



Standard Practices for Sampling Metal Powders¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation B215; 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.

This standard has been approved for use by agencies of the U.S. Department of Defense.

1. Scope*

1.1 These practices describe two procedures for obtaining samples of metal powders for subsequent testing:

1.1.1 *Practice A*—For powders being transferred from blenders or storage tanks.

1.1.2 *Practice B*—For powders already packaged in containers.

1.2 *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

B243 *Terminology of Powder Metallurgy*

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—Definitions of powder metallurgy terms can be found in Terminology **B243**. Additional descriptive information is available in the Related Materials section of Vol 02.05 of the *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*.

3.2 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard*:

3.2.1 See **Fig. 1**.

3.2.2 *composite sample*—blended entire gross sample.

3.2.3 *increment*—quantity of powder obtained by a sampling device at one time from a single lot.

3.2.4 *gross sample*—quantity of powder adequate for the tests to be performed, consisting of all the increments taken from a single lot.

3.2.5 *test sample*—quantity of powder taken from the composite sample for determining a single property or for preparing the test pieces. It should normally be taken by splitting the composite sample.

3.2.6 *test portion*—defined quantity of powder taken from the test sample on which the test is performed or from which test pieces are produced.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 Since many tests are performed using very small amounts of powder, it is most important that the test portions be obtained in a standardized manner. The practices described here take into account the possibility of segregation of the metal powder during and after filling of containers.

PRACTICE A

FOR POWDERS BEING TRANSFERRED FROM BLENDERS OR STORAGE TANKS

5. Apparatus

5.1 *Rectangular Receptacle*, capable of being moved completely across the stream of flowing powder at a constant speed and having a length and width greater than the stream of powder. It must be large enough so that no overflow of powder occurs when collecting the sample.

5.2 *Small Blender*.

5.3 *Sample Splitter*, see **Fig. 2**.

5.4 *Spinning Riffler*, see **Fig. 3**.

6. Procedure

6.1 Pass the rectangular receptacle at a constant speed completely through the stream of flowing powder. If the entire contents of one lot of powder are being packed in a single container, take increments when the container is $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, and $\frac{3}{4}$ filled. If several containers are to be filled by one lot of powder, take the first increment when the first container is $\frac{1}{2}$ filled, the second increment in the middle of the run, and the third increment near the end of the run. Additional increments may be agreed upon by the parties concerned. The total amount from all increments shall be adequate for the tests to be performed. Combine the increments to obtain the gross sample.

¹ These practices are under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee **B09** on Metal Powders and Metal Powder Products and are the direct responsibility of Subcommittee **B09.02** on Base Metal Powders.

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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.

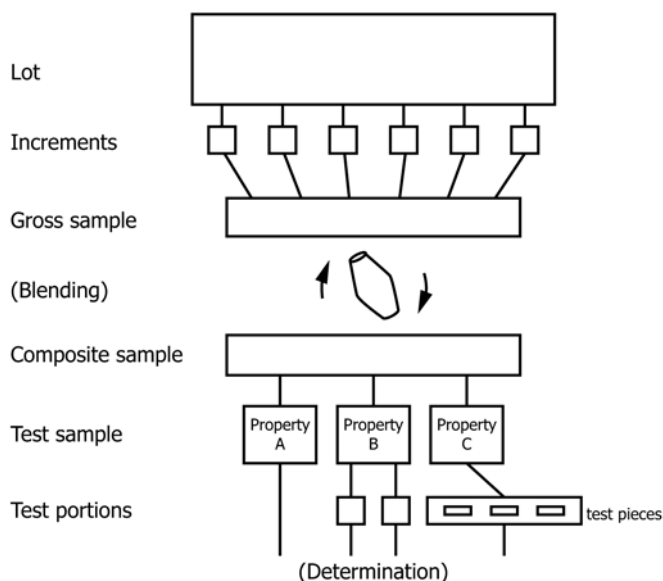


FIG. 1 Scheme of Sampling

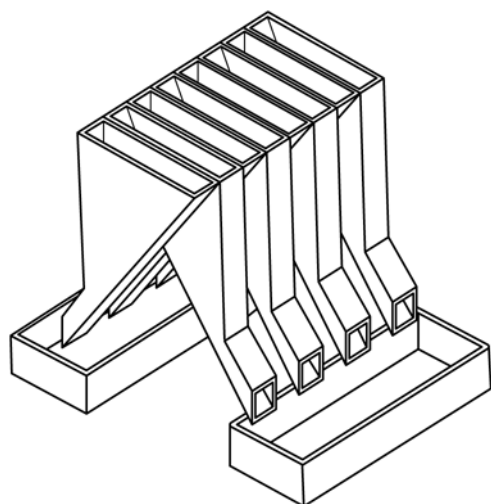


FIG. 2 Sample Splitter

NOTE 1—To investigate within-lot variability, individual increments may be tested rather than being combined to form a composite sample.

6.2 Blend the gross sample in a small blender for 10 to 15 revolutions to form a composite sample.

6.3 Pass the composite sample through a sample splitter or spinning riffler to obtain the test samples.

6.4 Obtain the test portion from the test sample by use of a sample splitter, or a sample spinning riffler.

7. Frequency of Increments

7.1 Take at least three increments for each lot of powder. The actual number depends on the size of the lot and the powder involved and shall be agreed upon by the parties involved.

PRACTICE B

FOR POWDERS ALREADY PACKAGED IN CONTAINERS

8. Apparatus

8.1 *Keystone Sampler*, see Fig. 4; or other appropriate sampling device—see Fig. 5.

8.2 *Small Blender*.

8.3 *Sample Splitter*, see Fig. 2.

8.4 *Spinning Riffler*, see Fig. 3.

