



Designation: E959 – 83 (Reapproved 2018)

Standard Test Method for Characterizing the Performance of Refuse Size-Reduction Equipment¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation E959; 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 measuring the performance of solid waste size-reduction equipment.

1.2 This test method can be used to measure the flow (that is, throughput) of solid waste through the size-reduction equipment, energy usage of the size-reduction device, and particle size of the shredded product.

1.3 This test method includes instructions for measuring energy usage, solid waste throughput, net processing time, and particle size distribution.

1.4 This test method applies only to size-reduction equipment that produces a shredded product with a size corresponding to 90 % cumulative passing in the range of 0.5 to 15 cm (0.2 to 6 in.) on an air-dry weight basis. For material with nominal sizes outside of this range, the precision and bias statements for particle size designation (Section 14) may not apply.

1.5 This test method can be applied to size-reduction equipment located anywhere within a processing line.

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

1.6.1 *Exception*—The values given in parentheses are for information only.

1.7 *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. See Section 7 for specific hazard information.*

1.8 *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 Recom-*

mendations issued by the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards*:²

[E828 Test Method for Designating the Size of RDF-3 From its Sieve Analysis](#) (Withdrawn 2009)³

[E929 Test Method for Measuring Electrical Energy Requirements of Processing Equipment](#) (Withdrawn 2014)³

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*:

3.1.1 *characteristic product size*—the screen size corresponding to 63.2 % cumulative passing by weight.

3.1.2 *discrete throughput method*—the method whereby average throughput is calculated as the average of a number of discrete throughput measurements conducted during a test period.

3.1.3 *idling time*—time periods during which a size-reduction device is freewheeling, that is, not processing refuse.

3.1.4 *net processing time*—the time during which refuse is processed through the size-reduction device.

3.1.5 *nominal product size*—the screen size corresponding to 90 % cumulative passing by weight.

3.1.6 *size-reduction device or equipment*—a device which size reduces (Synonyms: shredder, grinder, pulverizer, and mill).

3.1.7 *stationary belt method*—a method of gross sample collection in which the conveyor belt is stopped and the sample of material is removed manually.

3.1.8 *test interval*—a test interval is equal to one-quarter of the test period.

3.1.9 *test period*—the test period is two to four continuous hours of net processing time.

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D34 on Waste Management and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D34.03 on Treatment, Recovery and Reuse.

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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.

³ The last approved version of this historical standard is referenced on www.astm.org.

3.1.10 *time-averaged throughput method*—the method whereby the average throughput is calculated by dividing the total mass size reduced by the net processing time.

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 The duration of the test period is established and refuse is prepared for processing.

4.2 An energy measuring system is installed.

4.3 Solid waste is processed through the size-reduction equipment, energy usage and throughput are measured, and samples for analysis of product particle size distribution are collected.

4.4 Average throughput, power requirements, specific energy, and particle size of the shredded product are calculated.

4.5 Two methods (Time-Averaged Throughput Method and Discrete Throughput Method (Section 10)) for measuring the performance of size-reduction equipment are described. The selection of a particular method is governed by the layout of the processing equipment, the location of the size-reduction equipment relative to the other processing equipment, and the preference of the parties conducting the test.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 Throughput, power and energy requirements, and product size are key parameters that describe the operation and performance of solid waste size-reduction equipment.

5.2 This test method can be used to determine if the size-reduction equipment is operating within specifications and meeting performance criteria.

5.3 Having determined the parameters given in 5.1, the equipment that has been subjected to the test may be compared to other equipment similarly tested in order to establish relative levels of performance among equipment.

5.4 The basic test period is a continuous 2 to 4-h duration. The use of several test periods may be warranted to adequately assess the performance of size-reduction equipment.

6. Apparatus

6.1 *Hand Broom.*

6.2 *Dust Pan.*

6.3 *Wide-Mouthed Shovel.*

6.4 *Clock or Stopwatch,* accurate to 0.1 s.

6.5 *Plastic Bags,* large containers, or both.

6.6 *Push Broom.*

6.7 *Ties and Labels.*

6.8 *Electrical Metering System.*

6.9 *Sieving Equipment,* manual or mechanical.

7. Hazards

7.1 The test procedure described in 11.4 requires the removal of shredded material from a stopped conveyor belt by test personnel. Precautions should be taken to ensure that the belt cannot be started while occupied. These precautions

consist of lockout of the electrical power to the conveyor, ready access to a safety “stop” cord located on the conveyor, or both.

7.2 This test method requires installation of electrical metering equipment. Consequently, the precautions described in Test Method E929 should be observed.

7.3 Gross samples should be collected sufficiently far from the size-reduction equipment such that test personnel are protected from potential explosions and flying objects from the equipment.

8. Equipment Calibration

8.1 All electrical metering equipment used for energy measurement shall be calibrated in accordance with Test Method E929.

8.2 All weight-measuring equipment shall be calibrated according to the manufacturer’s instructions.

9. Preparation for Test

9.1 *Refuse Preparation and Establishment of Test Intervals*—The duration of the test period is to be a minimum of 2 h and a maximum of 4 of net processing time. During the test period, collect four gross samples of shredded product from which subsamples for particle size distribution analysis will be taken subsequently. The test period is divided into four equal test intervals (that is, test intervals 1, 2, 3, and 4). Calculate the approximate duration of the test intervals using the following relation:

$$t_i^* \approx \frac{t_p^*}{4} \quad (1)$$

where:

t_p^* = estimate of the duration of the test interval (h), and
 t_p^* = estimated duration of the test period (h), subject to the condition $2 \text{ h} \leq t_p^* \leq 4 \text{ h}$.

Weigh refuse, uniformly mixed as much as possible, and form into four discrete piles, each of which has an approximate (nominal) weight as calculated by the following relation:

$$M_i^* \approx \frac{\dot{m}^* t_i^*}{4} \quad (2)$$

where:

M_i^* = approximate weight of the refuse pile in Mg,
 \dot{m}^* = nominal throughput value (Mg/h) established for the test, and
 t_i^* = estimated duration of the test interval (h) derived from Eq 1.

The measured weight of each pile (M_i) is to be within $\pm 5\%$ of the nominal weight (M_i^*). Record the weight of each pile on the sample data form shown in Fig. 1.

9.2 *Time Measurements and Logbook*—Keep a time log during the conduct of the test program, the primary purpose of which is to allow the calculation of net processing time. A sample format for the log is shown in Fig. 2.

9.2.1 The key time recordings for each time interval are as follows:

9.2.1.1 Starting time of the time interval,

