



Designation: D2638 – 06

# Standard Test Method for Real Density of Calcined Petroleum Coke by Helium Pycnometer<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D2638; 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.

## 1. Scope\*

1.1 This test method covers the determination of the real density (RD) of calcined petroleum coke. Real density, by definition is obtained when the particle size of the specimen is smaller than 75 microns (No. 200 Sieve).

1.2 The values stated in acceptable metric units are to be regarded as the standard.

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:*<sup>2</sup>

[D346 Practice for Collection and Preparation of Coke Samples for Laboratory Analysis](#)

[D2013 Practice for Preparing Coal Samples for Analysis](#)

[D2234/D2234M Practice for Collection of a Gross Sample of Coal](#)

[D4057 Practice for Manual Sampling of Petroleum and Petroleum Products](#)

[D4292 Test Method for Determination of Vibrated Bulk Density of Calcined Petroleum Coke](#)

[D4930 Test Method for Dust Control Material on Calcined Petroleum Coke](#)

[E11 Specification for Woven Wire Test Sieve Cloth and Test Sieves](#)

## 3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions:*

<sup>1</sup> This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D02 on Petroleum Products and Lubricants and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D02.05 on Properties of Fuels, Petroleum Coke and Carbon Material.

Current edition approved July 1, 2006. Published July 2006. Originally approved in 1991. Last previous edition approved in 2002 as D2638–91(2002). DOI: 10.1520/D2638-06.

<sup>2</sup> For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, [www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org), or contact ASTM Customer Service at [service@astm.org](mailto:service@astm.org). For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

3.1.1 *calcined petroleum coke, n*—petroleum coke that has been thermally treated to drive off the volatile matter and to develop crystalline structure.

3.1.2 *petroleum coke*—a solid, carbonaceous residue produced by thermal decomposition of heavy petroleum fractions or cracked stocks, or both.

3.2 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

3.2.1 *bulk density*—the mass of the particles divided by the volume they occupy which includes the space between the particles. Refer to Test Method [D4292](#) for bulk density procedures.

3.2.2 *dedusting material*—See Test Method [D4930](#).

3.2.3 *real density (RD)* (also be referred to as true specific gravity). The mass divided by the volume occupied by the material excluding pores and voids. It is required, therefore, that voids in the coke be eliminated and that pores in the material be filled by the fluid being displaced. This requirement is met for the purposes of this test method by reducing the coke particles to a size smaller than 75 microns.

3.2.3.1 *Discussion*—The density of particles larger than 75 microns up to the largest that can be put into the helium pycnometer can also be determined, but must be designated as particle density (PD). The precision data obtained for RD may not be applicable to PD.

## 4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 A representative sample of calcined petroleum coke is dried and ground to pass a 75-micron (200-mesh) screen. The mass of the sample is determined directly and the volume derived by the volume of helium displaced when the sample is introduced into a helium pycnometer. The ratio of the mass of the sample to the volume is reported as the real density.

## 5. Significance and Use

5.1 The real density of calcined petroleum coke directly influences the physical and chemical properties of the manufactured carbon and graphite artifacts for which it is used. Density, therefore, is a major quality specification of calcined petroleum coke and is used as a control in coke calcination.

\*A Summary of Changes section appears at the end of this standard.