small diameter (5 μm to 20 μm) continuous filaments produced from polyacrylonitrile, pitch, or rayon precursors. The mechanical and thermal properties of the carbon fibers are strongly dependent on the carbon content, the crystal structure, and the crystallite size and orientation in the fibers. These factors are determined by the precursor chemistry and the processing (spinning, carbonization, and graphitization) conditions. Typically, carbon fibers are classified as either high strength (tensile strength ~3 GPa to 5 GPa, elastic modulus ~200 GPa to 400 GPa) or high modulus (elastic modulus >500 GPa, tensile strength <3 GPa). Often the carbon fibers have marked differences in mechanical and thermal properties in the axial direction, compared to the radial direction, because of crystal structure anisotropy. (**8**, **9**)

5.5 The carbon fibers are commonly consolidated into high count multifilament tows which can be wrapped or layed-up into 1D structures, woven/layed-up/braided/knitted into 2D structures, or woven/braided/knitted/stitched into 3D structures. Each of these fiber structures are fabricated with defined fiber architectures, offering a wide range of bulk fiber content. Different fiber architectures may have marked reinforcement anisotropy, depending on the relative fiber content in each orthogonal direction.

NOTE 1—Most commercially available carbon-carbon composites have a two dimensional woven fabric architecture, consisting of stacked plies. The C-C composite is densified to produce a final structure with orthotropic or quasi-isotropic mechanical and thermal properties.

5.6 The carbon matrix in C-C composites is commonly produced by two methods—an iterative liquid infiltration/pyrolysis process or a chemical vapor infiltration process. The two matrix formation processes use different precursors and different processing conditions, which produce differences in the chemistry, crystallinity, morphology, and microstructure (density, pores, and cracks) in the carbon matrix. These two matrix densification processes may be combined for a hybrid carbon matrix. **(5-7)**

5.7 The interaction of these three variable factor sets: [*(1)* carbon fiber type, properties, coatings; *(2)* fiber content, tow structure, and architecture; *(3)* matrix phase composition and properties, crystallinity, density, morphology, and porosity] can produce C-C composites with a wide range of mechanical and physical properties, along with tailored anisotropic properties in the major directions.

6. Product Specifications—Properties, Materials and Processing

6.1 The fibers, matrix, fiber architecture, fiber surface treatments, any fiber interface coatings and/or component surface seal coatings, and the method of manufacture, when combined as a composite structure, must produce a composite that consistently and reliably meets the performance requirements (chemical, physical, mechanical, and durability) specified by the designer/purchaser/user, applicable codes and standards, and the controlling regulatory agency.

6.2 The engineering properties and characteristics of a composite structure are manufactured into the structure as part of the fabrication process. Specifications shall be written to define requirements for end-product properties (chemical and phase composition, physical properties, mechanical properties, durability), and manufacturing specifications for materials and fabrication. The manufacturing specifications shall include sufficient information to ensure that critical factors and parameters in the starting materials and the manufacturing process are identified and controlled to produce the final structure/component to the defined specification.

6.3 The designer/purchaser/user shall define the specifications for the constituents (chemistry, properties), architecture, final properties, and quality assurance for the carbon-carbon composite.

6.4 The designer/purchaser/user and the manufacturer together shall define the specifications for the materials/processing manufacture and non-destructive testing (NDT) of the carbon-carbon composite.

7. Product Specification—Composite Constituents, Chemical Composition, and Purity for Nuclear Applications

7.1 A carbon-carbon composite shall consist of carbon/graphite reinforcement fibers in a carbon/graphite matrix. The fibers may have a fiber interface coating to control the bonding between the fiber and the matrix.

7.2 The composite may have a surface coating to protect the composite from oxidation or environmental degradation and to seal the composite against gas and liquid penetration/escape.

7.3 The designer/purchaser/user shall specify the required composite constituents and structures in terms of carbon/graphite fibers, interface coatings, matrix, and surface seal coatings. The specification should list sources, chemical and phase compositions, component fractions and morphology, reinforcement architecture, and coating requirements. Section 11 describes the manufacturing process specification requirements in detail for fibers, matrix, architecture, interface coatings, and seal coatings.

7.4 For nuclear applications impurity levels in carbon-carbon composites (and any surface seal coatings) have to be carefully controlled to minimize neutron absorption, oxidation-promoting catalysis, nuclear activation impurities, corrosion-promotion impurities, and fissionable elements. Each carbon-carbon composite production lot sampled in accordance with Section 14 shall conform to the requirements for chemical purity (high purity and low purity) specified in Table 1 and to the requirements of the designer/purchaser/user.

7.5 The boron equivalent shall be calculated in accordance with Practice C1233. The concentrations of at least the following elements shall be determined and used in the calculation: Boron, Cadmium, Chlorine, Cobalt, Dysprosium, Europium, Gadolinium, Lithium, Manganese, Nickel, Samarium, Silver, Titanium, Tungsten, and Vanadium. Specified boron equivalent limits are given the "Boron Equivalent" line in Table 1.

7.6 Table X1.1 (from Specification D7219) contains a list of chemical impurities typically found in nuclear grade graphite and carbon. The impurities are categorized as neutron absorbing impurities, oxidation- promoting catalysts, activation relevant impurities, metallic corrosion relevant impurities, and fissile/fissionable elements. The suggested limits represent the reactor designer's preferences for chemical purity.

TABLE 1 Chemical Purity Requirements for Carbon-Carbon Composites in Nuclear Applications (derived from Specification D7219)

Test	ASTM Test	High Purity (ppm)	Low Purity (ppm)
Ash Content	C561	300 maximum	1000 maximum
Chemical Impurity - Ca	D5600	<30	<100
Chemical Impurity - Co	D5600	<0.1	<0.3
Chemical Impurity - Fe	D5600	<30	<100
Chemical Impurity - Cs	D5600	<0.1	<0.3
Chemical Impurity - V	D5600	<50	<250
Chemical Impurity - Ti	D5600	<50	<150
Chemical Impurity - Li	D5600	<0.2	<0.6
Chemical Impurity - Sc	D5600	<0.1	<0.3
Chemical Impurity - Ta	D5600	<0.1	<0.3
Boron Equivalent	C1233	2 maximum	10 maximum
Chemical Impurities - N	TBD	To be determined	To be determined
Chemical Impurities – S	C816	To be determined	To be determined