



Standard Test Method for Carbon Black—Oil Absorption Number of Compressed Sample (COAN)¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D 3493; 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 the procedure for the mechanical compression of a carbon black sample and the determination of the oil absorption number of the compressed sample.

1.2 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as the standard. The values given in parentheses are for information only.

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

D 1765 Classification System for Carbon Blacks Used in Rubber Products

D 1799 Practice for Carbon Black—Sampling Packaged Shipments

D 1900 Practice for Carbon Black—Sampling Bulk Shipments

D 2414 Test Method for Carbon Black—Oil Absorption Number (OAN)

D 4821 Guide for Carbon Black—Validation of Test Method Precision and Bias

D 4483 Practice for Evaluating Precision for Test Method Standards in the Rubber and Carbon Black Manufacturing Industries

3. Summary of Test Method

3.1 A sample of carbon black is compressed four times in a compression cylinder at a pressure of 165 MPa (24 000 psi) and then tested in an absorptometer to determine the oil absorption number.

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D24 on Carbon Black and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D24.11 on Carbon Black Structure.

Current edition approved May 1, 2009. Published May 2009. Originally approved in 1976. Last previous edition approved in 2007 as D 3493 – 07.

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.

3.2 *n*-Dibutyl phthalate or paraffin oil is added by means of a constant-rate buret to the compressed sample of carbon black in the mixer chamber of an absorptometer. As the sample absorbs the oil, the mixture changes from a free-flowing state to one of a semiplastic agglomeration, with an accompanying increase in viscosity. This increased viscosity is transmitted to the torque-sensing system of the absorptometer. When the viscosity of the mixture reaches a predetermined torque level, the absorptometer and buret will simultaneously shut off. The volume of oil added is read from the direct reading buret. The volume of oil per unit mass of carbon black is the oil absorption number. Either DBP or paraffin oil is acceptable for use with many standard pelleted grades of N-series carbon blacks found in Classification D 1765. COAN testing using paraffin oil on some specialty blacks and powder blacks may result in significant differences when compared to COAN testing using DBP oil. Referee testing between suppliers and users should use DBP oil until such time that precision data is available for paraffin oil.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 The oil absorption number of a carbon black is related to the processing and vulcanizate properties of rubber compounds containing the carbon black.

4.2 The difference between the regular oil absorption number and the oil absorption number of compressed sample is some measure of the stability of the structure of the carbon black.

5. Apparatus³

5.1 *Balance*, analytical, 0.01-g sensitivity.

5.2 *Oven*, gravity-convection type, capable of maintaining 125°C ± 5°C.

5.3 *Carbon Black Press*, capable of compressing a 25-g sample to 165 MPa (24 000 psi).⁴

³ Each apparatus is to be operated and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's directions for optimum performance.

⁴ The sole source of supply of carbon black presses known to the committee at this time is Titan Specialties, Inc., P.O. Box 2316, Pampa, TX 79066-2316. If you are aware of alternative suppliers, please provide this information to ASTM International Headquarters. Your comments will receive careful consideration at a meeting of the responsible technical committee,¹ which you may attend.

5.4 *Absorptometer*,⁵ equipped with a constant-rate buret that delivers $67 \pm 0.4 \text{ mm}^3/\text{s}$ ($4 \pm 0.024 \text{ cm}^3/\text{min}$).

5.5 *Spatula*, rubber, 100 mm.

5.6 *Sieve*, 850 μm (U.S. No. 20), approximately 125-mm (5-in.) diameter with receiver pan.

5.7 *Brush*, approximately 40 mm (1.5 in.), stiff bristle.

5.8 *Desiccator*.

6. Reagent and Standards

6.1 *Purity of Reagents*—Reagent grade chemicals shall be used in all tests. Unless otherwise indicated, it is intended that all reagents shall conform to the specifications of the Committee on Analytical Reagents of the American Chemical Society, where such specifications are available.⁶ Other grades may be used, provided it is first ascertained that the reagent is of sufficiently high purity to permit its use without lessening the accuracy of the determination.

6.2 *n-Dibutyl Phthalate*, having a density of 1.042 to 1.047 mg/m^3 at 25°C and a relative density of 1.045 to 1.050 at 25°C.

6.3 Paraffin oil, having a kinematic viscosity of 10 to 34 mm^2/s (cSt) at 40°C.⁷

6.4 *ASTM D24 Standard Reference Blacks*, SRB.⁸

7. Sampling

7.1 Samples shall be taken in accordance with Practices [D 1799](#) and [D 1900](#).

8. Calibration and Standardization

8.1 See Test Method [D 2414](#).

NOTE 1—If values are not obtained within the acceptable range, it will be necessary to either vary the pressure of the hydraulic press until acceptable values are obtained or follow Guide [D 4821](#).

