



# Standard Test Method for Arrhenius Kinetic Constants for Thermally Unstable Materials<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation E 698; 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 ( $\epsilon$ ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

## INTRODUCTION

The kinetics of exothermic reactions are important in assessing the potential of materials and systems for thermal explosion. This method provides a means for determining Arrhenius activation energies and pre-exponential factors using differential thermal methods. This method is one of several methods being developed by ASTM Committee E-27 for chemical reactions. This method is to be used in conjunction with other tests to characterize the hazard potential of chemicals.

### 1. Scope

1.1 This method covers the determination of the overall kinetic parameters for exothermic reactions.

1.2 The kinetic parameters are obtained from differential scanning calorimetry (DSC) curves (see Section 3).

1.3 This technique is applicable to reactions whose behavior can be described by the Arrhenius equation and the general rate law.

1.4 *Limitations*—There are cases where this technique is not applicable. Limitations may be indicated by curves departing from a straight line (see 10.2) or the isothermal aging test not closely agreeing with the results predicted by the calculated kinetic values. In particular, this method is not applicable to reactions that are partially inhibited. The technique may not work with reactions that include simultaneous or consecutive reaction steps. This method may not apply to materials that undergo phase transitions if the reaction rate is significant at the transition temperature.

1.5 *This standard may involve hazardous materials, operations, and equipment. This standard does not purport to address all of the safety problems associated with its use. It is the responsibility of whoever uses this standard to consult and establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

### 2. Referenced Documents

#### 2.1 ASTM Standards:

E 473 Terminology Relating to Thermal Analysis<sup>2</sup>

E 967 Practice for Temperature Calibration of Differential

Scanning Calorimeters and Differential Thermal Analyzers<sup>2</sup>

E 968 Practice for Heat Flow Calibration of Differential Scanning Calorimeters<sup>2</sup>

E 1142 Terminology Relating to Thermophysical Properties<sup>2</sup>

E 1445 Terminology Relating to Hazardous Potential of Chemicals<sup>2</sup>

E 1860 Method for Elapsed Time Calibration of Thermal Analyzers<sup>2</sup>

### 3. Terminology

3.1 Technical terms used in this test method are defined in Terminologies E 473, E 1142, and E 1445.

### 4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 A sample is placed in a suitable container and positioned in a differential scanning calorimeter (DSC).

4.2 The sample equipment temperature is increased at a linear rate and any exothermic reaction peaks recorded.

4.3 Steps 2.1 and 2.2 are repeated for several heating rates in the range from 1 to 10 K/min.

4.4 Temperatures at which the reaction peak maxima occur are plotted as a function of their respective heating rates.

4.5 Kinetic values calculated from the peak temperature-heating rate relationship are used to predict a reaction half-life at a selected temperature.

4.6 A sample is aged at the selected temperature for the predicted half-life time.

4.7 The aged sample is temperature programmed in a differential scanning calorimeter and its reaction peak area compared with that for an unaged sample run under the same conditions.

4.8 If the normalized area for the aged sample is approximately half that for the unaged sample, the kinetic values are

<sup>1</sup> This method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee E-27 on Hazard Potential of Chemicals and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee E27.02 on Hazard Potential of Chemicals.

Current edition approved May 10, 1999. Published August 2000. Originally published as E 698–79. Last previous edition E698–93.

<sup>2</sup> Discontinued, See 1984 Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 14.02.

confirmed for the temperature selected.

**5. Significance and Use**

5.1 The Arrhenius parameters combined with the general rate law and the reaction enthalpy can be used for the determination of thermal explosion hazards (1).<sup>3</sup>

**6. Apparatus**

6.1 *General*—The equipment used in this method should be capable of displaying quantitative changes of enthalpy as a function of time (*t*) or temperature (*T*), should be linearly programmable and have the capabilities of subjecting the sample cell to different atmospheres. The heat sensing element should be external to the sample.

6.2 *Differential Scanning Calorimeter (DSC)*:

6.2.1 A DSC test chamber composed of:

6.2.1.1 A *furnace*, to provide uniform controlled heating (cooling) of a specimen and reference to a constant temperature or at a constant rate within the applicable temperature range of this test method.

6.2.1.2 A *temperature sensor*, to provide an indication of the specimen/furnace temperature to  $\pm 0.1\text{K}$ .

6.2.1.3 A *differential sensor*, to detect a difference in heat flow between the specimen and reference equivalent to  $10\ \mu\text{W}$ .

