



Standard Test Method for Ignition Loss of Cured Reinforced Resins¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D 2584; 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 reappraisal. A superscript epsilon (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reappraisal.

This standard has been approved for use by agencies of the Department of Defense.

1. Scope

1.1 This test method covers the determination of the ignition loss of cured reinforced resins. This ignition loss can be considered to be the resin content within the limitations of 4.2.

1.2 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as the standard.

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 whoever uses this standard to consult and establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:

D 618 Practice for Conditioning Plastics and Electrical Insulating Materials for Testing²

3. Summary of Test Method

3.1 The specimen contained in a crucible is ignited and allowed to burn until only ash and carbon remain. The carbonaceous residue is reduced to an ash by heating in a muffle furnace at 565°C (1050°F), cooled in a desiccator, and weighed.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 This test method can be used to obtain the ignition loss of a cured reinforced resin sample.

4.2 If only glass fabric or filament is used as the reinforcement of an organic resin that is completely decomposed to volatile materials under the conditions of this test and the small amount of volatiles (water, residual solvent) that may be present is ignored, the ignition loss can be considered to be the resin content of the sample.

4.2.1 This test method does not provide a measure of resin content for samples containing reinforcing materials that lose weight under the conditions of the test or containing resins that do not decompose to volatile materials released by ignition.

5. Apparatus

5.1 *Crucible*, platinum or porcelain, approximately 30-mL capacity.

5.2 *Electric Muffle Furnace*, capable of maintaining a temperature of 565 ± 28°C (1050 ± 50°F).

6. Test Specimen

6.1 A minimum of three specimens shall be tested for each sample.

NOTE 1—It is often convenient to use samples obtained from specimens that have been tested for mechanical properties such as flexural or tensile strength. Specimens obtained from these samples must be dry and the fractured areas removed, leaving square, unfrayed faces, before being weighed and ignited.

6.2 The specimen shall weigh approximately 5 g with a maximum size of 2.5 by 2.5 cm by thickness (1 by 1 in. by thickness).

NOTE 2—Materials that have gross differences in the ratio of resin to reinforcement within an area as small as 2.5 by 2.5 cm (1 by 1 in.) may require a larger specimen area than that listed in 6.2. If larger specimens are utilized, it will be necessary to cut into approximately 2.5 by 2.5-cm (1 by 1-in.) pieces and place in a crucible of sufficient size to contain the specimen.

7. Conditioning

7.1 *Conditioning*—Condition the test specimens at 23 ± 2°C (73.4 ± 3.6°F) and 50 ± 5 % relative humidity for not less than 40 h prior to test in accordance with Procedure A of Practice D 618 for those tests where conditioning is required. In cases of disagreement, the tolerances shall be ± 1°C (± 1.8°F) and ± 2 % relative humidity.

7.2 *Test Conditions*—Conduct tests in the standard laboratory atmosphere of 23 ± 2°C (73.4 ± 3.6°F) and 50 ± 5 % relative humidity, unless otherwise specified in the test methods or in the specification. In cases of disagreement, the tolerances shall be ± 1°C (± 1.8°F) and ± 2 % relative humidity.

8. Procedure

8.1 Heat a crucible at 500 to 600°C for 10 min or more. Cool to room temperature in a desiccator and weigh to the nearest 1.0 mg.

8.2 Place the specimen in the crucible and weigh to the

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D-20 on Plastics and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D20.18 on Reinforced Thermosetting Plastics.

Current edition approved Oct. 15, 1994. Published December 1994. Originally published as D 2584 – 67 T. Last previous edition D 2584 – 68 (1985).

² *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 08.01.

nearest 1.0 mg. Heat the crucible and specimen in a bunsen flame until the contents ignite. Maintain such a temperature that the specimen burns at a uniform and moderate rate until only ash and carbon remain when the burning ceases.

NOTE 3—It is not absolutely necessary to ignite the specimen in a bunsen flame. Instead the crucible and contents can be placed in a muffle furnace at a temperature lower than 565°C and ignited. Care must be taken that the ignition does not proceed so rapidly that there will be a mechanical loss of the noncombustible residue.

8.3 Heat the crucible and residue in the muffle furnace at $565 \pm 28^\circ\text{C}$ ($1050 \pm 50^\circ\text{F}$) until all carbonaceous material has disappeared (Note 4). Cool the crucible to room temperature in a desiccator and weight to the nearest 1.0 mg.

NOTE 4—The time for the carbonaceous residue to disappear is dependent largely on the specimen geometry. It can be up to 6 h but is usually much less.

8.4 Bring the crucible and residue to constant weight within 1.0 mg.

9. Calculations

9.1 Calculate the ignition loss of the specimen in weight percent as follows:

$$\text{Ignition loss, weight \%} = [(W_1 - W_2)/W_1] \times 100 \quad (1)$$

where:

W_1 = weight of specimen, g, and

W_2 = weight of residue, g.

9.2 Average the 3 specimen values to obtain the sample average.

$$s = \sqrt{[\sum X^2 - n(\bar{X})^2]/(n - 1)} \quad (2)$$

where:

s = estimated standard deviation,

X = value of a single observation,

n = number of observations,

\bar{X} = arithmetic mean of the set of observations.

9.3 Subtract the lowest specimen ignition loss from the highest specimen ignition loss for the sample and report as the ignition loss range.

10. Report

10.1 Report the following information:

10.1.1 Complete identification of the material.

10.1.2 The ignition loss, weight percent of the sample, and standard deviation. If only glass reinforcement and organic resin were present, the ignition loss can be considered to be the resin content.

10.1.3 Observations in regard to any irregularities noted in the physical properties of the residue, such as melting.

11. Precision

11.1 The following data (Note 5) should be used for judging the acceptability of results. The standard deviation of the test method is 1.1 %.

11.1.1 Duplicate results by the same operator should not be considered suspect unless they differ by more than 3.0 %.

NOTE 5—The data for precision were obtained by one operator in one laboratory making triplicate measurements on 25 specimens.

The American Society for Testing and Materials takes no position respecting the validity of any patent rights asserted in connection with any item mentioned in this standard. Users of this standard are expressly advised that determination of the validity of any such patent rights, and the risk of infringement of such rights, are entirely their own responsibility.

This standard is subject to revision at any time by the responsible technical committee and must be reviewed every five years and if not revised, either reapproved or withdrawn. Your comments are invited either for revision of this standard or for additional standards and should be addressed to ASTM Headquarters. Your comments will receive careful consideration at a meeting of the responsible technical committee, which you may attend. If you feel that your comments have not received a fair hearing you should make your views known to the ASTM Committee on Standards, 100 Barr Harbor Drive, West Conshohocken, PA 19428.