



Designation: C371 – 09

Standard Test Method for Wire-Cloth Sieve Analysis of Nonplastic Ceramic Powders¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation C371; 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 the determination of the particle size distribution of nonplastic ceramic powders such as alumina, silica, feldspar, pyrophyllite, nepheline syenite, talc, titanates, and zircon using wire cloth sieves.

1.2 Materials containing a large amount of fines, containing agglomerates, or that are nonfree-flowing, are wet-sieved to remove excessive fines or to disperse agglomerates before performing the test. This technique is not applicable to materials that are, to any degree, water soluble.

1.3 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as standard. The values given in parentheses are mathematical conversions to inch-pound units, or are other customary units (in the case of sieve frame diameter and sieve number), that are provided for information only and are not considered standard.

1.4 *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
- C322 Practice for Sampling Ceramic Whiteware Clays
 - E11 Specification for Woven Wire Test Sieve Cloth and Test Sieves

3. Significance and Use

3.1 Sieve analyses are carried out to determine the particle size distribution of powders which, in turn, are used to qualify those materials as to their usefulness in the process under consideration. Since particle size analyses have only relative significance, the results should be considered only where they

correlate with process characteristics. The parameter that is being measured in this test is the amount of material that will pass through a cloth having theoretically square openings. It must be remembered that all the holes are not square, nor uniform in size, and the question of whether a given particle will go through is a statistical one. Since each particle size analysis method measures a unique physical parameter, the results from one method may not agree with those from another. Particle size distributions play a role in such properties as bulk density, dustiness, and handling characteristics. Care should be taken, however, when interpretations are made from one or two points (sieves) on the distribution curve.

4. Apparatus

- 4.1 *Balance*, having a sensitivity of 0.05 g.
- 4.2 *Sieves*, clean, unblinded, 205 mm (8 in.) in diameter, and conforming to Specification E11. At all times they shall be certified by, or shall be calibrated with sieves certified by, the National Institute of Standards and Technology. For wet-sieving, use full-height 50-mm (2-in.) sieves; these sieves and pan may be used for dry-sieving also. Half-height 25-mm (1-in.) sieves and pan shall be used for dry-sieving only. The sieves to be used may range from 45 μm (No. 325) through 212 μm (No. 70).
- 4.3 *Drying Pans*, about 205 mm (8 in.) in diameter and 25 or 50 mm (1 or 2 in.) high.
- 4.4 *Dryer*—For drying, the use of an oven maintained automatically at 100 to 110°C is recommended.
- 4.5 *Mechanical Shaking Device*—The shaking device shall be such as to produce a lateral and vertical motion of the sieve, accompanied by a jarring action so as to keep the sample moving continuously over the surface of the sieve.
- 4.6 In wet-sieving, the water should be slightly above room temperature (for example, a hot-cold mixer tap) and should be supplied by means of a fixed or hand-held spray.

5. Sampling

5.1 *Unit for Sampling*—Each carload shall be considered a unit for sampling.

5.2 *Gross Sample* (See Practice C322)—In collecting the gross sample from a carload shipped in bags, select a number of bags equivalent to not less than 1 % of the total number of

¹ This method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee C21 on Ceramic Whitewares and Related Products and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee C21.04 on Raw Materials.

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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.

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