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Standard Test Method for Sieve Analysis of Raw Materials for Glass Manufacture¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This test method covers the sieve analysis of common raw materials for glass manufacture, such as sand, soda-ash, limestone, alkali-alumina silicates, and other granular materials used in glass batch.

1.2 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as the standard. The values in parentheses are for information only.

1.3 *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 and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:

C 92 Test Methods for Sieve Analysis and Water Content of Refractory Materials²

C 325 Test Method for Wet Sieve Analysis of Ceramic Whiteware Clays³

C 371 Test Method for Wire-Cloth Sieve Analysis of Non-plastic Ceramic Powders³

D 346 Practice for Collection and Preparation of Coke Samples for Laboratory Analysis⁴

E 11 Specification for Wire-Cloth Sieves for Testing Purposes⁵

E 105 Practice for Probability Sampling of Materials⁵

E 122 Practice for Choice of Sample Size to Estimate the Average Quality for a Lot or Process⁵

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.1.1 *unit for sampling*—a carload lot or truckload lot of bulk material, or the entire shipment of bagged material.

3.1.2 *sublot*—a fraction of a shipment of bagged material, such as $\frac{1}{10}$ or $\frac{1}{20}$ of the lot.

3.1.3 *gross sample*—the total number of sample increments taken from the lot.

3.1.4 *sample increment*—an individual portion of the gross sample taken from the lot at a definite time or location, or both; increments shall be of nearly equal weight or volume, or both.

3.1.4.1 *Discussion*—A 2.2 to 4.5-kg (5 to 10-lb) increment generally is satisfactory in sampling raw materials for glass manufacture, for determining particle size distribution.

3.1.5 *laboratory sample*—a 0.9 to 1.8-kg (2 to 4-lb) representative fraction of the gross sample.

3.1.6 *test specimen*—a 100 to 150-g representative fraction of the laboratory sample.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 The purpose of this test method is to determine the particle size distribution of the glass raw materials.

5. Apparatus

5.1 Testing Sieves:

5.1.1 Sieves shall conform to Specification E 11 with particular reference to Table 1 and Section 4 on Frames. Sieves shall be designated by the U. S. Standard Series of sieve numbers and shall vary in opening size by the ratio of the $\sqrt{2}$:1, in accordance with frames 1 in. (25 mm) deep (half height) are recommended for mechanical shaking. The following sieves shall be provided:

Sieve Designation	Sieve Designation
No. 8 (2.36-mm)	No. 50 (300- μ m)
No. 12 (1.70-mm)	No. 70 (212- μ m)
No. 16 (1.18-mm)	No. 100 (150- μ m)
No. 20 (850- μ m)	No. 140 (106- μ m)
No. 30 (600- μ m)	No. 200 (75- μ m)
No. 40 (425- μ m)	

5.1.2 *Standard Matched Sieves*—A reference set of standard matched sieves⁶ shall be provided for use in checking the set of sieves used in the actual sieve analysis of samples. The sieves for use in sieve analysis of samples may also be standard matched sieves or may be unmatched sieves conforming to 5.1.1, provided that such sieves will give results that differ by not more than 5 % from those obtained with the reference set when the two sets are compared in accordance with Section 6.

5.2 *Sieve Shaker*—A mechanically operated sieve shaker that imparts to the set of sieves a rotary motion and tapping

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² *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 15.01.

³ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 15.02.

⁴ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 05.05.

⁵ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 14.02.

⁶ Matched sieves, available from the following scientific supply companies, have been found satisfactory for this purpose: VWR Scientific Co., P.O. Box 626, Bridgeport, NJ 08014; Fisher Scientific Co., 585 Alpha Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15238; and W. S. Tyler Co., 8570 Tyler Blvd., Mentor, OH 44060.

action of uniform speed shall be provided. The number of taps per minute shall be between 140 and 150. The sieve shaker shall be fitted with a wooden plug or rubber stopper to receive the impact of the tapper. Other types of mechanical shakers may be used, provided they can be adjusted to duplicate within 5 % results obtained by the type specified above, when tested with the same sample and standard matched sieves. The shaker shall be equipped with an automatic timer accurate to ½ min.

5.3 Sample Splitters:

5.3.1 For the reduction of the gross sample to laboratory size, either a large riffle with 25-mm (1-in.) openings or a sample splitter of the type that cuts out a fractional part (for example, a twelfth or a sixteenth) of the gross sample may be used. Sample splitters are available commercially or may be constructed by the user. The criterion for their use is that they shall produce a representative sample.

5.3.2 Riffles with openings of 6.4 to 13 mm (¼ to ½ in.) are required for reducing the laboratory sample to test size. The riffle opening must be at least three times the width of the largest particle diameter. This restricts use of a riffle with 6.4-mm openings to materials passing a No. 8 sieve.

5.4 *Balance*—A suitable balance or scale capable of weighing accurately to 0.1 g shall be used. A more sensitive balance may be used for weighing small fractions when they are considered critical.

