



Designation: ~~C1408-98 (Reapproved 2004)~~ Designation: C 1408 – 09

Standard Test Method for Carbon (Total) in Uranium Oxide Powders and Pellets By Direct Combustion-Infrared Detection Method¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation C 1408; 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 carbon in nuclear-grade uranium oxide powders and pellets to determine compliance with specifications.

1.2 Gadolinium oxide (Gd_2O_3) and gadolinium oxide-uranium oxide powders and pellets may also be analyzed using this test method.

1.3 This test method covers the determination of 5 to 500 μg of residual carbon.

1.4 This test method describes an induction furnace carrier gas combustion system equipped with an infrared detector. It may also be applied to a similar instrument equipped with a thermal conductivity detector.

~~1.5 The preferred system of units is micrograms carbon per gram of sample ($\mu g/g$ sample) or micrograms carbon per gram of uranium ($\mu g/g$ U).~~

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

1.5.1 The preferred system of units is micrograms carbon per gram of sample ($\mu g/g$ sample) or micrograms carbon per gram of uranium ($\mu g/g$ U).

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 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

C 753 [Specification for Nuclear-Grade, Sinterable Uranium Dioxide Powder](#)

C 776 [Specification for Sintered Uranium Dioxide Pellets](#)

C 888 [Specification for Nuclear-Grade Gadolinium Oxide \(\$Gd_2O_3\$ \) Powder](#)

C 922 [Specification for Sintered Gadolinium Oxide-Uranium Dioxide Pellets](#)

3. Summary of Test Method

3.1 The powdered or crushed test specimen and an appropriate accelerator (metal flux) are added to a crucible, placed within an induction-heated furnace and burned at a nominal temperature of 1600 to 1700°C in a stream of oxygen. A catalyst converts the carbon monoxide (CO) to carbon dioxide (CO₂) and the products of combustion are scavenged free of sulfur compounds, halogens, and water vapor. The CO₂ is swept into an infrared cell detector. The amount of carbon is automatically determined from stored calibration data, and is displayed or printed out, or both, by the carbon analyzer.

3.2 The actual configuration of the system may vary with vendor and model. Typical systems include columns of materials such as copper oxide, platinumized silica gel, magnesium perchlorate, sodium hydroxide, and cellulose to purify the CO₂ stream.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 Uranium dioxide is used as a nuclear-reactor fuel. Gadolinium oxide is used as an additive to uranium dioxide. In order to be suitable for this purpose, these materials must meet certain criteria for impurity content. This test method is designed to determine whether the carbon content meets Specifications C 753, C 776, C 888, and C 922.

5. Interferences

5.1 Contamination of carrier gas, crucibles, or samples with extraneous sources of carbon may cause a positive bias. The blank

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee C26 on Nuclear Fuel Cycle and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee C26.05 on Methods of Test. Current edition approved June 1, 2004; 2009. Published July 2004; 2009. Originally approved in 1998. Last previous edition approved in 1998; 2004 as C 1408 – 98 (2004).

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.