



Standard Guide for Characterization of Coal Fly Ash and Clean Coal Combustion Fly Ash for Potential Uses¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This guide recommends standards for the characterization of fly ash from the combustion of coal, fly ash from coal combusted in the presence of alkaline materials, and fly ash from combusted coal in which the flue gases have been treated with alkaline materials in the presence of the fly ash.

1.2 This guide provides recommended and optional test methods for fly ash evaluation. Acceptance criteria can be negotiated between the producer and the user according to the potential end use.

1.3 The coal fly ash and clean coal combustion fly ash of this guide do not include the following:

1.3.1 Dusts from kilns producing products such as lime, portland cement, activated clays, etc.;

1.3.2 By-products of flue gas desulfurization that are not collected with the primary fly ash removal equipment such as the baghouse or electrostatic precipitator; and

1.3.3 Fly ash or other combustion products derived from the burning of waste; municipal, industrial, or commercial garbage; sewage sludge or other refuse, or both; derived fuels; wood; wood waste products; rice hulls; agriculture waste; or other non-coal fuels or other such fuels blended with coal, or some combination thereof.

1.4 Fly ash may contain some trace elements that may affect performance or potential end use.

1.5 The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as the standard. The values given in parentheses are for information only. ~~only-mathematical conversions to SI units that are provided for information only and are not considered 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 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

[C22/C22M Specification for Gypsum](#)

[C25 Test Methods for Chemical Analysis of Limestone, Quicklime, and Hydrated Lime](#)

[C51 Terminology Relating to Lime and Limestone \(as used by the Industry\)](#)

[C109/C109M Test Method for Compressive Strength of Hydraulic Cement Mortars \(Using 2-in. or \[50-mm\] Cube Specimens\)](#)

[C110 Test Methods for Physical Testing of Quicklime, Hydrated Lime, and Limestone](#)

[C114 Test Methods for Chemical Analysis of Hydraulic Cement](#)

[C150 Specification for Portland Cement](#)

[C191 Test Methods for Time of Setting of Hydraulic Cement by Vicat Needle](#)

[C311 Test Methods for Sampling and Testing Fly Ash or Natural Pozzolans for Use in Portland-Cement Concrete](#)

[C400 Test Methods for Quicklime and Hydrated Lime for Neutralization of Waste Acid](#)

[C593 Specification for Fly Ash and Other Pozzolans for Use With Lime for Soil Stabilization](#)

[C595 Specification for Blended Hydraulic Cements](#)

[C602 Specification for Agricultural Liming Materials](#)

[C618 Specification for Coal Fly Ash and Raw or Calcined Natural Pozzolan for Use in Concrete](#)

[D546 Test Method for Sieve Analysis of Mineral Filler for Bituminous Paving Mixtures](#)

[D1973 Guide for Design of a Liner System for Containment of Wastes \(Withdrawn 2000\)³](#)

[D2795 Test Methods for Analysis of Coal and Coke Ash \(Withdrawn 2001\)³](#)

[D3178 Test Methods for Carbon and Hydrogen in the Analysis Sample of Coal and Coke \(Withdrawn 2007\)³](#)

[D3682 Test Method for Major and Minor Elements in Combustion Residues from Coal Utilization Processes](#)

[D3683 Test Method for Trace Elements in Coal and Coke Ash by Atomic Absorption](#)

[D4326 Test Method for Major and Minor Elements in Coal and Coke Ash By X-Ray Fluorescence](#)

[D5239 Practice for Characterizing Fly Ash for Use in Soil Stabilization](#)

[D5681 Terminology for Waste and Waste Management](#)

[E1266 Practice for Processing Mixtures of Lime, Fly Ash, and Heavy Metal Wastes in Structural Fills and Other Construction Applications](#)

2.2 *Other Document:*

[USEPA Method 9100-SW846/SW846 Method 9100 Falling Head or Constant Head Saturated Hydraulic Conductivity, Saturated Leachate Conductivity and Intrinsic Permeability](#)⁴

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—For definitions of terms used in this practice, refer to Terminology [D5681](#).

3.2 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

3.2.1 *clean coal combustion*—the burning of coal, coal culm, or coal fines in a furnace designed to operate to minimize emissions (that is, a fluidized bed or aerated fluidized bed, etc.) or coal burned in the presence of alkaline materials, which combine to reduce these emissions.

3.1.2 *fly ash, n*—residual material that exits a combustion chamber in the flue gas.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 This guide provides guidance for the characterization of coal fly ash or clean coal combustion fly ash for potential uses in which absorption, cementitious activity, pozzolanic activity, pH adjustment, heat rise, or stabilization and solidification properties may be desired.

5. Chemical Composition

5.1 Fly ash from coal and clean coal combustion can be characterized by the recommended chemical tests of [Table 1](#) and may be characterized further by the optional chemical tests of [Table 2](#). Limits may be specified by the purchaser if required for a specific application. The most recent limits established by the appropriate regulatory agency shall govern if no specific parameters are required. See [Appendix X1](#) for possible nonmandatory information for various end uses of fly ash.

6. Physical Tests

6.1 Fly ash from coal and clean coal combustion can be tested further in accordance with the optional physical tests of [Table 3](#), if required by the purchaser.

¹ This guide is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D34 on Waste Management and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D34.03 on Treatment, Recovery and Reuse.

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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.

³ The last approved version of this historical standard is referenced on [www.astm.org](#).

⁴ Available from Standardization Documents Order Desk; online at [http://www.epa.gov/osw/hazard/testmethods/sw846/pdfs/9100.pdf](#) (last accessed Feb. 10, 2012); 4 Section D, 700 Robbins Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19111-5094. Attn: NPODS.