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Standard Test Method for Moisture Analysis of Particulate Wood Fuels¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This test method covers the determination of total weight basis moisture in the analysis sample of particulate wood fuel. The particulate wood fuel may be sanderdust, sawdust, pellets, green tree chips, hogged fuel, or other type particulate wood fuel having a maximum particle volume of 16.39 cm^3 (1 in.^3). It is used for calculating other analytical results to a dry basis. Moisture, when determined as herein described, may be used to indicate yields on processes, to provide the basis for purchasing and selling, or to establish burning characteristics.

1.2 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as the standard. The values given in parentheses are for information only.

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 Moisture is determined by establishing the loss in weight of the sample when heated under rigidly controlled conditions of temperature, time and atmosphere, sample weight, and equipment specifications.

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee E48 on Bioenergy and Industrial Chemicals from Biomass and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee E48.05 on Biomass Conversion.

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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.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 The test procedures described in this test method can be used to determine the total weight basis moisture of any particulate wood fuel meeting the requirements specified in this test method.

5. Apparatus

5.1 *Drying Oven*—For determining the moisture of wood, an ordinary drying oven with openings for natural air circulation and capable of temperature regulation of $103 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$ shall be used.

5.2 *Open Containers*, nonporous glass, metal, or ceramic and of a configuration so as to accommodate the test sample. The minimum volume shall be 32.18 cm^3 (2 in.^3).

5.3 *Desiccator*, of sufficient size to contain the open container.

6. Procedure

6.1 Sampling:

6.1.1 *Place of Sampling*—Take the sample where the wood is being loaded into or unloaded from means of transportation or when discharged from storage bins or conveyors.

NOTE 1—Samples collected from the surface of piles are, in general, unreliable because of the exposure to the environment. If necessary, collect nine increments from a foot or more below the surface at nine points covering the pile.

6.1.2 Collection of Gross Sample:

6.1.2.1 Collect increments regularly, systematically, and with such frequency that the entire quantity of wood sampled will be represented proportionally in the gross sample.

6.1.2.2 The quantity of the sample shall be large enough to be representative but not less than 10 kg (22 lb).

6.1.2.3 Place the samples in an airtight container immediately after collection. Maintain the samples in the airtight container whenever possible to prevent gains or losses in moisture from the atmosphere.

6.1.3 Sample reduction may be done by two methods, a coning and dividing process, or by using a riffle. The operations of mixing, coning, and quartering are described in Practice D346.

6.1.3.1 Accomplish coning and dividing reduction by placing the gross sample on a sheet of rubber or oil cloth. Thoroughly mix it by raising first one corner of the cloth and