



Designation: B527 – 06

Standard Test Method for Determination of Tap Density of Metallic Powders and Compounds¹

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1. Scope*

1.1 This test method specifies a method for the determination of tap density (packed density) of metallic powders and compounds, that is, the density of a powder that has been tapped, to settle contents, in a container under specified conditions.

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:*²
B215 Practices for Sampling Metal Powders

3. Significance and Use

3.1 This test method covers the evaluation of the tapped density physical characteristic of metallic powders and compounds. The degree of correlation between the results of this test method and the quality of powders in use will vary with each particular application and has not been fully determined.

4. Apparatus

4.1 *Balance*, of appropriate capacity and accuracy to satisfy the requirements shown in **Table 1**.

4.2 *Graduated Glass Cylinder*, calibrated to contain 100 cm³ at 20°C, the height of the graduated portion being approximately 175 mm. The graduations shall be at 1 cm³ intervals, thus allowing a measuring accuracy of ± 0.5 cm³. For apparent densities over 4 g/cm³, do not use the 100 cm³ cylinder.

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee B09 on Metal Powders and Metal Powder Products and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee B09.03 on Refractory Metal Powders.

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² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

4.2.1 Alternatively, the following may be used:

4.2.1.1 *Graduated Glass Cylinder*, calibrated to contain 25 cm³ at 20°C, the height of the graduated portion being approximately 135 mm. The graduations shall be at 0.2 cm³ intervals.

4.2.1.2 A 25-cm³ cylinder shall be used for powders of apparent density higher than 4 g/cm³, in particular for refractory metal powders, but may also be used for powder of lower apparent density.

4.3 *Tapping Apparatus*, which permits the tapping of the graduated cylinder against a firm base. The tapping shall be such that a densification of the powder can take place without any loosening of its surface layers. The stroke shall be 3 mm (0.118 in.) and the tapping frequency shall be between 100 and 300 taps/min. An example of a tapping apparatus is shown in **Fig. 1**.

5. Test Specimen

5.1 For the quantities of powder required for each test, see **Table 1**. Obtain test powder samples according to Practices **B215**.

5.2 In general, the powder should be tested in the as-received condition. In certain instances the powder may be dried. However, if the powder is susceptible to oxidation, the drying shall take place in a vacuum or in inert gas. If the powder contains volatile substances, it shall not be dried.

5.3 The test shall be carried out on three test samples, if possible.

6. Procedure

6.1 Clean the inside wall of the graduated cylinder (see **4.2**) with a suitable clean brush or, if necessary, by rinsing with a solvent, such as acetone. If a solvent is used, thoroughly dry the cylinder before reuse.

6.2 Weigh, to the nearest 0.1 g, the mass of the test portion as indicated in **Table 1**, using a balance (see **4.1**).

6.3 Pour the test portion into the graduated cylinder. Take care that a level surface of the powder is formed. Place the cylinder in the tapping apparatus (see **4.3**). Tap the cylinder until no further decrease in the volume of the powder takes place (see **Note 1**).

NOTE 1—In practice, the minimum number of taps, N , such that no

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