6.2.1.4 A means of sustaining a *test chamber environment*, of an inert purge gas at a rate of  $10\text{--}50 \pm \text{mL}/\text{min}$ .

NOTE 1—Typically, 99 +% pure nitrogen, argon, or helium are employed when oxidation in air is a concern. Unless effects of moisture are to be studied, use of dry purge gas is recommended; especially for operation at subambient temperature.

6.2.2 A *temperature controller*, capable of executing a specific temperature program by operating the furnace(s) between selected temperature limits at a rate of temperature change between 0.5 and 10 K/min constant to  $\pm 0.1\text{K}/\text{min}$  or at an isothermal temperature constant to  $\pm 0.1\ \text{K}$ .

6.2.3 A *recording device*, either digital or analog, capable of recording and displaying any fraction of the heat flow signal including the signal noise.

6.3 *Containers (pans, crucibles, vials, etc)*, which are inert to the specimen and reference materials and which are suitable structural shape and integrity to contain the specimen and reference in accordance with the specific requirements of this method.

<sup>3</sup> The boldface numbers in parentheses refer to the list of references at the end of this method.

6.4 A *balance*, with a capacity of at least 100 mg, to weigh specimens and/or containers (pans, crucibles, vials, etc) to 10  $\mu\text{g}$ .

6.5 Auxiliary equipment useful for conducting this method below ambient temperature.

6.5.1 A *coolant system*, which can be directly coupled with the controller to the furnace to hasten its recovery from elevated temperatures, to provide constant cooling rates, and/or to sustain an isothermal subambient temperature.

**7. Safety Precautions**

7.1 The use of this test method on materials whose potential hazards are unknown requires that precaution be taken during sample preparation and testing.

7.2 Where particle size reduction by grinding is necessary, the user of this method should presume that the material is dangerous.

7.3 Toxic or corrosive effluents, or both, may be released when heating the material and could be harmful to the personnel or the apparatus. Use of an exhausted system to remove such effluents is recommended.

**8. Sampling**

8.1 Sample size is kept small to minimize temperature gradients within the sample. In general, a sample weight resulting in a maximum heat generation of less than 8 mJ/s is satisfactory.

8.2 Samples should be representative of the material being studied and should be prepared to achieve good thermal contact between sample and container (see Fig. 1).

8.3 The sample container should be nonreactive with the sample or reaction products.

8.4 The reference for the sample is normally an empty container or one filled with inert material.

8.5 Samples which have appreciable volatility over the temperature range of interest may require sealing in hermetic containers or a high-pressure cell, or both, to prevent vaporization interference and weight loss of unreacted material.

8.6 The sample atmosphere should closely represent the conditions of usage.

**9. Calibration**

9.1 Perform any calibration procedures recommended by the manufacturer as described in the Operator's manual.

9.2 Calibrate the heat flow and elapsed time signals using Practice E 1860 and Method E 1860, respectively, using the same type of specimen container to be used in the subsequent kinetic tests.

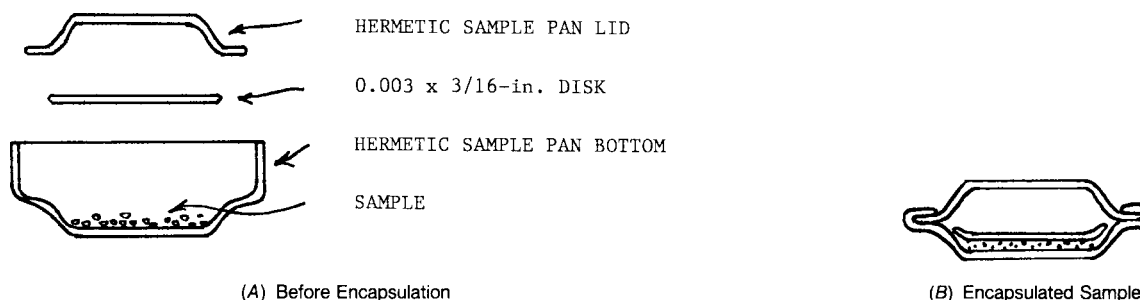


FIG. 1 Arrangement for Good Sample Contact with Container

Perform any calibration procedures recommended by the manufacturer as described in the Operator's manual.

9.3 Calibrate the temperature signal at 10 K/min using Practice E 967, using the same type of specimen container to be used in the subsequent kinetic tests.

9.4 Determine the temperature calibration corrections for other heating rates by programming a sharply melting standard (for example, pure indium metal) at these heating rates and observing the deviation of the known melt temperature as a function of the rate.

