



Designation: E2253 – 21

Standard Test Method for Temperature and Enthalpy Measurement Validation of Differential Scanning Calorimeters¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation E2253; 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.

1. Scope

1.1 This test method provides procedures for validating temperature and enthalpy measurements of differential scanning calorimeters (DSC) and analytical methods based upon the measurement of temperature or enthalpy (or heat), or both, by DSC. Performance parameters determined include temperature and calorimetric repeatability (precision), detection limit, quantitation limit, linearity, and bias. This test method is applicable to exothermic events.

1.2 Validation of apparatus performance and analytical methods is requested or required for quality initiatives or where results may be used for legal purposes.

1.3 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as standard. No other units of measurement are included in this 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, health, and environmental practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

1.5 *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. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*²

E177 Practice for Use of the Terms Precision and Bias in ASTM Test Methods

E473 Terminology Relating to Thermal Analysis and Rheology

E967 Test Method for Temperature Calibration of Differential Scanning Calorimeters and Differential Thermal Analyzers

E968 Practice for Heat Flow Calibration of Differential Scanning Calorimeters

E1142 Terminology Relating to Thermophysical Properties

E1860 Test Method for Elapsed Time Calibration of Thermal Analyzers

E1970 Practice for Statistical Treatment of Thermoanalytical Data

E2161 Terminology Relating to Performance Validation in Thermal Analysis and Rheology

2.2 *FDA Publications:*³

Q2B Validation of Analytical Procedures Methodology, 62 FR 27464, May 19, 1997

3. Terminology

3.1 Technical terms used in this standard are defined in Practice E177 and in Terminologies E473, E1142, and E2161 including *analyte*, *detection limit*, *differential scanning calorimetry*, *enthalpy*, *extrapolated onset value (temperature)*, *linearity*, *mean*, *precision*, *quantitation limit*, *relative standard deviation*, *repeatability*, *standard deviation*, *thermal curve*, and *validation*.

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 Temperature and time are the primary independent parameters and heat flow is the primary dependent experimental parameter provided by DSC. Integration of heat flow, as a function of time, yields enthalpy (heat).

4.1.1 Time, measured by the DSC apparatus, shall conform to better than 0.1 % verified by Test Method E1860 and reported.

4.1.2 Temperature is directly measured by a temperature sensor that is an integral part of the differential scanning calorimetry apparatus.

4.1.3 Heat flow, a measured value, is validated by its integration over time to obtain the desired calorimetric (enthalpic) information of interest.

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee E37 on Thermal Measurements and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee E37.10 on Fundamental, Statistical 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 Available from U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), 10903 New Hampshire Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20993, <http://www.fda.gov>.

4.2 Calorimetric validation of a differential scanning calorimetric apparatus at a single temperature is performed using the indium metal melt as an analyte.

4.3 Validation of a DSC method based upon enthalpic measurement may be performed using the test specimen as the analyte.

4.4 The enthalpy of three (or more) specimens (nominally representing the maximum, midpoint and minimum of the range of the test method) are measured in triplicate (or more). A fourth blank specimen, containing no analyte, is also measured in triplicate.

NOTE 1—Repeatability is determined by performing a sufficient number of determinations to calculate statistically valid estimates of the standard deviation or relative standard deviation of the measurement.

4.4.1 Calorimetric linearity and bias are determined from the best-fit (linear regression) straight-line correlation of the results from measurements of the three (or more) specimens.

4.4.2 Calorimetric detection limit and quantitation limit are determined from the standard deviation of the blank determination.

4.4.3 Calorimetric repeatability is determined from the repeatability measurement of the three (or more) specimens.

4.5 The temperature validation of a differential scanning calorimetric apparatus is performed at three temperatures using indium, bismuth, and zinc metal melts as an analyte (see Section 7).

4.5.1 The melting temperature of three (or more) materials representing the maximum, midpoint, and minimum of the temperature range of the test method are measured in triplicate (or more) (see Note 1).

4.5.2 Temperature linearity and bias are determined from the best-fit (linear regression) straight-line correlation of the results from the temperature measurements at the three (or more) temperatures.

4.5.3 Temperature repeatability, detection limit and quantitation limit are determined from the standard deviation of the replicate temperature measurements.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 This test method may be used to determine and validate the performance of a particular DSC apparatus.

5.2 This test method may be used to determine and validate the performance of a particular method based upon a DSC temperature and enthalpic measurement, or both.

5.3 This test method may be used to determine the repeatability of a particular apparatus, operator, or laboratory.

5.4 This test method may be used for specification and regulatory compliance purposes.

6. Apparatus

6.1 *Differential Scanning Calorimeter (DSC)*—The essential instrumentation required to provide the minimum differential scanning calorimetric capability for this test method includes:

6.1.1 *DSC Test Chamber*, composed of:

6.1.1.1 *Furnace(s)*, to provide uniform controlled heating or cooling of a specimen and reference to a constant temperature or at a constant rate within the applicable temperature range of the test method.

6.1.1.2 *Temperature Sensor*, to provide an indication of the specimen temperature to readability required.

6.1.1.3 *Differential Sensor*, to detect a heat flow difference between the specimen and reference.

6.1.1.4 A means of sustaining a test chamber environment of an inert purge gas at a rate of 10 mL/min to 50 mL/min $\pm$ 10 %.

NOTE 2—Typically, 99+ % pure nitrogen (or other inert gas, such as argon or helium) is employed when oxidation in air is a concern. Unless the effects of moisture are to be studied, the use of a dry purge gas is recommended, especially for operation at subambient temperatures.

6.1.2 *Temperature Controller*, capable of executing a specific temperature program by operating the furnace(s) between selected temperature limits at a rate of temperature change constant to $\pm$ 1 % or at an isothermal temperature constant to $\pm$ 0.5 °C.

6.1.3 *Data Collection Device*, to provide a means of acquiring, storing, and displaying measured or calculated signals, or both. The minimum output signals required for differential scanning calorimetry are heat flow, temperature, and time.

6.1.4 *Containers*, (pans, crucibles, vials, lids, closures, seals, etc.) that are inert to the specimen and reference materials and that are of suitable structural shape and integrity to contain the specimen and reference in accordance with the specific requirements of the test method.

6.2 *Balance*, of 100 mg or greater capacity to weigh specimens and containers to $\pm$ 1 μ g.

NOTE 3—A balance of this high precision is required so that weighing imprecision is not part of the overall method imprecision.

7. Reagents and Materials

7.1 *Indium (In) Metal*, 99.99+ % purity, preferably a certified reference material for which the melting temperature and enthalpy of fusion are known.

7.2 *Bismuth (Bi) Metal*, 99.99+ % purity, preferably a certified reference material for which the melting temperature is known.

7.3 *Zinc (Zn) Metal*, 99.99+ % purity, preferably a certified reference material for which the melting temperature is known.

8. Calibration and Standardization

8.1 After turning the power on, allow the instrument to equilibrate for at least one hour prior to any measurements.

8.2 Perform any cleaning and calibration procedures described by the manufacturer in the apparatus Operator's Manual.

8.3 If not previously established, perform temperature and heat flow calibrations according to Test Method E967 and Practice E968 respectively, using the same purge gas, purge gas flow rate and heating rate (here 10 °C/min) to be used for validation experiments.