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**Iron ore pellets for shaft  
direct-reduction feedstocks —  
Determination of the clustering index**

*Boulettes de minerais de fer pour charges utilisées dans les procédés  
par réduction directe — Détermination du pouvoir collant*

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# Contents

Page

<b>Foreword</b> .....	<b>iv</b>
<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>v</b>
<b>1 Scope</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>2 Normative references</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>3 Terms and definitions</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>4 Principle</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>5 Sampling, sample preparation, and preparation of test portions</b> .....	<b>1</b>
5.1 Sampling and sample preparation.....	1
5.2 Preparation of test portion.....	2
<b>6 Apparatus</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>7 Test conditions</b> .....	<b>3</b>
7.1 General.....	3
7.2 Reducing gas.....	3
7.2.1 Composition.....	3
7.2.2 Purity.....	4
7.2.3 Flow rate.....	4
7.3 Heating and cooling gas.....	4
7.4 Temperature of the test portion.....	4
7.5 Loading of the test portion.....	4
<b>8 Procedure</b> .....	<b>4</b>
8.1 Number of determinations for the test.....	4
8.2 Chemical analysis.....	4
8.3 Reduction.....	4
8.4 Disaggregation.....	5
<b>9 Expression of results</b> .....	<b>6</b>
9.1 Calculation of the clustering index (CI).....	6
9.2 Repeatability and acceptance of test results.....	6
<b>10 Test report</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>11 Verification</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>Annex A (normative) Flowsheet of the procedure for the acceptance of test results</b> .....	<b>11</b>
<b>Annex B (informative) Example of a calculation of the clustering index</b> .....	<b>12</b>

## Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see [www.iso.org/directives](http://www.iso.org/directives)).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see [www.iso.org/patents](http://www.iso.org/patents)).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation on the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the WTO principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: [Foreword - Supplementary information](#)

The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 102, *Iron ore and direct reduced iron*, Subcommittee SC 3, *Physical testing*.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 11256:2007), of which it constitutes a minor revision to contemplate the outcomes of the studies on mass definition and minor editorial improvements.

## Introduction

This International Standard concerns one of a number of physical test methods that have been developed to measure various physical parameters and to evaluate the behaviour of iron ores including reducibility, disintegration, crushing strength, apparent density, etc. This method was developed to provide a uniform procedure, validated by collaborative testing, to facilitate comparisons of tests made in different laboratories.

The results of this test have to be considered in conjunction with other tests used to evaluate the quality of iron ores as feedstocks for direct reduction processes.

This International Standard can be used to provide test results as part of a production quality control system, as a basis of a contract, or as part of a research project.

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# Iron ore pellets for shaft direct-reduction feedstocks — Determination of the clustering index

**CAUTION** — This International Standard may involve hazardous operations and equipment. This International Standard does not purport to address all of the safety issues associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this International Standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to its use.

## 1 Scope

This International Standard specifies a method to provide a relative measure for evaluating the formation of clusters of iron ore pellets when reduced under conditions resembling those prevailing in shaft direct-reduction processes.

This International Standard is applicable to hot-bonded pellets.

## 2 Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 2597-1, *Iron ores — Determination of total iron content — Part 1: Titrimetric method after tin(II) chloride reduction*

ISO 2597-2, *Iron ores — Determination of total iron content — Part 2: Titrimetric methods after titanium(III) chloride reduction*

ISO 3082, *Iron ores — Sampling and sample preparation procedures*

ISO 9035, *Iron ores — Determination of acid-soluble iron(II) content — Titrimetric method*

ISO 11323, *Iron ore and direct reduced iron — Vocabulary*

## 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 11323 apply.

## 4 Principle

The test portion is isothermally reduced in a fixed bed at 850 °C under static load using a reducing gas consisting of H<sub>2</sub>, CO, CO<sub>2</sub>, and N<sub>2</sub> until a degree of reduction of 95 % is obtained. The reduced test portion (cluster) is disaggregated by tumbling using a specific tumble drum. The clustering index is calculated as the mass of clustered material accumulated after specified disaggregation operations.

## 5 Sampling, sample preparation, and preparation of test portions

### 5.1 Sampling and sample preparation

Sampling of a lot and preparation of a test sample shall be in accordance with ISO 3082.

The size range for pellets shall be 50 % - 16,0 mm + 12,5 mm and 50 % - 12,5 mm + 10,0 mm.