



Designation: C 888 – 97

Standard Specification for Nuclear-Grade Gadolinium Oxide (Gd₂O₃) Powder¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This specification provides the chemical and physical requirements for nuclear-grade gadolinium oxide powder intended for subsequent processing and use in nuclear fuel applications, for example, as an addition to uranium dioxide.

1.2 This specification does not include requirements for health and safety. Observance of this specification does not relieve the user of the obligation to be aware of and conform to all federal, state, and local regulations pertaining to possessing, shipping, processing, or using this material.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:

B 329 Test Method for Apparent Density of Powders of Refractory Metals and Compounds by the Scott Volumeter²

C 493 Test Method for Bulk Density and Porosity of Granular Refractory Materials by Mercury Displacement³

C 859 Terminology Relating to Nuclear Materials⁴

C 889 Test Methods for Chemical and Mass Spectrographic Analysis of Nuclear-Grade Gadolinium Oxide (Gd₂O₃) Powder⁴

E 11 Specification for Wire-Cloth Sieves for Testing Purposes⁵

E 105 Practice for Probability Sampling of Materials⁵

2.2 ANSI Standard:

ANSI/ASME NQA-1 Quality Assurance Program Requirements for Nuclear Facility Applications⁶

2.3 U.S. Government Document:

Code of Federal Regulations, Title 10, Part 50—Energy (10

CFR 50), Domestic Licensing of Production and Utilization Facilities⁷

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.1.1 Terms shall be defined in accordance with Terminology C 859 except as defined herein.

3.1.1.1 *buyer*—the organization issuing the purchase order.

3.1.1.2 *powder lot*—a quantity of gadolinium oxide powder that has been processed in a manner such that samples taken in accordance with the procedures of 8.1 can be considered as representative of the entire powder lot.

3.1.1.3 *seller*—the gadolinium oxide powder supplier.

4. Ordering Information

4.1 The buyer shall specify the following information for all orders where this specification applies:

4.1.1 Powder lot size (allowable range),

4.1.2 Quantity (weight of delivered product),

4.1.3 Nominal particle size range and applicable tolerances in accordance with U.S. Standard Sieve Series (Specification E 11),

4.1.4 Density (optional), Scott Volumeter (Test Method B 329) and Mercury Displacement (Test Method C 493) are referenced as guides to density measurement techniques,

4.1.5 Shape factor and method of determination (optional),

4.1.6 Sampling requirements,

4.1.7 Crystal structure (optional), and

4.1.8 Quality requirements.

5. Chemical Composition

5.1 *Loss-on-Ignition*—The loss-on-ignition as determined after ignition for 2 h at a minimum temperature of 900°C shall not exceed 1.5 weight %.

5.2 *Gadolinium Oxide Concentration*—The minimum Gd₂O₃ concentration shall be 99.8 weight % exclusive of the constituents lost on ignition as determined by Test Methods C 889.

5.2.1 *Gadolinium Oxide Isotope Concentration*—The isotopic concentration of the gadolinium shall be that which is

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² *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 02.05.

³ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 15.01.

⁴ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 12.01.

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

⁶ Available from the American National Standards Institute, 11 W. 42nd St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10036.

⁷ Available from Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402.