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Standard Test Method for Sieve Analysis of Petroleum Coke¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D5709; 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*Scope

1.1 This test method details a procedure for performing particle size distribution analysis by dry sieve testing on green petroleum coke with a topsize of no more than ~~75 mm~~ 75 mm and calcined petroleum coke with a topsize of no more than ~~25 mm~~ 25 mm. Size fractions go down to and include ~~4.75 mm~~ 4.75 mm for green petroleum coke and ~~75 μ m~~ 75 μ m for calcined petroleum coke.

NOTE 1—To convert units, see Table 1 on nominal dimensions in Specification E11. For example, ~~75 mm~~ 75 mm is approximately equivalent to a nominal sieve opening of ~~3 in.~~ and ~~25 mm~~ 3 in. and 25 mm to a nominal sieve opening of 1 in. Likewise, ~~4.75 mm~~ 4.75 mm can be converted to approximately ~~0.187 in.~~ and ~~75 microns~~ to 0.0029 in. 0.187 in. and 75 microns to 0.0029 in.

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

1.2.1 The sieve size is reported as U.S.A. standard test series in any units listed in Table 1 on nominal dimensions of Specification E11, or their commercial size equivalents.

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](#)

[D2234/D2234M Practice for Collection of a Gross Sample of Coal](#)

[D4057 Practice for Manual Sampling of Petroleum and Petroleum Products](#)

[D4749 Test Method for Performing the Sieve Analysis of Coal and Designating Coal Size](#)

[E11 Specification for Woven Wire Test Sieve Cloth and Test Sieves](#)

<https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/7d242c07-4090-4b0a-86da-4109e45d0b80/astm-d5709-092015>

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

3.1.1 *bulk sample, n*—the reduced and divided representative portion of the gross sample as prepared for shipment to and received by a laboratory, to be prepared for analysis.

3.1.2 *gross sample, n*—the original, uncrushed, representative portion taken from a shipment or lot of coke.

3.1.3 *lot, n*—a quantity of coke to be represented by a gross sample.

3.1.4 *representative sample, n*—a sample collected in such a manner that every particle in the lot to be sampled is equally represented in the gross sample.

3.1.5 *topsize, n*—the size of the smallest opening of one sieve of a series upon which is cumulatively retained a total of less than 5 % of the sample. This defined topsize is not to be confused with the size of the largest particle in a lot.

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 A representative coke sample is divided into ranges of particle size by the use of a series of square-holed sieves.

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D02 on Petroleum Products—Products, Liquid Fuels, and Lubricants and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D02.05 on Properties of Fuels, Petroleum Coke and Carbon Material.

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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

TABLE 1 Industry Typical Sieves

| Calcined Petroleum Coke | Green Petroleum Coke |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 25.0 mm | 25.0 mm |
| 19.0 mm | 12.5 mm |
| 12.5 mm | 4.75 mm |
| 4.75 mm | –4.75 mm |
| 3.35 mm | |
| 2.36 mm | |
| 1.18 mm | |
| 600 μm | |
| 300 μm | |
| 212 μm | |
| 150 μm | |
| 75 μm | |
| –75 μm | |

5. Significance and Use

5.1 The test method concerns the sieving of coke into designated size fractions for the purpose of characterizing the material as to its particle size distribution. It requires the use of standard sieves, standard sampling methods, standard sample preparation methods, and a minimum initial sample mass based on lot topsize. Suggestions are given for industry typical sieve stacks for both green and calcined petroleum coke.

5.2 Particle size distribution is significant in that many physical characteristics of a coke are related to such a distribution including bulk density and surface area. Nuisance characteristics, such as excessive fines in a lot, can also be controlled.

5.3 Results from this test method are useful in determining whether a coke lot meets purchase specifications, for classification purposes, and for quality control. The results of this test method can also be used to predict the performance of a particular lot of coke in a process.

6. Interferences

6.1 A sieve analysis is very sensitive to the sieve cloth and sieve cloth-frame integrity. Minor separations of the sieve cloth from the frame such as one broken sieve wire, and slight distortions of sieve wires, can cause serious inaccuracies in the final results of a sieve analysis.

6.2 Blinding of or a reduction in the number of openings in a sieve due to a collection of particles caught in the mesh can introduce errors.

6.3 Flooding or overloading of any sieve with particles reduces the probability of any given particle encountering an opening in the sieve.

7. Apparatus

7.1 Sieves:

7.1.1 Sieves will be used in a descending size opening sequence, larger mesh openings above smaller.

7.1.1.1 Typical sets of sieves to be used are listed in [Table 1](#).

NOTE 2—Sets of sieves are often modified. Typically, specifications on sets of sieves are negotiated between the buyer and the seller. The actual sequence used by the operator performing the analysis can vary. For example, intermediate sieves can be chosen to avoid sieve flooding and to make the sieving operation more efficient. Table 1 on nominal dimensions in Specification [E11](#) is to be used as a guide.

7.1.2 A topsize sieve shall be used.

7.1.3 Wire sieve cloth and frames used will conform to Specification [E11](#).

7.1.4 Wire composition and types of frames must be sized properly for potential sieving operations. Stainless steel sieve cloth is very resistant to distortion and preferred over softer metals.

