



# Standard Test Method for Laboratory Evaluation of Magnesium Sacrificial Anode Test Specimens for Underground Applications<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation G 97; 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 ( $\epsilon$ ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

## 1. Scope

1.1 This test method describes a laboratory procedure that measures the two fundamental performance properties of magnesium sacrificial anode test specimens operating in a saturated calcium sulfate, saturated magnesium hydroxide environment. The two fundamental properties are electrode (oxidation potential) and ampere hours (Ah) obtained per unit mass of specimen consumed. Magnesium anodes installed underground are usually surrounded by a backfill material that typically consists of 75 % gypsum ( $\text{CaSO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ), 20 % bentonite clay, and 5 % sodium sulfate ( $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ ). The calcium sulfate, magnesium hydroxide test electrolyte simulates the long term environment around an anode installed in the gypsum-bentonite-sodium sulfate backfill.

1.2 This test method is intended to be used for quality assurance by anode manufacturers or anode users. However, long term field performance properties may not be identical to property measurements obtained using this laboratory test.

NOTE 1—Refer to Terminology G 15 for terms used in this test method.

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.* For specific precautions, See Section 7 and Paragraph 8.1.1.

## 2. Referenced Documents

### 2.1 ASTM Standards:

- D 1193 Specification for Reagent Water<sup>2</sup>
- G 3 Practice for Conventions Applicable to Electrochemical Measurements in Corrosion Testing<sup>3</sup>
- G 15 Terminology Relating to Corrosion and Corrosion Testing<sup>3</sup>
- G 16 Guide for Applying Statistics to Analysis of Corrosion Data<sup>3</sup>

### 2.2 American National Standard:

<sup>1</sup> This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee G-1 on Corrosion of Metals, and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee G01.10 on Soils.

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<sup>2</sup> Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 11.01.

<sup>3</sup> Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 03.02.

ANSI/NFPA 480 Storage, Handling, and Processing of Magnesium, 1987 Edition<sup>4</sup>

## 3. Summary of Test Method

3.1 A known direct current is passed through test cells connected in series. Each test cell consists of a pre-weighed test magnesium alloy anode specimen, a steel pot container cathode, and a known electrolyte. Test specimen oxidation potential is measured several times during the 14-day test and 1 h after the current is turned off at the end of the test. The total Ah passed through the cells are measured. At the conclusion of the test, each test specimen is cleaned and weighed. The Ah obtained per unit mass of specimen lost is calculated.

## 4. Significance and Use

4.1 This test is a guide for evaluating magnesium anodes. The degree of correlation between this test and service performance has not been fully determined.

## 5. Apparatus

- 5.1 The basic test equipment consists of the following:
  - 5.1.1 *Direct Current Power Source*, (optional), capable of delivering at least 2 mA and 12 V.
  - 5.1.2 *Steel Cathode Test Pot*, as shown in Fig. 1.
  - 5.1.3 *Copper Coulometer*, as shown in Fig. 2, or *Electronic Coulometer*.
  - 5.1.4 *Saturated Calomel Reference Electrode*.
  - 5.1.5 *Electrometer*, with an input impedance of  $10^7$  or greater ohms.
  - 5.1.6 *Balance*, 100-g capacity with 0.1 mg sensitivity.
  - 5.1.7 *Drying Oven*, with temperature capability of 110°C or higher.

## 6. Reagents

6.1 *Test Electrolyte, Saturated Calcium Sulfate-Magnesium Hydroxide Solution*—Add 5.0 g of reagent grade  $\text{CaSO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , 0.1 g of reagent grade  $\text{Mg}(\text{OH})_2$ , to 1000 mL of Type IV or better reagent grade water (see Specification D 1193).

6.2 *Coulometer Solution*—Add 235 g of reagent grade  $\text{CuSO}_4 \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , 27 mL 98 %  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$ , 50 cm<sup>3</sup> undenatured ethyl alcohol to 900 mL of Type IV or better reagent grade water.

<sup>4</sup> Available from National Fire Protection Association, Inc., Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02269.