



Standard Test Method for Elapsed Time Calibration of Thermal Analyzers¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation E 1860; 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 approval. A superscript epsilon (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

1. Scope

1.1 This test method describes the calibration or performance confirmation of the elapsed-time signal from thermal analyzers.

1.2 SI units are the standard.

1.3 There is no ISO standard equivalent to this method.

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

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*²

D 3350 Specification for Polyethylene Plastics Pipe and Fittings Materials

D 3895 Test Method for Oxidative-Induction Time of Polyolefins by Differential Scanning Calorimetry

D 4565 Test Methods for Physical and Environmental Performance Properties of Insulations and Jackets for Telecommunications Wire and Cable

D 5483 Test Method for Oxidation Induction Time of Lubricating Greases by Pressure Differential Scanning Calorimetry

E 473 Terminology Relating to Thermal Analysis and Rheology

E 487 Test Method for Constant-Temperature Stability Of Chemical Materials

E 691 Practice for Conducting an Interlaboratory Study to Determine the Precision of a Test Method

E 1142 Terminology Relating to Thermophysical Properties

E 1858 Test Method for Determining Oxidation Induction Time of Hydrocarbons by Differential Scanning Calorimetry

E 1868 Test Method for Loss-On-Drying by Thermogravimetry

E 2161 Terminology Relating to Performance Validation in Thermal Analysis

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions:*

3.1.1 The technical terms used in this test method are defined in Terminologies **E 473**, **E 1142**, and **E 2161**, including calibration, conformance, relative standard deviation, and thermal analysis.

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 The elapsed time signal generated by a thermal analyzer is compared to a clock (or timer) whose performance is known and traceable to a national metrology institute. The thermal analyzer may be said to be in conformance, if the performance of the thermal analyzer is within established limits. Alternatively, the elapsed time signal may be calibrated using a two point calibration method.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 Most thermal analysis experiments are carried out under temperature ramp conditions where temperature is the independent parameter. Some experiments, however, are carried out under isothermal temperature conditions where the elapsed time to an event is measured as the independent parameter. Isothermal Kinetics (Test Methods **E 2070**), Thermal Stability (Test Method **E 487**), Oxidative Induction Time (OIT) (Test Methods **D 3895**, **D 4565**, **D 5483**, **E 1858**, and Specification **D 3350** and Loss-on-Drying (Test Method **E 1868**) are common examples of these kinds of experiments.

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee E37 on Thermal Measurements and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee E37.01 on Thermal Test Methods and Practices.

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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.