



Standard Test Method for Density of Glass by the Sink-Float Comparator¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This test method covers the determination of the density of glass or nonporous solids of density from 1.1 to 3.3 g/cm³. It can be used to determine the apparent density of ceramics or solids, preferably of known porosity.

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

D1217 Test Method for Density and Relative Density (Specific Gravity) of Liquids by Bingham Pycnometer

E77 Test Method for Inspection and Verification of Thermometers

F77 Test Method for Apparent Density of Ceramics for Electron Device and Semiconductor Application (Withdrawn 2001)³

3. Summary of Method

3.1 The specimen of unknown density is compared with a reference standard of known density. The specimen to be measured is placed in a test tube containing a solution whose density at 35°C is within 0.0200 g/cm³ of the density of the specimen at 25°C. The solution is prepared using miscible liquids of known densities bracketing the desired range. The tube also contains a glass density reference standard whose density at 35°C is close to that of the solution at 35°C; the tube is immersed in a variable-temperature comparator bath. Initially the solutions, specimen, and standard are at a temperature

near 25°C, and both the standard and the specimen float in the solution. The temperature of the system is raised at a uniform rate. Because the volumetric expansion coefficient of the solution is much higher than those of the glass pieces, its density decreases more rapidly and eventually both the standard and the specimen will sink (settle) in the solution. The temperatures at which the specimen and standard reach the mid-point of the test tube are noted and by use of special tables, the density of the specimen is obtained.

3.2 *Range of a Given Density Solution*—A given density solution can be used to measure specimens whose density is within ± 0.0200 g/cm³ of the density of the solution at 35°C, by operating the comparator bath in the range 25 to 45°C.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 The sink-float comparator method of test for glass density provides the most accurate (yet convenient for practical applications) method of evaluating the density of small pieces or specimens of glass. The data obtained are useful for daily quality control of production, acceptance or rejection under specifications, and for special purposes in research and development.

4.2 Although this test scope is limited to a density range from 1.1 to 3.3 g/cm³, it may be extended (in principle) to higher densities by the use of other miscible liquids (Test Method **F77**) such as water and thallium malonate-formate (approximately 5.0 g/cm³). The stability of the liquid and the precision of the test may be reduced somewhat, however, at higher densities.

5. Apparatus

5.1 *Single Tube and Multiple-Tube Comparators* (Test Method **E77**)—A single-tube comparator can be constructed from materials readily available in a typical laboratory, and useful if one wishes to measure the density of materials within a fairly narrow range, or if only a few tests need to be run each day. The multiple-tube comparator can be purchased commercially. It is useful if materials with a wide range of density must be tested or if many specimens must be tested each day. The comparators shall consist of the following:

5.1.1 *Single-Tube Comparator* (Fig. 1):

5.1.1.1 *Circulating Water Bath*, consisting of a 4000-cm³ beaker, a cover plate supporting test tubes and thermometer, a

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee C14 on Glass and Glass Products and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee C14.04 on Physical and Mechanical 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.

³ The last approved version of this historical standard is referenced on www.astm.org.