



Standard Test Method for Mechanically Tapped Packing Density of Fine Catalyst Particles and Catalyst Carrier Particles¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This test method covers the determination of the mechanically tapped packing density of fine catalyst and catalyst carrier particles smaller than 0.8 mm in diameter.

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 456 Terminology Relating to Quality and Statistics²
- E 691 Practice for Conducting an Interlaboratory Study to Determine the Precision of a Test Method²

3. Summary of Test Method

3.1 A preconditioned sample of dried fine catalyst or catalyst carrier particles is tapped in a graduated cylinder. The mechanically tapped packing density is determined from the known weight and tapped volume.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 This test method is for measuring the mechanically tapped packing density of powders that are smaller than 0.8 mm in diameter, such as Fluidized Catalytic Cracking Catalysts (FCC).

5. Apparatus

- 5.1 *Graduated Cylinder*,³ capacity 100 mL.
- 5.2 *Holder*—A cylinder holder weighing 454 g (1 lb).
- 5.3 *Tapping Device*,³ consisting of a baseplate with worm drive, with specifications of 250 r/min camshaft speed, tapping stroke travel of 3.2 mm ($\frac{1}{8}$ in.).

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D-32 on Catalysts and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D32.02 on Physical-Mechanical Properties.

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² *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 14.02.

³ A list of suitable equipment is available from ASTM.

5.4 *Counter*—A four-digit adjustable counter, which can be preset to deliver number of taps between 1 and 9999.

5.5 *Desiccator*, with a desiccant grade molecular sieve such as 4A.

5.6 *Balance* having a sensitivity of 0.1 g.

5.7 *Drying Oven*.

6. Procedure

6.1 Heat an adequate sample at 673 K (400°C) \pm 15 K for not less than 3 h. Normally, this treatment can take place in air. However, in the case of materials that might react with air at elevated temperature (such as prerduced catalysts) the heat treatment should take place in an inert atmosphere. After heating, cool the test sample in a desiccator or other suitable container to eliminate the possibility of moisture adsorption prior to testing.

NOTE 1—These conditions may not be appropriate for all materials.

NOTE 2—Since many catalyst formulations are strong adsorbents, the use of 4A indicating (cobalt-treated) molecular sieves as a desiccating medium is recommended. The desiccant should be regenerated at 493 K (220°C) to 533 K (260°C), as required.

NOTE 3—Multiple samples can be pretreated but must be desiccated prior to analysis.

6.2 Carefully pour between 90 and 100 mL of the test specimen into the tared-graduated cylinder using a funnel. To ensure proper level, rotate the funnel while pouring the test specimen. Weigh immediately to the nearest tenth of a gram. The entire transfer time should be between 35 and 50 s.

6.3 Preset the counter to 1000 taps.

6.4 Start the tapping device.

6.5 When tapping is completed, read the tapped volume, V , to the nearest 1 mL by estimating the average level of the catalyst surface in the cylinder.

7. Calculation

7.1 Calculate the mechanically tapped packing density as follows:

$$MTD = W/V \quad (1)$$

where:

MTD = mechanically tapped packing density, g/mL,
 W = weight of catalyst particles, g, and