7.1.5 Collecting pans and sieve covers designed to fit the sieves are required.

7.1.6 Check Specification [E11](#) for more details on standard sieves, service checks, and calibration.

7.2 Sieve Shaker:

7.2.1 Use a batch type sieve shaker.³

7.2.2 For sieving small quantities of coke or very fine coke (below 70 mesh), use a laboratory type sieving machine.⁴

³ The sole source of supply of the model number TS-1 Gilson Testing Screen machine known to the committee at this time is Gilson Company, Inc., P. O. Box 677, Worthington, OH 43085-0677. If you are aware of alternative suppliers, please provide this information to ASTM International Headquarters. Your comments will receive careful consideration at a meeting of the responsible technical committee,¹ which you may attend.

⁴ The sole source of supply of the Ro-Tap Testing Sieve Shaker known to the committee at this time is W. S. Tyler, Inc., 3200 Bessemer City Rd., P. O. Box 8900, Gastonia, NC 28053-9065. If you are aware of alternative suppliers, please provide this information to ASTM International Headquarters. Your comments will receive careful consideration at a meeting of the responsible technical committee,¹ which you may attend.

TABLE 2 Initial Minimum Test Sample Mass Requirements for Sieve Analysis

| Topsize | Type of Coke | Initial Sample Mass Requirement, g | Expected Relative Error, % |
|---------------------|----------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 75 mm | Green | 50,000 | 6 |
| 75 mm | Green | 50 000 | 6 |
| 50 mm | Green | 30,000 | 6 |
| 50 mm | Green | 30 000 | 6 |
| 25 mm | Green/Calcined | 1,500 | 3 |
| 25 mm | Green/Calcined | 1500 | 3 |
| 19 mm | Green/Calcined | 1,300 | 4 |
| 19 mm | Green/Calcined | 1300 | 4 |
| 12.5 mm | Green/Calcined | 1,000 | 4 |
| 12.5 mm | Green/Calcined | 1000 | 4 |
| 4.75 mm | Green/Calcined | 800 | 1 |
| 2.36 mm | Green/Calcined | 700 | 1 |
| 1.18 mm | Green/Calcined | 500 | 1 |
| 600 μm | Green/Calcined | 300 | 1 |
| 300 μm | Green/Calcined | 100 | 1 |
| 150 μm ^A | Green/Calcined | 50 | 1 |

^A For topsize less than 150 μm, 150 μm, use an initial sample mass requirement of 50 g-50 g.

8. Sample Preparation

8.1 A representative gross sample of the coke lot must be collected using appropriate procedures from Practice [D346](#), Test Methods [D2234/D2234M](#), or Practice [D4057](#). (**Warning**—The gross sample must not be crushed or reduced in topsize during the gross sample collection process or during subsequent divisions of the sample.)

8.2 The gross sample is divided into a smaller bulk sample following guidelines in Test Methods [D2234/D2234M](#). The bulk sample must remain representative including no loss in topsize. Keeping in mind the initial sample mass requirements (see [Table 2](#)), the bulk sample must be at least twice the largest minimum mass that you estimate will be required for the analysis.

8.3 Upon delivery of the bulk sample to the laboratory, the sample shall be stored in a safe, dry location. Prevent any size degradation, loss of mass, or contamination of the sample until needed for the sieve analysis.

8.4 Immediately prior to the sieve analysis, examine the bulk sample determining whether it is dry and free flowing. If not, use the air drying apparatus and drying procedure of Practice [D2013](#).

8.5 Determine the initial minimum test sample mass required for the analysis from [Table 2](#).

8.6 Reduce the bulk sample to the recommended minimum test sample mass required using the division methods outlined in Test Methods [D2234/D2234M](#) or [D4749](#).

9. Procedure

9.1 Accurately weigh the minimum test sample mass (see [8.6](#)) before sieving with a precision equal to or better than 0.5 % of the fraction being weighed. This mass is M_i (initial test sample mass).

9.2 Start with the sieve having the largest required opening.

9.3 All sieving is to be done using a batch type sieve shaker.

NOTE 3—It is recommended that coke 50 mm in diameter and larger be hand sieved by the methods outlined in Test Method [D4749](#) rather than attempting the use of a mechanical sieving device.

9.4 Clean sieves prior to each use following the method recommended by the sieve manufacturer. If this information is unavailable, thoroughly brush the sieves using an appropriate bristle or soft metal brush. Do not distort or damage sieves during this process.

9.5 Limit the portions of coke used for each sieving so that all coke particles will be in direct contact with the mesh at the completion of sieving on each successive sieve.

9.5.1 To determine the length of sieving time, refer to [Table 3](#) for an estimated starting point. Use a sample divider as described in Practice [D2013](#) to form four subsamples from a gross sample of a coke similar to that being tested. Sieve one of these for the time given as an appropriate starting point, a second for starting point plus ~~1 min~~, 1 min, a third for starting point plus ~~2 min~~, 2 min, and a fourth for starting point plus ~~3 min~~, 3 min. Tabulate the results of these tests by the percentages retained on each sieve (see Section [10.10](#)), and the length of sieving time required to stabilize the sieving result without particle size degradation should be readily apparent and can be established. If necessary, keep adding additional minutes until the percentages are stable.