



Designation: ~~D4179–11~~ **D4179 – 11 (Reapproved 2017)**

Standard Test Method for Single Pellet Crush Strength of Formed Catalysts and Catalyst Carriers¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D4179; 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 determining the resistance of formed catalysts and catalyst carriers to compressive force and is applicable to regular catalyst shapes such as tablets and spheres. Extrudates, granular materials, and other irregular shapes are specifically excluded.

1.2 This test method determines the average crush strength in the range from 0 to 50 lbf (0 to 220 N). Some materials may have crush strengths above 50 lbf (220N); the test method is applicable to these materials, but the precision of the test is not known.

1.3 The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as standard. The values given in parentheses are mathematical conversions to SI units that are provided for information only and are not considered 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, health, and environmental practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

1.5 *This international standard was developed in accordance with internationally recognized principles on standardization established in the Decision on Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations issued by the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

E177 Practice for Use of the Terms Precision and Bias in ASTM Test Methods

E456 Terminology Relating to Quality and Statistics

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 *pellets*—any catalyst shape—tablets, spheres, or other similar configuration—that is not otherwise excluded from the scope of this test method.

3.1.2 *tablets*—tableted cylindrical catalyst particles, either solid or hollow core, with lengths that do not vary from the mean by more than $\pm 10\%$.

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 Individual pellets taken from a representative sample are placed between two flat surfaces, subjected to a compressive load, and the force required to crush the pellet is measured. The procedure is replicated and the average of all measurements taken is determined.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 This test method is intended to provide information concerning the ability of a catalyst shape to retain physical integrity during use.

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D32 on Catalysts and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D32.02 on Physical-Mechanical Properties.

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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.

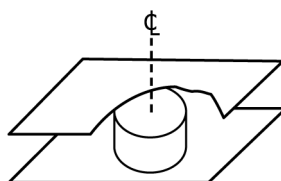
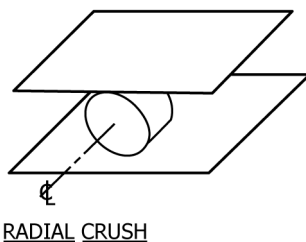


FIG. 1 Radial and Axial Crush

6. Apparatus

6.1 A suitable compression testing device is required, consisting of the following:

6.1.1 *Calibrated Gauge*, marked for direct reading of the force in pounds (newtons). Additionally, a suitable system (mechanical, hydraulic, or pneumatic) must be provided so that the rate of force application is both uniform and controllable within specified limits.

6.1.2 *Tool Steel Anvils*, between which the sample will be crushed. The faces of the tool steel anvils shall be smooth and free from recesses or ridges that would interfere with uniform contact along the major axis of the pellet. When testing tablets or spheres, the anvils may be of any convenient size or shape as long as their length and width are greater than the corresponding dimensions of the tablet or pellet being tested (see Fig. 1).

7. Sampling

7.1 A test sample of 50 to 200 individual pieces shall be obtained from larger composites by riffing or splitting in accordance with STP 447A,³ (paragraph 5.12) with the aim of obtaining a representative sample that represents shape and size distribution of the larger composite. The size of the sample shall depend on the precision required and the homogeneity of the material being tested.

7.2 Pretreat the test sample(s) at $400 \pm 15^\circ\text{C}$ for not less than 3 h. Normally, this treatment can take place in air; however, in the case of materials that might react with air at elevated temperatures (such as prereduced catalysts) the heat treatment should take place in an inert atmosphere. Care should be taken to ensure that the pretreatment does not alter the inherent strength or structure of the sample as evidenced by changes in surface area or phase. Any modifications to pretreatment conditions should be noted in the report.

7.3 After heating, cool the test sample(s) in a desiccator or other suitable container to eliminate the possibility of moisture adsorption prior to testing.

NOTE 1—Since many catalyst formulations are strong adsorbents, the use of 4A indicating (cobalt-treated) molecular sieves as a desiccating medium is suggested. Regenerate the desiccant at 220 to 260°C, as required.

8. Calibration and Standardization

8.1 Prior to use, set the test apparatus to zero and calibrate with any commercially available force gauge with marked graduations of no more than ½ lbf (2 N) and having accuracy traceable to the National Institute of Standards and Technology, or other similar authority.

9. Procedure

9.1 Remove from the desiccator only that number of pellets that can be tested within a 10-min period. (**Warning**—Ensure that moisture pick-up in the 10-min period will not significantly affect the pellet crush strength.)

³ STP 447A, *Manual on Test Sieving Methods*, ASTM International, West Conshohocken, PA 19428.