6. Testing of Sieves and Sample Splitters

6.1 Since standard matched sieves are specified for the purpose of this test method, calibration as such by the tester is obviated. However, the tester must have a method to check the precision of the sieves. This shall be accomplished by having available at least two sets of sieves: a reference set and a working set. The reference set shall consist of standard matched sieves and shall be reserved for testing the working set. The working set also may consist of standard matched sieves or of sieves the tester has proven to be satisfactory (see 6.2). The testing of the working sieves is necessary because sieves will gradually change their characteristics after long usage from clogging and wear. The working set should be tested after every 100 to 150 sieve analyses. The test shall be made by sieving a suitable test sample through the working set as directed in Section 10, and then sieving the same test sample through the reference set. The results shall be calculated and compared. All testing sieves of the working set that give results within 10 % of the reference set shall be considered satisfactory for use. (See Appendix X1 for an example of this test.)

6.2 A new unmatched sieve can be used if it is proven by testing that it will produce results within 5 % of a standard matched sieve. To test an unmatched sieve, it should be substituted for the equivalent sieve in a standard matched set and a sieve analysis made with a sample previously sieved with the complete matched set. If agreement is satisfactory, the new unmatched sieve can be used as a working sieve.

6.3 A sample splitter for reducing a gross sample should be tested for reproducibility before it can be considered reliable. A minimum test shall be to take three gross samples of materials, weighing 45 kg (100 lb) or more, with different particle size distribution, and obtain four laboratory-size samples of each by repeated splitting. The laboratory samples shall be riffled to test

size and sieved. The same set of sieves shall be used for all tests. Duplication of results within each group should be 5 % or better.

7. Care and Cleaning of Testing Sieves

7.1 Testing sieves must be properly cared for if reproducible and reliable results are to be obtained from them. The life of a sieve is materially lengthened by proper care and careful handling. It is inevitable that some particles will become fastened in the sieve cloth, but excessive clogging can be controlled by brushing the underside of the wire cloth with a stiff bristle or bronze wire brush every time the sieve is used in testing. A nylon bristle paint brush 51 mm (2 in.) in width, with the bristles cut back to about 25 mm (1 in.) long, is recommended for brushing, although any short-bristle brush that will not stick in the wire cloth is satisfactory. A bronze wire brush should be used only for sieves No. 60 and coarser. Brushing shall be firm enough to remove the majority of clogging particles but not so vigorous as to distort the sieve cloth. Sieves shall be washed periodically with a mild detergent or soap, brushing on the underside of the cloth. They should be washed immediately after sieving hygroscopic materials, such as alkali carbonates, and dried before storing. They may be dried in a drying oven at 105 to 110°C. A properly cared for sieve will be clean and free of patina. It will have a minimum of clogged openings. The wire cloth will be taut in the frame and free of distortion. The solder joint will be firm. A loosened joint on an otherwise satisfactory sieve may be repaired by carefully resoldering with resin-core solder. Additional cleaning methods are contained in ASTM STP 447B.⁷

8. Sampling

8.1 *General Considerations*—Follow the principles of probability sampling as given in Practice E 105. To estimate the size (mass and number of increments) of the gross sample, follow Practice E 122. The methods used for other necessary statistical calculations are given in ASTM STP 15D.⁸

8.2 *Sampling Plan*—The sampling plan shall be such that the sample obtained will represent as nearly as practicable the average particle size distribution of the lot. Sampling bulk material and bagged material will each present a different problem.

8.2.1 Some segregation or nonuniformity will always exist in a bulk lot of material. At rest, this nonuniformity can and probably will be multidirectional, with some layers of segregation in the lot that are nearly perpendicular to each other. The exact degree is never completely known. To obtain a representative cross section of the lot is difficult, if not impossible. In motion, however, some mixing occurs, and segregation will tend to become unidirectional with layers of segregation generally parallel to the direction of flow. Therefore, a sample increment taken by uniformly cutting across the flowing stream is generally much more nearly representative than an increment taken with the material at rest. An entire lot should be sampled

⁷ ASTM STP 447B, *Manual on Test Sieving Methods*, ASTM, 1985.

⁸ ASTM STP 15D, *Manual on Presentation of Data and Control Chart Analysis*, ASTM, 1986.

by taking a number of increments spaced at nearly equal intervals during the whole time of loading or unloading of the car or truck. To take frequent cuts (sample increments) of all of the stream part of the time reduces the danger of a biased sample.⁹ Furthermore, when sampling a moving stream, the requirement for randomness is more nearly met at the time and place of sampling since the chance of taking one grain instead of another is about equal. The total number of increments required for a desired precision can be estimated statistically as in Practice E 122. Some simple device is required to sample the stream. This may consist of a box-type cutter for sampling the stream discharging from the end of a belt or spout, or a scoop for sampling the stream being transported on the belt. (See Appendix X2 for illustrations of simple stream samplers.) For the purpose of this test method, a sampling plan that provides for sampling the moving stream is recommended. The sampling of a car or truckload lot of material at rest, by shovel, scoop and cylinder, or thief is not recommended.