9. Procedure

9.1 Dry an adequate sample for 1 h in a specified oven set at 125°C. Cool the sample in a desiccator for a minimum of 30 min prior to testing.

⁵ Available from C. W. Brabender Instruments, Inc., 50 E. Wesley St., South Hackensack, NJ 07606 and from HITEC Luxembourg, 5 Rue de l'Eglise, L-1458, Luxembourg. The sole source of supply of the apparatus known to the committee at this time is listed above. If you are aware of alternative suppliers, please provide this information to ASTM International Headquarters. Your comments will receive careful consideration at a meeting of the responsible technical committee,¹ which you may attend.

⁶ *Reagent Chemicals, American Chemical Society Specifications*, American Chemical Society, Washington, DC. For suggestions on the testing of reagents not listed by the American Chemical Society, see *Analar Standards for Laboratory Chemicals*, BDH Ltd., Poole, Dorset, U.K., and the *United States Pharmacopeia and National Formulary*, U.S. Pharmacopeial Convention, Inc. (USPC), Rockville, MD.

⁷ The sole source of supply of paraffin oil (Marcol 82, which has been demonstrated to provide comparable results to DBP oil) known to the committee at this time is Exxon. If you are aware of alternative suppliers, please provide this information to ASTM International Headquarters. Your comments will receive careful consideration at a meeting of the responsible technical committee,¹ which you may attend.

⁸ The sole source of supply of the ASTM standard reference blacks known to the committee at this time is Laboratory Standards and Technologies, 227 Somerset, Borger, TX 79007, <http://www.carbonstandard.com/>. If you are aware of alternative suppliers, please provide this information to ASTM International Headquarters. Your comments will receive careful consideration at a meeting of the responsible technical committee,¹ which you may attend.

9.2 Weigh a sample mass of either 25, 30, or 45 g depending on the sample mass requirement for oil absorption per Test Method [D 2414](#). The desired sample mass to be compressed will weigh $5 \pm 0.1 \text{ g}$ greater than the mass specified in subsection 9.2 of Test Method [D 2414](#).

9.3 Compress the sample using either the Chandler or Titan press.

9.4 *Chandler Press*:

9.4.1 Place the bottom seal plate and the compression cylinder in the hydraulic press. Move the handle of the seal plate to check its position in the support plate. Rotate the cylinder to be certain that it fits on the seal plate.

9.4.2 Place the carbon black sample in the compression cylinder and insert the piston with the nylon spacer next to the carbon black. Rotate the piston while pressing it into the cylinder as far as possible by hand.

9.4.3 Adjust the alignment of the piston, cylinder, and ram to prevent galling of the cylinder.

9.4.4 Compress the carbon black to approximately 165 MPa (24 000 psi), hold for about 1 s, then release. The exact pressure is determined by measuring the compressed oil. A value of the SRB materials and making appropriate adjustments. If the values are too high, the pressure is increased, and if the values are too low, the pressure is lowered.

NOTE 2—165 MPa (24 000 psi) is equivalent to 131 kN (29 450 lbf) on the Enerpac gauge GF-20S.

9.4.5 Raise the ram to a sufficient height to allow the bottom seal plate to be removed, then lower the ram in order to press the piston and sample through the cylinder and into a sieve screen fitted with a receiver pan.

9.4.6 Wipe the piston, cylinder, and seal in order to remove carbon black dust and reassemble the apparatus as described in [9.4.1](#).

9.4.7 Pass the compressed carbon black through the sieve screen into the receiver.

9.4.8 Repeat [9.4.2-9.4.7](#), compressing the sample a total of four times. Retain the sample from [9.4.7](#) after the fourth compression. Proceed to [9.6](#).

9.5 *Titan Press*:

9.5.1 Lower the cylinder piston by pressing the left hand lever downward, then pour the carbon black sample into the cylinder.

9.5.2 Close and latch the door of the press. Compress the sample by operating the ram using a downward movement of the right hand lever, until the preset gauge pressure reaches approximately 11 MPa (1550 psi). Release immediately. The exact pressure is determined by measuring the oil absorption of the compressed SRB materials and making appropriate adjustments. If the values are too high, the pressure is increased, and if the values are too low, the pressure is lowered.

9.5.3 Raise the ram until it is level with the top of the conical collar placed on top of the cylinder.

9.5.4 Raise the cylinder piston until the compressed sample is broken by contact with the raised ram. The conical collar will retain the sample.

9.5.5 Break up the sample with a spatula, lower the cylinder piston, and allow the sample to fall back into cylinder. If