



Standard Test Method for Thermal Conductivity of Refractories¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This test method covers the determination of the comparative thermal conductivity of refractories under standardized conditions of testing. This test method is designed for refractories having a conductivity factor of not more than 200 Btu-in./h-ft²-°F (2818 W/m-K), for a thickness of 1 in. (25 mm).

1.2 Detailed ASTM test methods to be used in conjunction with this procedure in testing specific types of refractory materials are as follows: Test Method C182, Test Method C202, Test Method C417, and Test Method C767.

1.3 The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as standard. The values given in parentheses are mathematical conversions to SI units that are provided for information only and are not considered standard.

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

- C134 Test Methods for Size, Dimensional Measurements, and Bulk Density of Refractory Brick and Insulating Firebrick
- C155 Classification of Insulating Firebrick
- C182 Test Method for Thermal Conductivity of Insulating Firebrick
- C202 Test Method for Thermal Conductivity of Refractory Brick
- C417 Test Method for Thermal Conductivity of Unfired Monolithic Refractories
- C767 Test Method for Thermal Conductivity of Carbon Refractories

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee C08 on Refractories and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee C08.02 on Thermal Properties.

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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.

E220 Test Method for Calibration of Thermocouples By Comparison Techniques

3. Significance and Use

3.1 The thermal conductivity of refractories is a property required for selecting their thermal transmission characteristics. Users select refractories to provide specified conditions of heat loss and cold face temperature, without exceeding the temperature limitation of the refractory. This test method establishes the testing for thermal conductivity of refractories using the calorimeter.

3.2 This procedure requires a large thermal gradient and steady state conditions. The results are based upon a mean temperature.

3.3 The data from this test method are suitable for specification acceptance, and design of multi-layer refractory construction.

3.4 The use of these data requires consideration of the actual application environment and conditions.

4. Apparatus

4.1 The apparatus shall conform in close detail with that shown in the approved drawings.³ The equipment is shown in Fig. 1 and Fig. 2, and the essential parts are as follows:

4.1.1 *Heating Chamber*—A heating chamber, shown in Fig. 3, shall be capable of being heated electrically over a temperature range from 400 to 2800°F (205 to 1540°C) in a neutral or oxidizing atmosphere. The temperature of the heating unit shall be controlled by a mechanism capable of maintaining the temperature in the chamber constant to within $\pm 5^\circ\text{F}$ ($\pm 3^\circ\text{C}$). A silicon carbide slab 13½ by 9 by 1 in. (342 by 228 by 25 mm), with the 13½ by 9-in. (342 by 228 mm) faces plane and parallel, shall be placed above the sample for the purpose of providing uniform heat distribution. A layer of insulation equivalent at least to 1 in. (25 mm) of Group 20 insulating firebrick (see Classification C155) shall be placed below the calorimeter and guard plates.

³ The complete set of approved drawings necessary for the construction of the apparatus and suggested operating instructions, each of which requires too much space to be included with this test method, were originally drafted by the Insulating Products Division of Babcock and Wilcox Co. ASTM has been advised that these drawings are no longer available. Subcommittee C08.05 currently is taking this issue under advisement.