



Designation: D 2867 – 99

Standard Test Methods for Moisture in Activated Carbon¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D 2867; 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 (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

This standard has been approved for use by agencies of the Department of Defense.

1. Scope

1.1 These test methods provide two procedures for the determination of the moisture content of activated carbon. The procedures may also be used to dry samples required for other tests. The oven-drying method is used when water is the only volatile material present and is in significant quantities, and the activated carbon is not heat-sensitive (some activated carbons can ignite spontaneously at temperatures as low as 150°C). The xylene-extraction method is used when a carbon is known or suspected to be heat sensitive or to contain nonwater-miscible organic compounds instead of or in addition to water. The oven-drying method described in these test methods may be used as the reference for development of instrumental techniques for moisture determination in activated carbon.

1.2 *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:

E 177 Practice for Use of the Terms Precision and Bias in ASTM Test Methods²

E 691 Practice for Conducting an Interlaboratory Study to Determine the Precision of a Test Method²

3. Summary of Test Methods

3.1 *Oven-Drying Test Method*—A sample of carbon is put into a dry, closed capsule (of known weight) and weighed accurately. The capsule is opened and placed with the lid in a preheated oven. The sample is dried to constant weight then removed from the oven and with the capsule closed, cooled to ambient temperature. The closed capsule is weighed again

accurately. The weight loss is expressed as a percentage of the weight of the original sample.

3.2 *Xylene-Extraction Test Method*—A known, accurate weight of carbon is put into a boiling flask. A known volume of xylene is added to the flask and the flask then connected to a water trap. A hot plate is used to heat the xylene until boiling. The temperature is controlled to allow steady reflux. Reflux continues until no further water can be collected in the trap. The weight of water collected is expressed as a percentage of the weight of the original sample.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 The moisture content of activated carbon is often required to define and express its properties in relation to the net weight of the carbon.

OVEN-DRYING METHOD

5. Apparatus

5.1 *Moisture Oven*—Most commercial, electrically heated, forced-circulation drying ovens capable of temperature regulation between 145 and 155°C may be used.

5.2 *Capsules with Covers*—Low-form glass weighing bottles with ground-glass stoppers or seamless metal boxes with covers may be used. They should be as shallow as possible, consistent with convenient handling.

5.3 *Desiccator*.

6. Materials

6.1 *Desiccant*—Anhydrous calcium chloride or other suitable desiccant.

7. Procedure for Activated Carbon Passing A No. 50 Sieve

7.1 Dip out with a spoon or spatula from the sample bottle a 1 to 2-g representative sample. Put this into a predried tared capsule with lid, close and weigh at once to the nearest 0.5 mg. The depth of the carbon in the capsule must not exceed 1.25 cm.

7.2 Remove the cover and place the capsule and cover in a preheated forced circulation oven (at 145 to 155°C). Close the oven and dry to constant weight (3 h normally sufficient). Open

¹ These test methods are under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D-28 on Activated Carbon and are the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D28.04 on Gas Phase Evaluation Tests.

Current edition approved Feb. 10, 1999. Published May 1999. Originally published as D 2867 – 70. Last previous edition D 2867 – 95.

² ASTM Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 14.02.