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Standard Test Method for Ash in Analysis of Petroleum Coke¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This test method covers the determination of the ash content of petroleum coke.

1.2 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as standard. No other units of measurement are included in this 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:*²

D346 Practice for Collection and Preparation of Coke Samples for Laboratory Analysis

D2013 Practice for Preparing Coal Samples for Analysis

3. Summary of Test Method

3.1 A representative sample of petroleum coke is dried, ground, and ashed in a muffle furnace at 700 to 750°C. The residue or ash is expressed as a percentage of the dry petroleum coke.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 The ash content is one of the properties used to evaluate petroleum coke and indicates the amount of undesirable residue present. Acceptable ash content varies with the intended use.

5. Interferences

5.1 High sulfur content of the furnace gases, regardless of the source of the sulfur, can react with an alkaline ash to

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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.

produce erratic results. The furnace must be swept with air to achieve oxidation and to decrease the sulfur content of the gases.

5.2 Preparation and testing of the analysis sample must neither remove nor add ash. Improper dividing, sieving, and crushing equipment, and some muffle furnace lining material can contaminate the sample.

6. Apparatus

6.1 *Crucibles*, low wide form glazed porcelain or platinum, 30-mL capacity.

6.2 *Muffle Furnace*, with temperature control between 700 and 750°C and equipped with a means to regulate air circulation.

6.3 *Analytical Balance* capable of weighing to 0.1 mg.

6.4 *Drying Oven* controlled at $110 \pm 5^\circ\text{C}$.

6.5 *Desiccator*.

7. Sample Preparation

7.1 Crush the laboratory sample to pass a 6.3-mm sieve. If the quantity exceeds 2.3 kg, divide the sample to obtain about 2.3 kg and crush this fraction to pass a 850- μm (No. 20) sieve. Further divide the sample to obtain a portion of approximately 200 g and crush to pass a 250- μm (No. 60) sieve. Divide again to obtain approximately 50 g and pulverize this fraction such that 95 % or more passes a 75- μm (No. 200) sieve. This is the analysis sample which is dried to constant weight at $110 \pm 5^\circ\text{C}$.

NOTE 1—If the laboratory sample appears to be wet it must be air-dried prior to crushing to avoid caking.

NOTE 2—Recommended practice for collecting samples and the equipment and procedures for crushing and dividing are described in Practices D346 and D2013.

8. Preparation of Apparatus

8.1 The muffle furnace, when initially set up, must be tested for adequate air circulation. The air flow is adequate if replicate samples do not produce a lower ash at higher air flow rates with the same furnace loading. Maintain air flow at the same level for subsequent analyses to ensure consistency in analytical technique.