9. Procedure

9.1 Obtain a powder increment from the container using either of the following devices:

9.1.1 *Keystone Sampler*—Insert the Keystone sampler, in the closed position, into the powder at a point about 70 % of the distance from the center of the cross-section to the periphery and straight down to the bottom of the container.

9.1.2 *Alternative Sampling Device*—Insert the sampling device (closed position) into the powder at the same location indicated for the Keystone sampler to an appropriate depth for the required sample.

9.2 Open the sampler, allowing powder to flow into the sampler tube. Close the sampler tube when filled and remove it from the container.

9.3 Empty the contents of the sampler either into a container or onto a sheet of glazed or waxed paper.

9.4 When a suitable number of increments have been taken, combine them to obtain the gross sample and blend them to obtain a composite sample.

NOTE 2—To investigate within-lot variability, individual increments may be tested rather than being combined to form a composite sample.

9.5 Pass the composite sample through a sample splitter or spinning riffler to obtain the test samples.

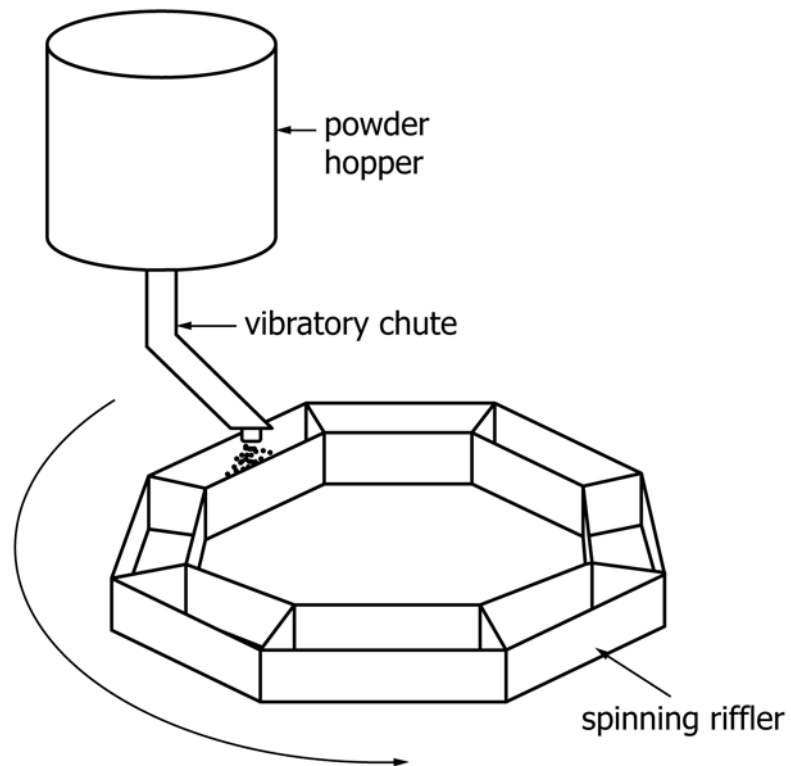
9.6 Obtain the test portion from the test sample by use of a sample splitter or a sample spinning riffler.

10. Frequency of Increments

10.1 See Table 1. The number of increments should be agreed upon by the concerned parties.

11. Keywords

11.1 alternative sampler; blender; composite sample; Keystone sampler; sample splitter; sampling segregation



NOTE 1—Reprinted with permission from the International Journal of Powder Metallurgy, 1997, Volume 33, Number 8, Page 40, Figure 6, APMI International, 105 College Road East, Princeton, New Jersey, USA.

FIG. 3 Spinning Riffler-Schematic



FIG. 4 Keystone Sampler

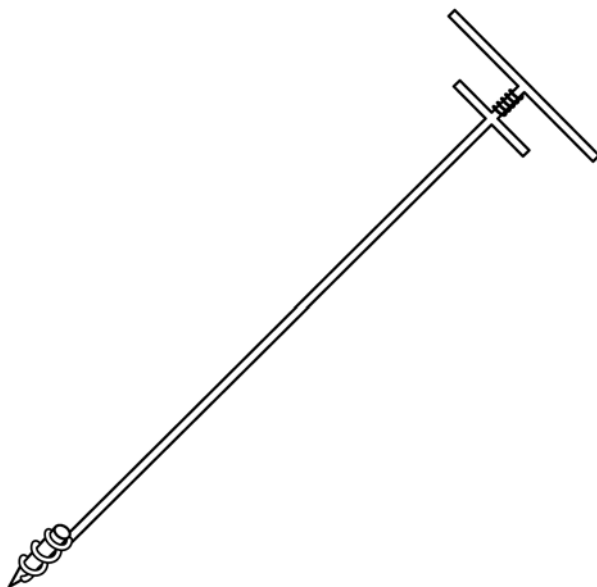


FIG. 5 Alternative Sampling Device

TABLE 1 Frequency of Increments

No. of Containers in the Lot	No. of Containers to be Sampled (Randomly Selected)
1 to 5	all
6 to 11	5
12 to 20	6
21 to 35	7
36 to 60	8
61 to 99	9
100 to 149	10
150 to 199	11
200 to 299	12
300 to 399	13
More than 400	13 + 1 per 100 additional containers

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

Committee B09 has identified the location of selected changes to this standard since the last issue (B215 – 08) that may impact the use of this standard.

- (1) In 6.2 deleted the number of revolutions of the small blender.
- (2) In 8.1 included reference to another appropriate sampling device.
- (3) Rewrote the procedural sections to incorporate the use of the alternative sampling device.

- (4) In the new 9.4 deleted the number of revolutions of the small blender.
- (5) Added a schematic of the alternative sampling device – Fig. 5.

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