



Designation: D4180 – 03(Reapproved 2008)

# Standard Test Method for Vibratory Packing Density of Formed Catalyst Particles and Catalyst Carriers<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D4180; 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 vibratory packing density of formed catalyst and catalyst carriers. For the purpose of this test, catalyst particles are defined as extrudates, spheres, or formed pellets of 0.8 to 4.8-mm ( $1/32$  to  $3/16$ -in.) nominal diameter.

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

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>

D3766 Terminology Relating to Catalysts and Catalysis

E177 Practice for Use of the Terms Precision and Bias in ASTM Test Methods

E456 Terminology Relating to Quality and Statistics

E691 Practice for Conducting an Interlaboratory Study to Determine the Precision of a Test Method

## 3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—See Terminology D3766.

## 4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 A preconditioned sample of formed catalyst or catalyst carrier is vibrated in a cylinder. The vibratory packing density is determined from a known mass and vibrated volume.

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

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<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.

## 5. Significance and Use

5.1 This test method is to be used for measuring the vibratory packing density of formed particles that will not break up during sampling, filling, or vibrating of the measuring cylinder under test conditions.

## 6. Apparatus

6.1 *Glass Cylinders*, capacity 250 mL, feed and measuring.

6.2 *Vibrator*,<sup>3</sup> conventional handheld, with hard rubber or metal impactor.

6.3 *Feed Funnel*, plastic, glass, or metal as shown in Fig. 1.

6.4 *Ring Stand, Vibrator Holder and Clamps* as shown in Figs. 2 and 3.

6.5 *Desiccator*, with a desiccant grade molecular sieve such as a No. 4A.

6.6 *Balance* having sensitivity of 0.1 g.

6.7 *Drying Oven*.

## 7. Procedure

7.1 Heat an adequate sample(s) at  $400 \pm 15^\circ\text{C}$  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 temperatures (such as prerduced catalysts) the heat treatment should take place in an inert atmosphere. Cool after heating the test sample(s) 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 a No. 4A indicating (cobalt-treated) molecular sieve as a desiccating medium is suggested. The desiccant should be regenerated at 220 to 260°C as required.

7.2 Fill a tared feed-glass cylinder with 250 mL of loosely packed, dried catalyst and weigh immediately to the nearest 0.1 g.

<sup>3</sup> The sole source of supply of the Wahl Vibrator, Model 4180, 4 in 1, 120-V 60-Hz 11-W known to the committee at this time is Wahl Clipper Corp., Sterling, IL. If you are aware of alternative suppliers, please provide this information to ASTM International Headquarters. Your comments will receive careful consideration at a meeting of the responsible technical committee,<sup>1</sup> which you may attend.