



Designation: C 1076 – 97

Standard Specification for Nuclear Grade Hafnium Oxide Pellets¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This specification applies to pellets of stabilized cubic hafnium oxide used in nuclear reactors.

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

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:

- C 559 Test Method for Bulk Density by Physical Measurements of Manufactured Carbon and Graphite Articles²
- C 859 Terminology Relating to Nuclear Materials³
- C 1098 Specification for Nuclear Grade Hafnium Oxide Powder³
- E 105 Practice for Probability Sampling of Materials⁴

2.2 ANSI Standard:

ANSI/ASME NQA-1 Quality Assurance Program Requirements for Nuclear Facility Applications⁵

2.3 U.S. Government Document:

Code of Federal Regulations, Title 10, Part 50—Energy (10CFR 50) Domestic Licensing of Production and Utilization Facilities⁶

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—Terms shall be defined in accordance with Terminology C 859 except for the following:

3.1.1 *buyer*—organization issuing the purchase order.

3.1.2 *pellet*—fabricated geometric shape of stabilized cubic hafnium oxide having a chemical composition as described in Section 4.

3.1.3 *pellet lot*—the pellets produced from one hafnium oxide powder lot using one set of process parameters. Pellet lot size shall be agreed upon between the seller and the buyer.

3.1.4 *phase transformation*—rearrangement of the atomic ordering of a crystalline lattice as a material is cycled through a critical transformation or inversion temperature. The change from one crystalline phase to another may be accompanied by a volume change that could lead to cracks or defects in articles fabricated from such materials.^{7, 8}

3.1.5 *powder lot*—a specified quantity of hafnium oxide powder with stabilizing additive, blended together such that samples taken in accordance with Section 7 can be considered as representative of the entire quantity.

3.1.6 *seller*—hafnium oxide pellet supplier.

3.1.7 *stabilizing additive*—a material which, when present in sufficient concentration in the subject material exhibiting the phase transformation, produces a stabilized crystalline phase that does not undergo a transformation or inversion at any temperature within the expected fabrication or usage regime of the manufactured pellet. The potentially deleterious volume change is therefore avoided.

4. Chemical Composition

4.1 The starting hafnium oxide powder shall be in accordance with Specification C 1098.

4.2 A stabilizing additive shall be utilized with the hafnium oxide. The recommended stabilizing additive is yttrium oxide (Y_2O_3). The typical concentration range is 7 to 10 weight % Y_2O_3 in the finished product. References to other stabilizing additives (such as calcium oxide (CaO) and magnesium oxide (MgO)) may be found in the literature and these additives may be used if agreed upon by the buyer and seller. It is cautioned, however, that the buyer should be aware of potential destabilization during thermal cycling when MgO or CaO is used.

4.3 Use analytical chemistry methods as agreed upon between the buyer and the seller.

4.4 The hafnium concentration, in grams of hafnium per unit volume or grams of hafnium per unit length, may be specified by the buyer. In specifying the allowable range in hafnium concentration, the buyer should consider the following:

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee C-26 on Nuclear Fuel Cycle and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee C26.03 on Neutron Absorber Materials Specifications.

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

³ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 12.01.

⁴ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 14.02.

⁵ Available from American National Standards Institute, 11 W. 42nd St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10036.

⁶ Available from Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402.

⁷ Curtis, C. E., Doney, L. M., and Johnson, J. R., "Some Properties of Hafnium-Oxide, Hafnium-Silicate, Calcium-Hafnate, and Hafnium-Carbide," *Journal of American Ceramics Society*, Vol 37, 1954, pp. 458–465.

⁸ Brown, L. M., and Madiyasni, K. S., "Characterization of Alkoxy-Derived Yttria-Stabilized Hafnia," *Journal of American Ceramics Society*, Vol 53, 1970, pp. 590–594.