



Designation: E2008 – 08

Standard Test Method for Volatility Rate by Thermogravimetry¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation E2008; 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.

1. Scope

1.1 This test method covers procedures for assessing the volatility of solids and liquids at given temperatures using thermogravimetry under prescribed experimental conditions. Results of this test method are obtained as volatility rates expressed as mass per unit time. Rates $\geq 5 \mu\text{g}/\text{min}$ are achievable with this test method.

1.2 Temperatures typical for this test method are within the range from 25 °C to 500 °C. This temperature range may differ depending upon the instrumentation used.

1.3 This test method is intended to provide a value for the volatility rate of a sample using a thermogravimetric analysis measurement on a single representative specimen. It is the responsibility of the user of this test method to determine the need for and the number of repetitive measurements on fresh specimens necessary to satisfy end use requirements.

1.4 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as standard. No other units of measurement are included in this standard.

1.5 There is no ISO method equivalent to this standard.

1.6 *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 test method 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

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

E473 Terminology Relating to Thermal Analysis and Rheology

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

E1142 Terminology Relating to Thermophysical Properties

E1582 Practice for Calibration of Temperature Scale for Thermogravimetry

E1860 Test Method for Elapsed Time Calibration of Thermal Analyzers

E2040 Test Method for Mass Scale Calibration of Thermogravimetric Analyzers

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions:*

3.1.1 The following terms are applicable to this test method and can be found in Terminologies E473 and E1142:

3.1.1.1 *thermogravimetric analysis (TGA)*,

3.1.1.2 *thermogravimetry (TG)*,

3.1.1.3 *volatility*.

3.2 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

3.2.1 *volatility rate*—the rate of conversion of a solid or liquid substance into the vapor state at a given temperature; mass per unit time.

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 A solid or liquid specimen is confined in an appropriate container with a pinhole opening between 0.33 and 0.38 mm. The confined specimen is heated within a thermogravimetric analyzer either to a temperature and held constant at that temperature for a fixed interval of time (Method A, Fig. 1) or at a slow constant heating rate between temperature limits (Method B, Fig. 2). The mass of the specimen is measured continuously and it or its rate of change is displayed as a function of time or temperature. The volatility rate at any temperature is reported either as the average rate of mass loss per unit time from Method A or as the instantaneous rate of mass loss (first derivative) per unit time from Method B.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 Volatility of a material is not an equilibrium thermodynamic property but is a characteristic of a material related to a thermodynamic property that is vapor pressure. It is influenced by such factors as surface area, temperature, particle size, and purge gas flow rate; that is, it is diffusion controlled.

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee E37 on Thermal Measurements and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee E37.01 on Calorimetry and Mass Loss.

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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.

