INTERNATIONAL STANDARD ISO 3907

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Hardmetals — Determination of total carbon — Gravimetric method

Métaux-durs — Détermination du carbone total — Méthode gravimétrique

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FOREWORD

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Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for approval before their acceptance as International Standards by the ISO Council.

International Standard ISO 3907 was developed by Technical Committee ISO/TC 119, *Powder metallurgical materials and products*, and was circulated to the member bodies in September 1975.

It has been approved by the member bodies of the following countries :

Australia	Germany	Spain
Austria	Italy	Sweden
Brazil	Korea, Dem. P. Rep. of	Turkey
Canada	Mexico	United Kingdom
Czechoslovakia	Poland	U.S.A.
Egypt, Arab Rep. of	Portugal	U.S.S.R.
France	Romania	Yugoslavia

No member body expressed disapproval of the document.

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Hardmetals – Determination of total carbon – Gravimetric method

1 SCOPE

This International Standard specifies a gravimetric method for determination of the total carbon content of carbides and hardmetals.

2 FIELD OF APPLICATION

This method is applicable to

– carbides of chromium, hafnium, molybdenum, niobium, tantalum, titanium, vanadium, tungsten and zirconium,

– mixtures of these carbides and binder metals, free of lubricant,

– all grades of presintered or sintered hardmetals, produced from these carbides,

having a total carbon content exceeding 4 % (*m/m*).

3 PRINCIPLE

Oxidation of carbon to carbon dioxide at high temperature in a stream of pure oxygen, with the addition of a flux if necessary.

Absorption of the carbon dioxide, carried by oxygen, by soda-asbestos in a tared bulb. Determination of the increase in mass of the soda-asbestos, which corresponds to the quantity of carbon dioxide formed.

$$C + O_2 \rightarrow CO_2$$

$$2NaOH + CO_2 \rightarrow Na_2CO_3 + H_2O$$

4 REAGENTS

During the analysis, use only reagents of recognized analytical grade, and only distilled water or water of equivalent purity.

4.1 Oxygen, of at least 99 % purity.

4.2 Magnesium perchlorate, anhydrous.

CAUTION – To prevent any possibility of explosion, contact of this reagent with organic materials should be avoided, especially when discarding it.

4.3 Flux, for example tin metal, copper metal or oxide, iron metal.

4.4 Soda-asbestos : asbestos in granules of about 2 mm diameter, impregnated with sodium hydroxide solution. As far as possible, avoid contact with air.

5 APPARATUS

Ordinary laboratory apparatus and

5.1 Apparatus consisting of a source of oxygen and a unit for purifying it, an electric furnace with a combustion tube, a purification train and a system to absorb carbon dioxide.

Successive parts of the apparatus shall be joined together with connecting tubes forming an airtight seal.

The apparatus is shown schematically in figure 1.

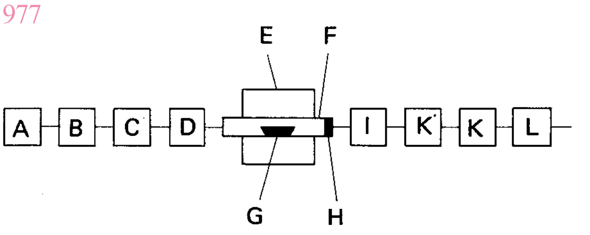

FIGURE 1

A – **Source of oxygen** (4.1), with pressure-regulating valve.

B – **Flow meter.**

C – **Electric furnace** with non-porous porcelain combustion tube containing platinized asbestos, the temperature of which is maintained at approximately 625 °C.

D – **Unit to dry and purify the oxygen** (4.1), containing anhydrous magnesium perchlorate (4.2) and soda-asbestos (4.4), separated with glass wool or silica wool. The diameter of the unit should be 25 mm and the length 100 mm approximately.

E – **Electric furnace** capable of operation at up to 1 350 °C, with a suitable device for temperature control.

F – **Combustion tube** made of a non-porous refractory material. The internal diameter of the tube should be 18 to 30 mm and its length at least 650 mm, so that the ends of the tube do not reach a temperature higher than 60 °C during the operation.

G — Boat made of a refractory material, pretreated in an oxygen stream at the test temperature for 10 min, or alternatively at 800 to 1 000 °C for 1 h.

The boat shall be of suitable dimensions, for example length 80 to 100 mm, width 12 to 14 mm and depth 8 to 9 mm.

