



Designation: C1104/C1104M – 13

Standard Test Method for Determining the Water Vapor Sorption of Unfaced Mineral Fiber Insulation¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation C1104/C1104M; 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 amount of water vapor sorbed by mineral fiber insulation exposed to a high-humidity atmosphere. This test method is applicable only to fibrous base material and binder. The results obtained by this test method cannot be used in describing faced products, since the facing is not tested by using this test method.

1.2 The water vapor sorption characteristics of materials may be affected by conditions such as elevated temperatures or chemical exposures. Values obtained as a result of this test method may not adequately describe the water vapor sorption characteristics of materials subjected to these conditions.

1.3 The values stated in either SI units or inch-pound units are to be regarded separately as standard. The values stated in each system may not be exact equivalents; therefore, each system shall be used independently of the other. Combining values from the two systems may result in non-conformance with the 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

[C167 Test Methods for Thickness and Density of Blanket or Batt Thermal Insulations](#)

[C302 Test Method for Density and Dimensions of Preformed Pipe-Covering-Type Thermal Insulation](#)

[C303 Test Method for Dimensions and Density of Preformed Block and Board-Type Thermal Insulation](#)

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of Committee C16 on Thermal Insulation and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee C16.33 Insulation Finishes and Moisture.

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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.

[C390 Practice for Sampling and Acceptance of Thermal Insulation Lots](#)

[E691 Practice for Conducting an Interlaboratory Study to Determine the Precision of a Test Method](#)

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.1.1 The term sorption has been adopted for this test method, since mineral fiber insulation may *absorb* water within its bulk when viewed macroscopically, while it *adsorbs* water onto individual fibers on a microscopic scale.

(1) *sorption*—refers to the taking up and holding of matter by other matter by various processes such as absorption and adsorption.

(2) *absorption*—refers to the taking up of matter in-bulk by other matter; for example, the penetration of substances into the bulk of another solid or liquid.

(3) *adsorption*—refers to surface retention or adhesion of an extremely thin layer of molecules to the surfaces of solids or liquids with which they are in contact.

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 The insulation is dried to a constant weight and exposed to a high-humidity atmosphere for 96 h. The amount of water sorbed from the vapor phase is the difference in specimen weights, and is expressed in either weight or volume percent.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 The sorption of water can result in an increase in weight and a resultant potential degradation of the properties of the insulation.

6. Apparatus

6.1 *Air-circulating oven*, capable of maintaining a temperature between 102° and 121°C [215° and 250°F].

6.2 *Desiccator*, with calcium chloride as a desiccant.

6.3 *Scale*, accurate to ± 0.1 % of specimen weight.

6.4 *Environmental test chamber*, capable of maintaining a temperature of $49 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ [$120 \pm 3^\circ\text{F}$] and a relative humidity of 95 ± 3 %.

6.5 *Steel rule*, graduated in 1 mm or 0.05 in. intervals with depth gauge as described in Test Methods C167.