water at 323 K; 0.33 mm pinhole; 5.285 mg; nitrogen purge at 100 mL/min

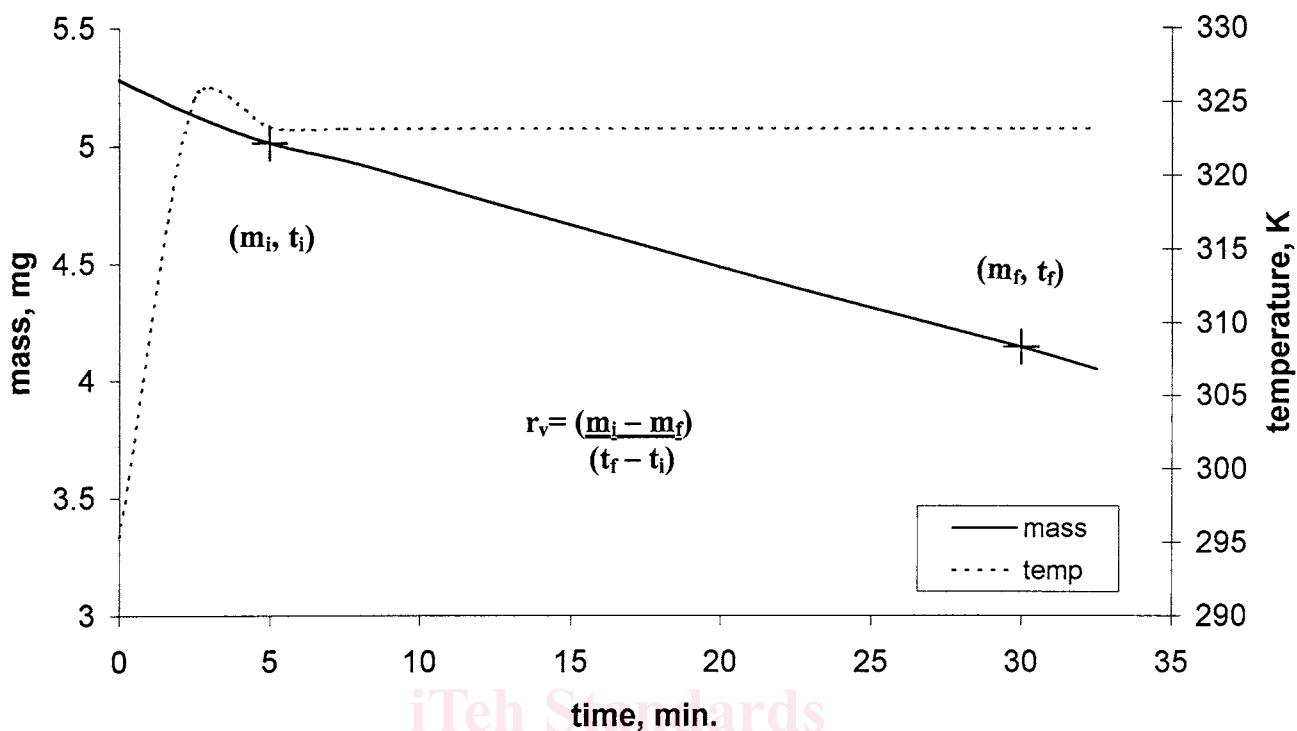


FIG. 1 Method A: R_v = Average Volatility Rate

water at 2 K/min; 0.38 mm pinhole; 4.762 mg; nitrogen at 100 mL/min

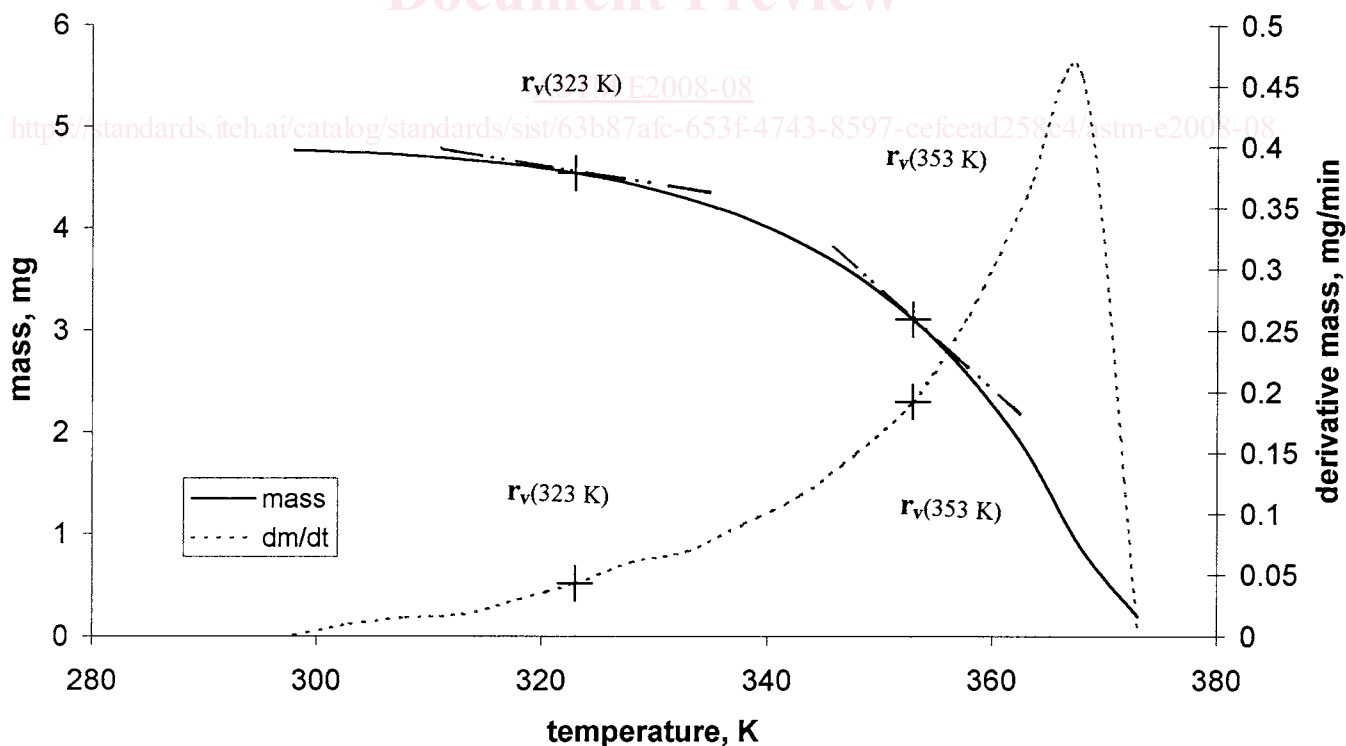


FIG. 2 Method B: R_v = Instantaneous Volatility Rate

5.2 The extent of containment achieved for specimens in this test method by means of a pinhole opening between 0.33 to 0.38 mm allows for measurement circumstances that are relatively insensitive to experimental variables other than temperature. Decreasing the extent of containment by use of pinholes larger than 0.38 mm will increase the magnitude of the observed rate of mass loss but will also reduce the measurement precision by increasing the sensitivity to variations in other experimental variables.

