



Standard Test Method for Rockwell Hardness of Graphite Materials¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation C748; 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 Rockwell L scale hardness testing of graphite materials with grain size less than 0.8 mm and a hardness range between 0 and 120.

1.2 Test Methods E18 shall be followed except where otherwise indicated.

1.3 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as standard. No other units of measurement are included in this standard.

1.4 *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, health, and environmental practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

1.5 *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.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*²

E18 Test Methods for Rockwell Hardness of Metallic Materials

E171 Practice for Conditioning and Testing Flexible Barrier Packaging

3. Summary of Test Method

3.1 The specimen is held in position and the load is applied. Final position of the indicator on the scale is observed and recorded as the hardness number.

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D02 on Petroleum Products, Liquid Fuels, and Lubricants and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D02.F0 on Manufactured Carbon and Graphite Products.

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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.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 A Rockwell L scale hardness number is a number derived from the net increase in depth of impression as the load on a 6.3500 mm \pm 0.0025 mm diameter steel-ball indenter is increased from a fixed 10 kg minor load to a 60 kg major load and then returned to the minor load.

4.2 A Rockwell hardness number is directly related to the indentation hardness of a material; the higher the Rockwell L scale reading, the harder the material. The test is useful in the evaluation and the manufacturing control of carbon and graphite materials.

5. Apparatus

5.1 *Rockwell Hardness Tester*, calibrated in accordance with the requirements of Section 7.

5.2 *Rockwell Hardness Tester Anvil*, appropriate for the material shall be used as the specimen base plate.

6. Test Specimen

6.1 The recommended test specimen shall be flat, rectangular, have a minimum thickness of 6.35 mm, and a minimum width and length of 12.7 mm.

6.2 The test surface roughness shall not exceed 3.2 μ m arithmetical average.

6.3 The test surface to opposite face parallelism for flat specimens shall be within 1 %. For all other specimen shapes, the test surface must be maintained normal to the direction of load application.

7. Verification of Calibration

7.1 Level the Rockwell hardness tester in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

7.2 The adjustment of speed-of-load application is of great importance. Adjust the dashpot on the Rockwell tester so that the operating handle completes its travel in 4 s to 7 s with no specimen on the machine or no load applied by the indenter to the anvil. The major load shall be 60 kg for this calibration. When so adjusted, the period taken for the mechanism to come to a stop with the specimen in place will vary from 5 s to 15 s, depending upon the particular specimen, the indenter, and the load used. The operator should check the instrument manual for this adjustment.

*A Summary of Changes section appears at the end of this standard