NOTE 2—This table of temperature calibration correction values, once determined for a particular apparatus and specimen container, may be used for subsequent experiments following temperature calibration at 10 K/min heating rate in 9.3

9.5 The thermal resistance of the instrument sample cell is determined by measuring the temperature lag observed for the melting of a pure metal standard. See Fig. X1.2 in Appendix X1.

## 10. Procedure

10.1 Run an initial sample of 5 mg or less to determine proper sample sizes and starting temperatures.

10.2 Place the sample and reference materials in the instrument heating unit. Use a sample size as recommended in 8.1.

10.3 Program the temperature at a rate between 1 and 10 K/min from a point starting at least 50 K below the first observed exothermic peak deflection.

10.4 Record the sample – reference differential signal as a function of temperature. Continue heating until the peak maximum of interest is recorded.

10.5 Repeat 10.2-10.4 for various heating rates between about 1 and 10 K/min.

NOTE 3—A minimum of four determinations at heating rates between 1 and 10 K/min are recommended.

NOTE 4—Reaction curve baselines should be level to minimize slope error in peak maxima measurements.

## 11. Calculation

11.1 Temperatures of reaction peak maxima are corrected for temperature scale nonlinearity, heating rate changes, and thermal lag as in the example in Appendix X1.

11.2 Plot  $\log \beta$  (heating rate, K/min) versus  $1/T$ , where  $T$  is the corrected peak maximum in kelvin.

11.3 Calculate an approximate value for  $E$  (activation energy) as follows (2):

$$E \cong -2.19R[d \log_{10} \beta / d (1/T)] \quad (1)$$

11.4 Refine value of  $E$  by:

11.4.1 Calculate  $E/RT$  approximately.

11.4.2 Find corresponding value of  $D$  from Table X2.1.

11.4.3 Calculate new value for  $E$  as follows:

$$E = (-2.303R/D)[d \log_{10} \beta / d (1/T)] \quad (2)$$

Refining the value of  $E$  a second time usually results in a close approach to its final value. An alternative calculation method is shown in Appendix X3.

11.5 The Arrhenius pre-exponential factor can be calculated as follows:

$$Z = \beta E e^{E/RT} / RT^2 \quad (3)$$

where:  $\beta$  is a heating rate from the middle of the range.

11.6 For the confirming isothermal test, calculate  $k$  for various temperatures from the Arrhenius equation and the above  $E$  and  $Z$  values.

11.7 From  $t = 0.693/k$ , calculate aging times ( $t$ ) for each temperature.

11.8 Select a temperature requiring at least 1-h aging time, and age the sample isothermally for the calculated half-life in a thermal instrument or other facility capable of  $\pm 1$  K control. Quench immediately to some temperature at least 50 K below the aging temperature so that no significant reaction occurs during subsequent holding time.

11.9 Run the aged sample in a thermal instrument and record its reaction peak.

11.10 Run a similar but unaged sample in the same way and record its reaction peak.

11.11 On an equal weight basis, the peak area or displacement from baseline of the aged sample should be one half that of the unaged sample. If so, the reaction kinetics are confirmed for the temperature range explored.

## 12. Report

12.1 The report shall include the following:

12.1.1 Identification of the sample by name or composition, stating the source, past history, and weight of sample together with its purity (if available).

12.1.2 Description of apparatus and type of container used.

12.1.3 Identification of sample environment as to degree of confinement, composition of atmosphere, and whether the atmosphere is static, self-generated, or dynamic through or over the sample.

12.1.4 Description of test conditions, including the heating rates and peak temperature range investigated.

## 13. Precision

13.1 The precision and accuracy of this method depend upon reaction complexity, instrument capability, and the amount and range of data taken.

13.2 Under optimum conditions, a set of five data points over at least a five-fold range of heating rates, has resulted in a standard deviation within  $\pm 2\%$  for the calculated activation energy.

13.3 The accuracy of the kinetic constants is checked by an isothermal aging procedure. A difference of less than 10 % relative between predicted and observed results, can be considered a reasonable test of accuracy.

13.4 An interlaboratory test program is planned for 1998–1999 to provide precision and bias information for this method. Anyone wishing to participate in such a test program should contact the E-27 Staff Manager at ASTM Headquarters.

## 14. Keywords

14.1 Arrhenius kinetic parameters; differential scanning calorimetry; hazard potential; kinetics; thermal analysis; thermal hazard; thermal stability