



Designation: D2867 – 17

## Standard Test Methods for Moisture in Activated Carbon<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D2867; 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.

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

### 1. Scope

1.1 These test methods provide two procedures for the determination of the moisture content of activated carbon.<sup>2</sup> The procedures may also be used to dry samples required for other tests. The oven drying method is used when water is the only volatile material present and is in significant quantities, and the activated carbon is not heat sensitive (some activated carbons can ignite spontaneously at temperatures as low as 150 °C). The xylene extraction method is used when a carbon is known or suspected to be heat sensitive or to contain nonwater-miscible organic compounds instead of or in addition to water. The oven drying method described in these test methods may be used as the reference for development of instrumental techniques for moisture determination in activated carbon.

1.2 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as standard. No other units of measurement are included in this 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 the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

1.4 *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.*

<sup>1</sup> These test methods are under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D28 on Activated Carbon and are the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D28.04 on Gas Phase Evaluation Tests.

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<sup>2</sup> The moisture balance method has been used in industry when water is the only volatile material present and is in significant quantities and when the activated carbon is not heat sensitive. A precision and bias statement for the moisture balance method has not been developed by ASTM. Values obtained using this technique should be properly correlated to one of the documented methods described in this standard.

### 2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*<sup>3</sup>

E177 Practice for Use of the Terms Precision and Bias in ASTM Test Methods

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

### 3. Summary of Test Methods

3.1 *Oven Drying Test Method*—A sample of carbon is put into a dry, closed capsule (of known weight) and weighed accurately. The capsule is opened and placed with the lid in a preheated oven. The sample is dried to constant weight then removed from the oven and with the capsule closed, cooled to ambient temperature. The closed capsule is weighed again accurately. The weight loss is expressed as a percentage of the weight of the original sample.

3.2 *Xylene Extraction Test Method*—A known, accurate weight of carbon is put into a boiling flask. A known volume of xylene is added to the flask and the flask is then connected to a water trap. A hot plate is used to heat the xylene until boiling. The temperature is controlled to allow steady reflux. Reflux continues until no further water can be collected in the trap. The weight of water collected is expressed as a percentage of the weight of the original sample.

### 4. Significance and Use

4.1 The moisture content of activated carbon is often required to define and express its properties in relation to the net weight of the carbon.

4.2 The moisture content of activated carbon packed in typical shipping containers will usually increase during transportation and storage. Users of activated carbon in applications where low moisture content is important should be aware of this effect.

<sup>3</sup> For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, [www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org), or contact ASTM Customer Service at [service@astm.org](mailto:service@astm.org). For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.