8.2.2 In sampling bagged material, an added problem is presented—that of choosing which bags of the lot will be taken for sampling and how the bags taken are to be sampled. A suitable plan for taking bags for sampling would be to divide the lot into sublots and then to take at random one bag from each subplot. This would afford a simple cross section of the lot and a random selection in each subplot. The number of sublots in which to divide the lot should be calculated using the same considerations as for estimating the number of increments to be taken when sampling bulk material. The consideration of segregation within bags must not be overlooked. If a suitable sample splitter is available, the entire contents of the bag can be taken and segregation ignored. However, if the bag is sampled with a thief, or by some other method, it must be made certain that any segregation is taken into account. A bag of granular material, particularly after shipping, can show visible evidence of segregation. If stratification or segregation has occurred, care must be taken to sample so as not to obtain a biased or “weighted” sample. The samples obtained from the bags are mixed to constitute the gross sample.

8.3 *Gross Sample Requirement*—Because of the many ways of handling materials and, in many cases, the limitations so imposed on sampling, and because of the several kinds of materials used for glass making, a single sampling plan is not prescribed. Only certain minimum considerations are presented and recommendations made. However, for the purpose of this test method, any plan devised or used shall produce—or as near thereto as it is practicable to obtain—a gross sample that has a 99.7 % probability that the minimum precision of the estimate will be 10 % relative for the critical particle size fraction (Note 1). (See Appendix X3 for calculation and discussion of this requirement.)

NOTE 1—A critical particle size fraction is considered to be one upon which a specification for purchase or use is based.

9. Reduction of the Sample for Analysis

9.1 The gross sample obtained by combining all of the increments shall be reduced to laboratory sample size of 0.9 to

⁹ Taggart, A. F., *Handbook of Mineral Dressing, Ores & Industrial Minerals*, John Wilcox & Sons, New York, NY, 1945.

1.8 kg (2 to 4 lb) by use of a large riffle with 25-mm (1-in.) openings or by a sample splitter. If the material is too moist to flow freely in a small riffle, it shall be dried before further handling (9.1.2). The laboratory sample shall be reduced to test specimen size, using a riffle with 6.4 to 13-mm (¼ to ½-in.) openings. It shall be divided until the fractional portion weighs approximately 100 to 150 g. This whole fraction constitutes the test specimen. An exception to the above weight for the test specimen is burned dolomite. Because of its light density, the dolomite shall be riffled to a test size weighing 50 to 75 g. The test specimen shall be weighed to the nearest 0.1 g before sieving.

9.1.1 When reduction of the gross sample or laboratory sample to test size by the means described in Section 8 is not feasible, hand reduction by the cone and quarter method may be used. The applicable portions of this method as described in Method D 346 shall be followed.

9.1.2 Most materials can be dried at 105 to 120°C. However, naturally hydrated materials such as gypsum, if dried, must not be heated above the critical temperature of the hydrate. Gypsum would best be dried in a stream of dry air or a desiccator.

10. Procedure for Mechanical Sieving

10.1 Assemble in order the selected sieves, which shall vary in opening size by the ratio of $\sqrt{2}:1$, with the coarsest on top and a pan on the bottom. Place the test specimen on the top sieve, close the nest of sieves with a cover, and place the entire assembly on the shaker. Shake the sieves for the time specified in 10.2. After shaking for the specified time, stop the shaker, remove the sieves, and weigh each separated fraction to the nearest 0.1 g.

10.2 *Shaking Time*—The shaking time for this test method is as follows:

	Time, min
Sodium carbonate (soda ash)	10
Potassium carbonate (potash) ⁴	5
All other materials	15

⁴ The finest sieve used shall be the No. 50.

11. Procedure for Burned Dolomite (Note 2)

11.1 Before shaking, mix 1 g of tricalcium phosphate¹⁰ into the test specimen of burned dolomite by rolling back and forth on a sheet of glazed paper. Sieve the specimen in the regular manner. Subtract the added gram from the pan for calculation. The addition of tricalcium phosphate imparts a free-flowing character to the burned dolomite, preventing balling and blinding of the sieve. This additive will permit sieving through a No. 140 sieve. If sieving through a No. 200 sieve is desired, an additional 10 min of shaking may be necessary. However it may be found that sieving through a No. 200 will not be successful. In any case, remove all fractions except that remaining on the No. 200 sieve and weigh before continuing.

¹⁰ The tricalcium phosphates supplied by Fisher Scientific Co., N. F. grade, and technical grade, are satisfactory. Analytical Reagent and other comparable grades from phosphate chemical manufacturers and other laboratory supply houses also should prove satisfactory.