



Designation: D6316 – 17

Standard Test Method for Determination of Total, Combustible and Carbonate Carbon in Solid Residues from Coal and Coke¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D6316; 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 total, combustible, and carbonate carbon remaining in the solid byproducts of combustion from boiler furnaces and similar reactors, including ash, flyash, char, slag, and similar materials.

1.2 This test method is intended for the use of industry to determine the performance of boiler furnaces and similar combustion reactors and aid in determining the quality of the solid residue from combustion.

1.3 This test method comprises the use of any of several methods to determine total carbon content combined with any of several methods to determine carbonate carbon, and the calculation, by difference, of the combustible carbon remaining in a sample.

1.4 Alternatively, this test method applies to the determination of total carbon remaining in a material after acidification with strong acid to evolve carbonate carbon. In this case, the combustible carbon is the total carbon measured in the sample after acidification.

1.5 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as standard. Non-SI units, if provided, are for information only and are contained within parentheses.

1.6 *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 to determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

1.7 *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.*

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D05 on Coal and Coke and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D05.29 on Major Elements in Ash and Trace Elements of Coal.

Current edition approved Dec. 1, 2017. Published December 2017. Originally approved in 1998. Last previous edition approved in 2009 as D6316 - 09b^ε. DOI: 10.1520/D6316-17.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

D121 Terminology of Coal and Coke

D513 Test Methods for Total and Dissolved Carbon Dioxide in Water

D1756 Test Method for Determination as Carbon Dioxide of Carbonate Carbon in Coal (Withdrawn 2013)³

D3178 Test Methods for Carbon and Hydrogen in the Analysis Sample of Coal and Coke (Withdrawn 2007)³

D3180 Practice for Calculating Coal and Coke Analyses from As-Determined to Different Bases

D5373 Test Methods for Determination of Carbon, Hydrogen and Nitrogen in Analysis Samples of Coal and Carbon in Analysis Samples of Coal and Coke

E691 Practice for Conducting an Interlaboratory Study to Determine the Precision of a Test Method

2.2 Other Standards:

ANSI/ASME Standard, PTC 38-1980 Determining the Concentration of Particulate Matter in A Gas Stream and US EPA Standard CFR 60 Appendix A, Method 17⁴

ISO 5725-6:0994 Accuracy of Measurement Methods and Results—Part 6: Use in Practice of Accuracy Values

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions:

3.1.1 For definitions of terms used in this test method, refer to Terminology D121.

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 *Total Carbon*—The determination of total carbon is made by the oxidative thermal decomposition of a weighed quantity of sample in a closed system and, after complete oxidation and purification of the resulting gaseous products, measurement of the carbon dioxide produced by one of several methods.

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.

³ The last approved version of this historical standard is referenced on www.astm.org.

⁴ Available from American National Standards Institute (ANSI), 25 W. 43rd St., 4th Floor, New York, NY 10036, http://www.ansi.org.

4.1.1 *Absorptive Determination of Total Carbon*—The evolved carbon dioxide is fixed on an absorption train and is measured quantitatively by weighing the absorbent (see Test Methods **D3178**).

4.1.2 *Instrumental Determination of Total Carbon*—The carbon dioxide is measured quantitatively by an electronic detection system calibrated against an appropriate reference standard (see Test Methods **D5373**).

4.2 *Carbonate Carbon*—The determination of carbonate carbon is made by decomposing a weighed quantity of the sample with a dilute mineral acid, and after the purification of the evolved gases, measuring quantitatively the evolved carbon dioxide.

4.2.1 *Absorptive Determination of Carbonate Carbon*—The carbon dioxide is liberated by acidification and heating. The evolved gases are passed through a purification train and the CO₂ is fixed as Na₂CO₃ on a preweighed absorption unit and is measured gravimetrically (see Test Method **D1756**).

4.2.2 *Coulometric Determination of Carbonate Carbon*—The carbon dioxide is liberated by acidification and heating. The evolved gas is swept through a scrubber and into an absorption cell where it is coulometrically titrated (see Part B of Test Methods **D513**).

4.2.3 *Instrumental Determination of Carbonate Carbon*—The carbon dioxide is liberated by acidification and heating. The evolved gases are purified and measured quantitatively by an electronic detection system against an appropriate reference stream. This test method resembles that for the instrumental determination of total carbon, with the provision for sample combustion replaced by a provision for acidification. In practice, this test method uses an adaptation to instruments designed to measure total carbon content.

