



Standard Test Method for Determination of Crushing Strength of Iron Ore Pellets¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This test method describes a method for determining the crushing strength of fired iron ore pellets. Cylindrical agglomerates, briquettes, and reduced pellets are not covered by this test method.

1.2 The values as stated in SI units are to be regarded as the standards. The values in parentheses are given 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

E50 Practices for Apparatus, Reagents, and Safety Considerations for Chemical Analysis of Metals, Ores, and Related Materials

E122 Practice for Calculating Sample Size to Estimate, With Specified Precision, the Average for a Characteristic of a Lot or Process

E135 Terminology Relating to Analytical Chemistry for Metals, Ores, and Related Materials

E389 Test Method for Particle Size or Screen Analysis at No. 4 (4.75-mm) Sieve and Coarser for Metal-Bearing Ores and Related Materials

E877 Practice for Sampling and Sample Preparation of Iron Ores and Related Materials for Determination of Chemical Composition

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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. Terminology

3.1 **Definitions**—For definitions of terms used in this test method, refer to Terminology **E135**.

3.2 Descriptions of Terms Specific to this Standard

3.2.1 **crushing strength, n** —average compressive load needed to break the pellets in the test sample completely.

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 A load is applied on a single pellet at a specified speed of the compressive platen until the pellet is broken. This procedure is repeated on all pellets of the test sample.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 The crushing strength aids the pellet producer in the determination of quality problems associated with the production of pellets.

5.2 The crushing strength is often used by the pellet consumer as a quality indicator for performance in the blast furnace.

6. Apparatus

6.1 Loading Unit:

6.1.1 The loading capacity shall be 1000 kgf or more (1000 kgf = 9.806 kN).

6.1.2 The compressive platens shall be installed in parallel planes. The surface of the platens that are in contact with the sample shall be made of surface-hardened steel.

6.1.3 A device for setting the speed of the compressive platen at 0.25 mm/s $\pm$ 0.08 mm/s over the entire test period shall be used.

NOTE 1—If the platen speed is not constant during the test cycle, results may differ depending upon the test machine used.

6.2 **Indicating Unit**, consists of a load transfer device and a load indicator.

6.2.1 Load Transfer Device:

6.2.1.1 The transfer of the applied load to the load indicator shall be by a load cell or by a lever.

6.2.1.2 The capacity of the load cell shall be at least 1000 kg.

6.2.2 Load Indicator:

6.2.2.1 The applied load shall be indicated either by an electric indicator (recording chart, meter with needle rider, or other suitable device) for the load cell type, or by a mechanical indicator (gauge equipped with needle rider or other suitable device) for the lever type.

6.2.2.2 When using a load cell, the chart recorder response time shall be 1.0 s or less for a full-scale deflection.

6.2.2.3 The minimum graduation shall be 1/100 of the full scale.

6.2.2.4 The testing machine shall be calibrated periodically.

6.3 *Sieves*—Square mesh sieves 12.5 mm (½ in.) and 9.5 mm (¾ in.) are recommended; however, others may be used in agreement between parties.

7. Hazards

7.1 For precautions to be observed in this method, refer to Practice **E50**.

8. Sampling and Sample Preparation

8.1 The test sample for determining the crushing strength shall be obtained at random by riffle division of a sample taken and prepared in accordance with Practice **E877**.

8.2 Sixty or more pellets, or a number agreed upon between the parties concerned, shall be tested for each sample.

8.3 The size range of the test sample shall be between 9.5 mm and 12.5 mm (as determined in Test Method **E389**) or any size range as agreed upon between the parties concerned.

9. Procedure

9.1 Place a single pellet of the sample at the approximate center of the surface-hardened portion of the lower platen.

9.2 Apply the load at a constant rate of 0.25 mm/s $\pm$ 0.08 mm/s throughout the test period.

9.3 Record the maximum load at which each test piece breaks completely.

10. Report

10.1 The test report shall include the following:

10.1.1 Crushing strength, expressed as the mean value, in kilogram-force, of all measurements.

10.1.2 Standard deviation of the measurements.

10.1.3 Size range of the pellets tested.

10.1.4 Number of pellets tested.

11. Precision and Bias

11.1 *Precision*—The precision of this test method is dependent on the number of pellets selected for testing. The user is advised to use the proper equation from Practice **E122** to calculate the number of pellets to select for testing in order to achieve the desired precision.

11.2 *Bias*—No information can be presented on the bias of this test method since no material having an accepted reference value is available.

12. Keywords

12.1 crushing strength; iron ore; pellets

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