



Standard Test Method for Measuring Coke Reactivity Index (CRI) and Coke Strength After Reaction (CSR)¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This test method, patterned after the Nippon Steel test procedure, describes the equipment and techniques used for determining lump coke reactivity in carbon dioxide (CO₂) gas at elevated temperatures and its strength after reaction in CO₂ gas by tumbling in a cylindrical chamber referred to as an I-tester.

1.2 The values stated in either SI units or inch-pound units are to be regarded separately as standard. The values stated in each system may not be exact equivalents; therefore, each system shall be used independently of the other. Combining values from the two systems may result in non-conformance with 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 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

D346 Practice for Collection and Preparation of Coke Samples for Laboratory Analysis

E11 Specification for Woven Wire Test Sieve Cloth and Test Sieves

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

2.2 *British Carbonization Research Association Report: Carbonization Research Report 91, "The Evaluation of the Nippon Steel Corporation Reactivity and Post-Reaction-*

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D05 on Coal and Coke and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D05.15 on Metallurgical Properties of Coal and Coke.

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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.

Strength Test for Coke."³

3. Summary of Test Method

3.1 A sample of dried coke of designated origin and size is reacted with CO₂ gas in a retort at a specified elevated temperature for a specified length of time. Two indices, coke reactivity index (CRI) and coke strength after reaction (CSR), are determined using the reacted coke residue. The weight loss after reaction determines the CRI. The weight retained after sieving the tumbled reacted coke in a designated number of revolutions over a designated turning rate determines the CSR.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 When coke lumps descend in the blast furnace, they are subjected to reaction with countercurrent CO₂ and to abrasion as they rub together and against the walls of the furnace. These concurrent processes physically weaken and chemically react with the coke lumps, producing an excess of fines that can decrease burden permeability and result in increased coke rates and lost hot metal production. This test method is designed to measure indirectly this behavior of coke in the blast furnace.

5. Apparatus

5.1 *Electric Furnace* (Fig. 1), capable of housing the reaction vessel assembly containing the coke sample and providing a uniform temperature of 1100 ± 5°C in the assembly. Furnace dimensions do not impact the test results and may vary from 240 to 1035 mm [9 ½ to 40 ¾ in.] in length and 76.2 to 88.9 mm [3 to 3½ in.] in outside diameter. However, it is preferable that the furnace have independently controlled heating in three zones to achieve uniformity of heating in the retort and that this control be achieved with a programmable controller.

5.2 *Reaction Vessel* (Fig. 1), constructed of a heat-resistant steel or nickel alloy to the dimensions required to fit snugly inside the electric furnace selected for use (Note 1). The coke to be tested sits on a porous plate in the reaction vessel. Below this porous plate, a gas preheater, such as a bed of ceramic Al₂O₃ balls sitting on a second perforated plate, diffuse the

³ Available from British Carbonization Research Association, Chesterfield, Derbyshire, England.

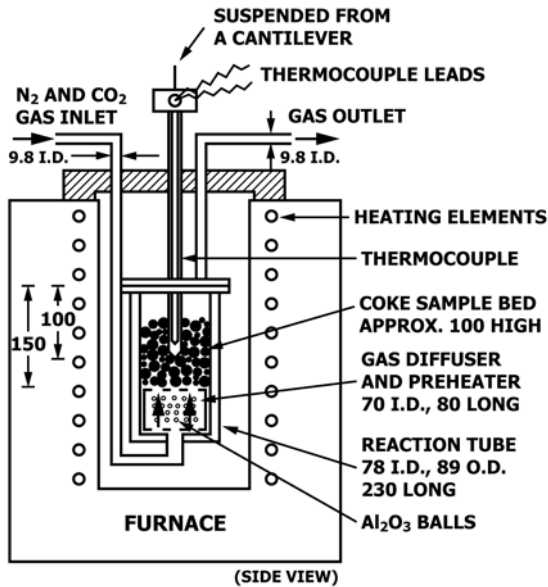


FIG. 1 Example of Reactivity Test Apparatus (Dimensions in mm)

nitrogen (N₂) and carbon dioxide introduced into the vessel up through the coke bed during the course of the test. The gas enters through inlets and exits through outlets varying from 6 to 15 mm [$\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{5}{8}$ in.] in inside diameter and positioned at the top and bottom of the reaction vessel. During the test, it is important that no backpressure be detected when gas enters or exits through these inlets or outlets. The reaction vessel is positioned such that the coke sample contained in the vessel on top of the ceramic Al₂O₃ balls is in the center of the controlled temperature zone in the furnace.

NOTE 1—Inconel 601 is recommended over stainless steel. Inconel 601 does not leave scale, that, if not properly removed, can alter a coke sample weight after the test.

