



Designation: C914 – 09 (Reapproved 2022)^{ε1}

Standard Test Method for Bulk Density and Volume of Solid Refractories by Wax Immersion¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation C914; 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.

^{ε1} NOTE—Units were added to the titles of Tables 1 and 2 editorially in April 2022.

1. Scope

1.1 This test method covers the basic procedure for determining bulk density and volume of refractory shapes. This test is applicable to all refractory shapes or monoliths, burned or unburned, independent of composition or forming method, including materials that slake and hydrate. It is particularly suitable for determining bulk density and volume of complex shapes after forming, since results may be obtained in a matter of minutes.

1.2 *Units*—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.

1.2.1 *Exception*—The balance used in this standard is only available in SI units (Sections 3 – 6).

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, health, and environmental practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.* For a specific hazard statement, see 3.2.

1.4 *This international standard was developed in accordance with internationally recognized principles on standardization established in the Decision on Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations issued by the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.*

2. Significance and Use

2.1 This test method may be used to quickly determine volume and bulk density of a refractory of any shape, provided it has sufficient structural integrity to permit handling. Thus it may be used on unfired or fired, strong or friable shapes.

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee C08 on Refractories and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee C08.03 on Physical Properties.

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2.2 Since the test may be performed quickly, it has found application as manufacturing in-process control as well as in characterizing finished refractory products. Also it may be used to examine specimens after other test or service exposure.

3. Apparatus

3.1 *Paraffin Wax*, fully refined, that has a known constant density, K , that does not change after repeated melting and cooling cycles.

NOTE 1—The paraffin waxes generally used are commercially available and have density values in the range 54.29 pcf to 56.78 pcf (0.87 to 0.91 g/cm³). Also, these waxes melt at approximately 135 °F (57 °C).

3.2 *Wax Melting Container*, used to melt the wax but should not allow the wax to overheat. A container heated by hot water, preferably thermostatically controlled, is satisfactory. The wax should be heated to only slightly above the melting point to avoid flashing of the wax vapors and to permit quickly forming a uniform surface coating of wax. **Warning**—Vapors given off by molten wax ignite spontaneously at above 400 °F (205 °C) and should not be allowed to come in contact with the heating element or open flame.

3.3 *Balance*, capable of determining the weights of the specimens to four significant figures. Thus, specimens weighing from 100 to 999 g should be weighed to one decimal place, those from 10 to 99 g should be weighed to two decimal places, and so forth.

4. Sampling

4.1 At least five representative specimens should be chosen of the refractory to be characterized. These may be whole shapes or broken pieces, depending on the purpose of the test.

5. Procedure

5.1 *Preparation of Specimens*—The test specimens shall be dried to a constant weight by heating to 220 to 230 °F (105 to 110 °C) to remove entrapped moisture, which would affect the bulk density determination. This drying process may be omitted when specimens are known to be dry or when it is desired to make density determinations on moisture-containing specimens, such as brick shapes, immediately after forming.