5.3 Results obtained by this test method are not strictly equivalent to those experienced in processing or handling conditions but may be used to rank materials for their volatility in such circumstances. Therefore, the volatility rates determined by this test method should be considered as index values only.

5.4 The volatility rate may be used to estimate such quantifiable values as drying interval or the extent of volatile release from a process.

6. Interferences

6.1 Specimens that consist of a mixture of two or more volatile components or that undergo decomposition during this test may exhibit curvature in the mass loss versus time plot of Method A (see). In such cases the volatility rate is not constant and shall not be reported as a singular value.

7. Apparatus

7.1 The essential instrumentation required to provide the minimum thermogravimetric analytical capability for this test method includes:

7.1.1 A *Thermobalance*, composed of:

7.1.1.1 A *Furnace*, to provide uniform controlled heating of a specimen at a constant temperature or at a constant rate within the applicable temperature range of this test method;

7.1.1.2 A *Temperature Sensor*, to provide an indication of the specimen/furnace temperature to ± 1 K;

7.1.1.3 A continuously recording *Balance*, to measure the specimen mass with a minimum capacity of 100 mg and a sensitivity of ± 10 μ g;

7.1.1.4 A means of sustaining the specimen/container under *atmospheric control* of inert gas (nitrogen, helium, and so forth) of 99.9 % purity at a purge rate of 50 to 100 mL/min ± 5 %.

7.1.2 A *Temperature Controller*, capable of executing a specific temperature program by operating the furnace between selected temperature limits at a rate of temperature change of 1 to 2 K/min constant to within ± 0.1 K/min or to rapidly heat a specimen at a minimum of 50 K/min to an isothermal temperature that is maintained constant to ± 1 K for a minimum of 30 min.

7.1.3 A *Data Collection Device*, to provide a means of acquiring, storing, and displaying measured or calculated signals, or both. The minimum output signals required for thermogravimetry are mass, temperature, and time.

7.1.4 *Sealable Containers*, (pans, crucibles, and so forth), that are inert to the specimen, that will remain gravimetrically

stable within the temperature limits of this test method, and that contain a pinhole in the lid of diameter between 0.33 and 0.38 mm.³

NOTE 1—The most critical parameters for containers suitable for use with this test method are the pinhole diameter and the lid thickness. Sealable containers of volumes (25 to 50 μ L) and wall thicknesses (80 to 150 μ m) commercially available from Mettler-Toledo, Perkin Elmer Corporation, and TA Instruments, Inc. have been found suitable for this purpose.

7.2 Auxiliary equipment necessary or useful in conducting this test method includes:

7.2.1 While not required, it is convenient to have a data analysis device that will continuously calculate and display the first derivative of mass with respect to time (in mass/min) capable of detecting 0.05 μ g/min.

7.2.2 Device to encapsulate the specimen in sealable containers.

7.2.3 Micropipette or syringe to deliver liquid specimens of 1 to 30 μ L into the containers.

8. Sampling

8.1 Samples are ordinarily measured as received. If a pretreatment is applied to any specimen, this treatment shall be noted in the report.

8.2 Since the applicable samples may be mixtures or blends, care shall be taken to ensure that the analyzed specimen is representative of the sample from which it is taken. If the sample is liquid, mixing prior to taking the specimen is sufficient to ensure this consideration. If the sample is solid, take several samplings from different areas and either combine into a single specimen or run as a separate specimen with the final analysis representing an average of these determinations. Include the number of determinations in the report.

9. Calibration

9.1 Perform temperature calibration in accordance with Practice **E1582** using the same purge gas conditions and container type to be used for the subsequent measurements at a heating rate of 2 K/min. Do not disturb the temperature sensor position after this calibration.

9.2 Perform mass calibration in accordance with Test Method **E2040**.

9.3 Perform time scale calibration in accordance with Test Method **E1860**.

10. Procedure

10.1 *Method A—Isothermal Test:*

10.1.1 Initiate a purge gas flow through the thermobalance between 50 to 100 mL/min ± 5 %.

10.1.2 Equilibrate the furnace, gas purge, and so forth at room temperature, and tare the balance.

NOTE 2—If the balance is tared with the empty crucible and lid in place, then the mass of the test specimen may be recorded directly

10.1.3 Encapsulate a specimen in an appropriate container with the specified pinhole. Specimen sizes between 1 and 30

³ See **Appendix X1**.