



# Standard Test Method for Determination of Total Solids in Biomass<sup>1</sup>

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## INTRODUCTION

The total solids content is used to adjust the mass of the biomass so that all analytical results may be reported on a moisture-free basis. Total solids content may be determined by overnight drying at 105°C in a convection oven or with a loss-on-drying moisture analyzer.

### 1. Scope

1.1 This test method covers the determination of the amount of total solids remaining after drying a sample. Materials suitable for this procedure include samples prepared in accordance with Practice E1757 and extractive-free material prepared in accordance with Test Method E1690. For particulate wood fuels, Test Method E871 should be used.

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.*

### 2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*<sup>2</sup>

E871 Test Method for Moisture Analysis of Particulate Wood Fuels

E1690 Test Method for Determination of Ethanol Extractives in Biomass

E1757 Practice for Preparation of Biomass for Compositional Analysis

<sup>1</sup> This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee E48 on Bioenergy and Industrial Chemicals from Biomass and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee E48.05 on Biomass Conversion.

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<sup>2</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.

### 3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

3.1.1 *oven-dried solids*—the solids remaining after heating the prepared biomass at 105°C to constant mass. For the purposes of this procedure, the moisture content of a biomass sample is considered to be the amount of mass lost during the drying of the sample at 105°C to constant mass. An inherent error of this and any oven-drying procedure is that volatile substances other than water are removed from the sample during drying.

3.1.2 *prepared biomass*—the biomass that has been processed according to Practice E1757.

### 4. Significance and Use

4.1 Moisture is a ubiquitous and variable component of any biomass sample. Moisture is not considered a structural component of biomass and can change with storage and handling of biomass samples. The determination of the total solids content allows for the correction of biomass samples to an oven-dried solids mass that is constant for a particular sample.

4.2 This procedure is not suitable for biomass samples that visibly change on heating to 105°C, for example, unwashed acid-pretreated biomass still containing free acid.

4.3 Some materials that contain large amount of free sugars or proteins will caramelize or brown under direct infrared heating elements used in Test Method B. Total solids in these materials should be done by Test Method A.

### 5. Apparatus and Materials

5.1 *Analytical Balance*, sensitive to 0.1 mg.

5.2 *Drying Oven*, 105 ± 3°C (Test Method A only).

5.3 *Desiccator*, containing anhydrous calcium sulfate (Test Method A only).