5.3 *Flowmeters*—Rotometers or, preferably, mass flowmeters shall be used to monitor the amount of N₂ and CO₂ gases used in the test. The accuracy of measuring gas flowrates should be $\pm 1\%$ of full scale since varying gas flow can cause variability in the test results. Gas pressures through the flowmeters should be maintained at the manufacturer's calibration specification.

5.4 *Thermocouple* (Fig. 1), of the K, S, or R type normalized at 20 to 21°C and enclosed in a heat-resistant steel or nickel alloy or ceramic protection tube placed in the center of the coke sample in the reaction vessel. A centering pipe or tube also made of heat-resistant material is used to guide the thermocouple into its proper location in the coke bed.

5.5 *Sieves*, used for sieving the coke during its preparation for reactivity testing and after tumbling for strength after reaction testing. Square mesh sieves having 22.4- [$\frac{7}{8}$ -in.], 19.0- [$\frac{3}{4}$ -in.], and 9.5-mm [$\frac{3}{8}$ -in.] actual openings between the wires are to be used. Standard test sieves that conform to Specification E11 should always be used.

5.6 *Balance*, capable of weighing up to 25 kg [55.1 lbs] and sensitive to 0.1 g [0.000 22 lbs].

5.7 *Coke Strength After Reaction Tumbler* (Fig. 2), consisting of a cylindrical chamber with an internal length of 700 \pm 10 mm [$27\frac{5}{8} \pm \frac{3}{8}$ in.] and an internal diameter 130 \pm 5 mm [$5\frac{1}{8} \pm \frac{1}{2}$ in.], with end caps of 10-mm thickness or more (Note 2). This cylindrical chamber is attached to its longitudinal center to an electric motor fitted with a direct drive fixed gearbox, a drive belt, or, preferably, a hydraulic drive set for a revolving rate of 20 \pm 1 r/min (Note 3). A revolution counter is fitted so that the power is cut off when the cylinder has revolved 600 times in 30 min.

NOTE 2—Mild carbon steel should be selected to fabricate this tumbler apparatus.

NOTE 3—Most Japanese publications refer to this as an I_{600/10} test.

6. Sampling

6.1 The gross sample of coke shall be collected in accordance with Test Method D346.

6.2 For the standard procedure, the quantity must be not less than 57 kg [125 lbs].

7. Preparation of Sample

7.1 Sieve the gross sample at 25.0 mm [1 in.] and discard the undersize.

7.2 With suitable crushing equipment, preferably a jaw or roll crusher, reduce the size of all of the remaining plus 25.0 mm [1 in.] to pass a 22.4-mm [$\frac{7}{8}$ -in.] sieve opening.

7.3 Sieve the crushed sample using a 22.4-mm [$\frac{7}{8}$ -in.] sieve placed on top of a 19.0-mm [$\frac{3}{4}$ -in.] sieve. Discard the minus 19.0-mm [$\frac{3}{4}$ -in.] coke, and retain the 22.4- by 19.0-mm [$\frac{7}{8}$ - by $\frac{3}{4}$ -in.] fraction for testing.

7.4 The size reduction of the plus 25.0 mm [1 in.] should be accomplished in stages by recrushing any plus 22.4-mm [$\frac{7}{8}$ -in.] coke remaining after each subsequent double sieving step until there is no oversize retained on the 22.4-mm [$\frac{7}{8}$ -in.] sieve. The opening to the crusher should be set such that the gross sample yields at least 10 % of 19.0- by 22.4-mm [$\frac{3}{4}$ - by $\frac{7}{8}$ -in.] test coke (Note 4).

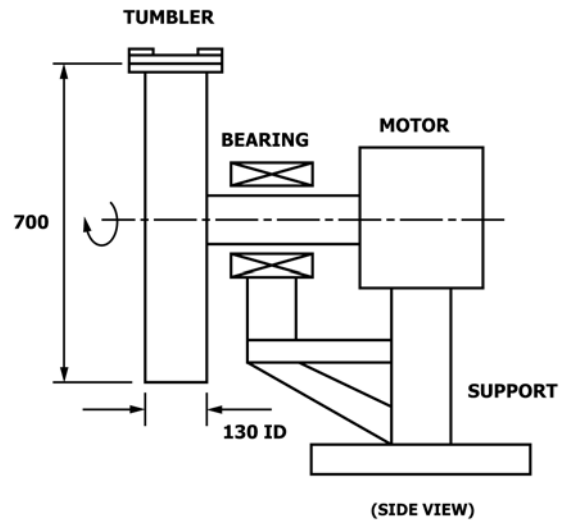


FIG. 2 Example of I-Type Coke Tumbler (Dimensions in mm)