



Designation: E2050 – 99 (Reapproved 2004)

Standard Test Method for Determination of Total Carbon in Mold Powders by Combustion-Infrared Absorption Method¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation E2050; 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 carbon in mold powders in the concentration range from 1 to 25 %.

1.2 *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.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*²

E29 Practice for Using Significant Digits in Test Data to Determine Conformance with Specifications

E50 Practices for Apparatus, Reagents, and Safety Considerations for Chemical Analysis of Metals, Ores, and Related Materials

E135 Terminology Relating to Analytical Chemistry for Metals, Ores, and Related Materials

E882 Guide for Accountability and Quality Control in the Chemical Analysis Laboratory

E1019 Test Methods for Determination of Carbon, Sulfur, Nitrogen, and Oxygen in Steel, Iron, Nickel, and Cobalt Alloys by Various Combustion and Fusion Techniques

E1601 Practice for Conducting an Interlaboratory Study to Evaluate the Performance of an Analytical Method

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee E01 on Analytical Chemistry for Metals, Ores, and Related Materials and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee E01.02 on Ores, Concentrates, and Related Metallurgical Materials.

Current edition approved May 1, 2004. Published July 2004. Originally approved in 1999. Last previous edition approved in 1999 as E2050 – 99. DOI: 10.1520/E2050-99R04.

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.

E1763 Guide for Interpretation and Use of Results from Interlaboratory Testing of Chemical Analysis Methods

3. Terminology

3.1 For definitions of terms used in this test method, refer to Terminology E135.

3.2 *Definitions:*

3.2.1 *mold powder, n*—in the continuous-casting of steel, a metallurgical flux used to provide lubrication of the mold, enhance heat transfer at the strand-mold interface, and provide thermal insulation of the liquid metal surface to prevent unwanted solidification.

3.2.1.1 *Discussion*—Key chemical components of these powders are fluorides, the oxides of silicon and calcium, and carbon.

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 Carbon in the test sample is converted in a furnace to a mixture of carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide by combustion in a stream of oxygen. Full conversion of carbon monoxide to carbon dioxide occurs by the passage of sample gases through a catalytic heater assembly. The amount of carbon dioxide is measured by infrared absorption. Any interference from halogens in the sample is eliminated by placement of a halogen trap between the furnace and the analyzer.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 This test method for the determination of total carbon in mold powders is primarily intended to test such materials for compliance with compositional specifications. It is assumed that all who use this test method will be trained analysts capable of performing common laboratory procedures skillfully and safely. It is expected that the work will be performed in a properly equipped laboratory and that proper waste disposal procedures will be followed. Appropriate quality control practices must be followed such as those described in Guide E882.

TABLE 1 Statistical Information, Carbon Combustion/Infrared Method

Test Material	Number of Laboratories	Carbon Found, %	Minimum SD (S_M , E1601)	Reproducibility SD, (S_g , E1601)	Reproducibility Index (R , E1601)	$R_{rel}\%$
B	7	1.2046	0.00601	0.02960	0.08288	6.88
A	7	3.1219	0.01269	0.04843	0.13559	4.34
C	7	6.5514	0.04774	0.09215	0.25803	3.94
D	7	10.5121	0.05788	0.10579	0.29620	2.82
E	7	15.1121	0.04964	0.14730	0.41244	2.73
F	7	19.7121	0.11949	0.25294	0.70824	3.59
G	7	29.4250	0.38830	0.60179	1.6850	5.73

6. Rounding Calculated Values

6.1 Calculated values shall be rounded in accordance with 3.4 to 3.6 of Practice E29.

7. Interlaboratory Studies

7.1 This test method has been evaluated in accordance with Practice E1601 and Guide E1763. The lower limit in the scope of this test method specifies the lowest analyte content that may be analyzed with an acceptable error.

8. Interferences

8.1 Halogens, normally present in mold powders as fluoride, will interfere with this test method. A halogen trap, as described in 9.4, must be installed in the measure line between the furnace and analyzer to prevent this interference.

9. Apparatus

9.1 *Combustion-Infrared Absorption Carbon Analyzer*, equipped with a combustion chamber, oxygen carrier stream, halogen trap, catalytic heater assembly, and infrared absorption detector, suitable for the analysis of carbon from 1 to 25 % in mold powders. Instruments, such as those in Test Methods E1019, which can be shown to give equivalent results may also be used for this test method.

9.2 *Crucibles*—Use ceramic crucibles that meet or exceed the specifications of those recommended by the manufacturer of the instrument.

9.3 *Crucible Tongs*, capable of handling recommended crucibles.

9.4 *Halogen (Fluorine/Chlorine) Trap*³, available from the instrument manufacturer as a kit, consisting of the parts and necessary reagents for assembly. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for the assembly, installation, use, and proper maintenance of the trap.

9.5 *Metal Scoop*, for dispensing metal chips.

10. Reagents and Materials

10.1 *Iron Chip*, high purity (−6 to +20 mesh).

10.2 *Oxygen*, 99.5 % purity recommended. Other grades of oxygen may be used if low and consistent blank readings are obtained.

10.3 *Tungsten/Tin Accelerator*, high purity.

NOTE 1—Copper chip accelerator (−20 to +30 mesh) may be used in place of Tungsten/Tin.

³ Fluorine/Chlorine Trap Kit, Part Number 769-641, available from the LECO Corp., 820 Commonwealth Drive, Thornhill Industrial Part, Warrendale, PA 15086, has been found satisfactory for this purpose.

11. Hazards

11.1 For precautions to be observed in the use of reagents and apparatus in this method, refer to Practices E50 and Test Methods E1019.

11.2 Use care when handling hot crucibles and when operating furnaces to avoid personal injury by either burn or electrical shock.

12. Sampling and Sample Preparation

12.1 *Materials Safety*—Samples must be prepared, stored, and disposed of in accordance with the materials and safety guidelines in Practices E50.

12.2 *Prepared Sample*—Pulverize or grind the laboratory sample until 100 % passes a No. 100 (150- μ) sieve. Store in a suitable glass or plastic container.

13. Preparation of Apparatus

13.1 Test the furnace and analyzer to ensure the absence of leaks. Prepare the analyzer for operation in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

14. Calibration

14.1 *Calibration Reference Materials*—Tungsten carbide (6.10 % total carbon), NIST SRM 276b, or equivalent; silicon carbide (29.43 % total carbon), NIST SRM 112b, or equivalent.

14.2 *Determination of Blank*:

14.2.1 Enter 1.000-g weight into the weight stack, following the instrument manufacturer's recommended procedure.

14.2.2 Add 1.000 ± 0.005 g of accelerator and 1.000 ± 0.005 g of iron chip to the crucible.

14.2.3 Place the crucible on the furnace pedestal and analyze in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

14.2.4 Repeat 14.2.1-14.2.3 a minimum of three times.

14.2.5 Enter the average blank following the routine outlined in the manufacturer's instruction manual.

14.3 *Calibration Procedure*:

14.3.1 Weigh ~ 0.25 -g tungsten carbide calibration reference material into a ceramic crucible and enter the weight into the weight stack, following the instrument manufacturer's recommended procedure.

14.3.2 Add 1.000 ± 0.005 g of accelerator and 1.000 ± 0.005 g of iron chip to the crucible.

14.3.3 Place the crucible on the furnace pedestal and analyze in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

14.3.4 Repeat 14.3.1-14.3.3 a minimum of three times and calibrate the instrument following the calibration procedure in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.