4.3 *Combustible Carbon by Prior Acidification*—The determination of combustible carbon is made directly by first acidifying and heating to dryness a weighed sample. All carbonate carbon present is evolved as carbon dioxide. The dried sample is then analyzed for total carbon content as above. No determination of carbonate carbon is made and the carbon content measured as total carbon is the combustible carbon.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 The combustible carbon content of solid residues is used to calculate efficiency of fuel combustion in boiler furnaces and similar combustors.

5.2 Combustible carbon values are also used to determine the residual fuel value of incompletely combusted/reacted coal and coke in other reactors that consume carbonaceous fuels (examples include fluidized bed furnaces and liquefaction, gasification and pyrolysis reactors).

5.3 The combustible carbon content of flyash is an important parameter in the use of flyash as a cement additive.

6. Interferences

6.1 The interferences for the determination of total carbon content are those specified in the referenced standard methods, Test Methods **D3178** and Test Methods **D5373**, with the following added stipulation.

6.1.1 The temperature and conditions of combustion that ensure complete conversion of a residue sample's total carbon content to carbon dioxide may be different than those required for conversion in coal samples. It is absolutely imperative that the instrumental conditions used will ensure complete conversion of mineral carbonate in any amount or form.

6.2 The interferences for the determination of carbonate carbon are those specified in the referenced methods, Test Method **D1756** and Part B of Test Methods **D513** with the following stipulation

6.2.1 Some coal combustion residues contain significant amounts of reactive elements such as CaO which will absorb carbon dioxide on exposure to open air and form mineral carbonates. This absorption will influence the calculated amount of combustible carbon in the sample only if there was carbon dioxide chemisorption from the air between the time of the carbonate determination and the total carbon determination. Therefore, it is necessary that the sample be protected from air exposure.

6.3 The mineral acid and temperature required for prior acidification of the analytical sample shall not interfere with the amount of combustible carbon present in the sample or the analytical determination of carbon. The use of oxidizing acids such as concentrated nitric acid may oxidize a portion of the combustible carbon. Other acids such as hydrochloric acid may be incompatible with the reagents used to purify the gas stream in the instrumental determination of carbon. Sulfuric acid has a relatively high boiling point and is difficult to remove from the sample by drying. A solution of 10 % nitric acid is suggested for use in this procedure.

7. Apparatus

7.1 The apparatus used is specified in the respective referenced method.

7.2 Total Carbon Content:

7.2.1 *Absorptive Determination of Total Carbon*—The apparatus consists of an oxygen-purifying train, combustion unit, and absorption train of the type and configuration specified in Test Methods **D3178**.

7.2.2 *Instrumental Determination of Total Carbon*—Because a variety of instrumental components and configurations can be used satisfactorily for these test methods, no specifications are presented here with respect to overall system design. However, the apparatus shall be capable of completely converting the carbon content to carbon dioxide, and the detection system shall determine the carbon dioxide individually and without interference.

7.3 Carbonate Carbon Content:

7.3.1 *Absorptive Determination of Carbonate Carbon*—The apparatus shall consist of an air purifying train, reaction unit, and absorption unit of the type and configuration specified in Test Method **D1756**.

7.3.2 *Coulometric Determination of Carbonate Carbon*—The apparatus shall consist of an evolution unit, a carbon dioxide coulometer, scrubber, and pH meter of the type and configuration specified in Part B of Test Methods **D513**.

7.3.3 Instrumental Determination of Carbonate Carbon—The apparatus shall consist of a heated acidification unit that is installed by bypassing the combustion system in a device designed for the determination of total carbon content. The gas-purifying system of such instrument shall be capable of completely removing the water content and acid gases produced as byproducts of the carbon dioxide evolution. The detection system shall measure the evolved carbon dioxide as an individual species and without interference.

7.4 Combustible Carbon by Prior Acidification—The crucibles used for this method must be free of carbonate, inert to the mineral acid used, and compatible with the instrument used for measuring total carbon. The acidified sample is heated to dryness using a laboratory hotplate capable of maintaining the fine temperature control required to dry the sample without material loss of sample as a result of spattering or boilover. The instrument used shall meet the requirements of Test Methods **D5373** and be capable of removing the additional acid gases that result from the mineral acid used for evolving the carbon dioxide before determining carbon content.