The pretreated boats shall be kept in a desiccator. The ground surfaces of the desiccator and its lid shall not be greased.

H — Plug of silica wool or calcined asbestos wool.

I — Drying bulb containing anhydrous magnesium perchlorate (4.2).

K — Absorption bulbs containing soda-asbestos (4.4) and a small amount of anhydrous magnesium perchlorate (4.2).

An example of an absorption bulb is shown in figure 2.

L — Absorption bulb facing the opposite way to K.

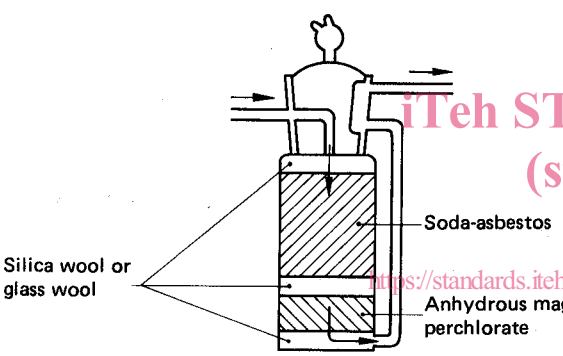

FIGURE 2

5.2 Hook made from heat-resisting metal wire with a carbon content less than 0,05 %. Its diameter should be approximately 3 mm and its length 500 to 600 mm.

6 SAMPLING

6.1 The sample shall be crushed to a powder in a mortar made of a material which does not alter the sample composition. The powder shall pass a 0,18 mm sieve.

6.2 The analysis shall be carried out on two or three test portions.

7 PROCEDURE

Check the temperature in the combustion zone (1 200 to 1 350 °C, and not less than 1 300 °C, if chromium carbide is present), the gas-tightness of the apparatus and the efficiency of the oxygen purification. Pass oxygen through the apparatus for 10 to 15 min at a rate of 300 to 500 cm³ per minute depending on the diameter of the tube used.

Then disconnect the absorption bulbs (K), weigh them at ambient temperature and replace them in position.

7.1 Test portion

The mass of the test portion (m_0) shall be such that it contains approximately 0,03 g of carbon, and shall be determined to the nearest 0,000 1 g.

If necessary, add to the test portion 0,2 to 1 g of flux (4.3).

7.2 Blank test

Carry out the blank test by combustion (proceed as outlined in 7.3 and 7.4) in the presence of the quantity of flux used in the analysis, and carefully determine the increase in mass (m_1) of the absorption bulbs.

7.3 Combustion

Open the combustion tube at the oxygen inlet end and, using the hook (5.2), place the boat containing the test portion in the centre of the heated zone of the tube. Quickly close the tube and immediately pass a stream of oxygen at a rate of 300 to 500 cm³ per minute, depending on the diameter of the tube used. Continue to pass oxygen for 10 to 20 min so that the carbon dioxide is completely removed from the combustion tube and the purifying bulb.

7.4 Determination

Close the taps of the absorption bulbs (K) and immediately remove the bulbs from the apparatus. When they are at ambient temperature, open and then rapidly close the taps to equalize the pressure and then weigh the bulbs to the nearest 0,000 1 g. It is recommended that the fused mass in the boat be visually examined to verify that combustion has been completed. The increase in mass represents the carbon dioxide absorbed (m_2).

8 EXPRESSION OF RESULTS

8.1 Calculation

The carbon content, expressed as a percentage by mass, is given by the formula

$$27{,}29\frac{m_2 - m_1}{m_0}$$

where

m_0 is the mass, in grams, of the test portion;

m_1 is the mass, in grams, of carbon dioxide obtained from the blank test;

m_2 is the mass, in grams, of the carbon dioxide obtained from the combustion of the test portion;

27,29 is the carbon dioxide to carbon conversion factor, multiplied by 100.

8.2 Tolerances

The deviation between two or three independent determinations shall not exceed the values shown in the table.

Total carbon content %	Range for two determinations %	Range for three determinations %
from 4 to 10	0,05	0,06
over 10	0,07	0,08

8.3 Final result

Report the arithmetical mean of acceptable determinations rounded to the nearest 0,01 %.

9 TEST REPORT

The test report shall include the following information :

a) reference to this International Standard;

b) all details necessary for identification of the test sample;

c) the result obtained;

d) all operations not specified in this International Standard, or regarded as optional;

e) details of any occurrence which may have affected the result.