8. Reagents

8.1 Purity of Reagents—Reagent grade chemicals shall be used in all tests. Unless otherwise indicated, it is intended that all reagents shall conform to the specifications of the Committee on Analytical Reagents of the American Chemical Society, where such specifications are available.⁵ Other grades may be used, provided it is first ascertained that the reagent is of sufficiently high purity to permit its use without lessening the accuracy of the determination.

9. Standards

9.1 There are currently no standard reference materials of coal or coke residues that are certified for combustible carbon or carbonate carbon content. However, other types of standard materials can be used for both method validation and instrument calibration. These include:

9.1.1 Buffalo River Sediment (NIST RM 8704)—Total carbon = 3.351 ± 0.017 %.

9.1.2 Carbonate Primary Standard Grade—For example, CaCO_3 total carbonate carbon = nominally 12 %.

9.1.3 Coal—Trace Elements in Coal Bituminous (NIST 1632d) total carbon = 76.88 ± 0.15 %.

NOTE 1—NIST SRM 1632d is scheduled to be replaced by SRM 1632e in 2018.

9.1.4 EDTA Primary Standard Grade—Total carbon = nominally 41 %.

10. Sample Preparation

10.1 Analysis samples are intended to originate by collection according to appropriate standard industry practice suit-

able for the intended purpose. In the case of combustion boilers, it may be necessary to collect bottom ash, fly ash, and slag samples for analysis. The type and location of sample collection therefore depends on the ultimate use of the data and the current industry practice. In the special case of calculating combustor efficiency, the standard industry sampling practice is prescribed in ANSI ASME PTC 38-1980 or EPA CRF 60 Appendix A, Method 17, or both.

10.2 If moist or wet, the combustion residue sample will be predried at $107 \text{ }^\circ\text{C} \pm 3 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$. Drying time should be the minimum required to ensure complete dryness of the sample to minimize absorption of carbon dioxide from the air (see **6.2.1**).

10.3 Prepare the analysis sample in accordance with Practice D2013, taking note of any additional preparation requirements in the respective reference methods, by pulverizing the material to pass a $250 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$ (No. 60 U.S. standard) sieve. If required by the characteristics of the instrument system or analytical precision of the resulting data or both, crush the analysis sample to pass a $75 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$ (No. 200 U.S. standard) sieve.

10.4 Thorough mixing of the sample must be maintained throughout the preparation stages to prevent separation between the high and low carbon fractions.

11. Instrument Preparation and Verification

11.1 The preparation of equipment and instruments is specified in the respective referenced methods and the manufacturer's instructions.

11.2 The proper functioning of the equipment and the operational parameters should be verified by analyzing blanks and standard materials that contain carbonate carbon and combustible carbon.

11.2.1 The proper combustion temperature and conditions necessary to convert the carbonate carbon to carbon dioxide may be determined by measuring the carbon content of a carbonate standard. Measured carbon values of less than the certified value indicate incomplete conversion of carbonates.

11.2.2 Combustion accelerants such as magnesium powder, thermite (aluminum powder and iron oxide), and tin powder can be used to ensure the total conversion of carbonates to carbon dioxide by significantly raising the reaction temperature during combustion.

12. Procedure

12.1 Calibrate the instruments using the methods described in the referenced methods.

12.1.1 The calibration range for these measurements should be in the range of expected carbon values for the analytical samples.

12.2 Determine the total carbon content of the sample material by any of the referenced methods.

12.3 Determine the carbonate carbon content of the sample material by any of the referenced methods, or

12.4 Combustible Carbon by Prior Acidification—Tare a crucible appropriate to the carbon analyzer used to the nearest 0.1 mg (See **Note 2**). Weigh a 100 to 500 mg portion of the analysis sample to the nearest 0.1 mg. Add a sufficient amount

⁵ *Reagent Chemicals, American Chemical Society Specifications*, American Chemical Society, Washington, DC. For suggestions on the testing of reagents not listed by the American Chemical Society, see *Analar Standards for Laboratory Chemicals*, BDH Ltd., Pool, Dorset, U.K., and the *United States Pharmacopoeia and National Formulary*, U.S. Pharmacopoeial Convention, Inc. (USPC), Rockville, MD.