



ASHRAE STANDARD

Laboratory Test Method for Assessing the Performance of Gas-Phase Air-Cleaning Systems: Loose Granular Media

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CONTENTS

ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 145.1-2008 Laboratory Test Method for Assessing the Performance of Gas-Phase Air-Cleaning Systems: Loose Granular Media

SECTION	PAGE
Foreword.....	2
1 Purpose	2
2 Scope	2
3 Definitions and Acronyms.....	2
4 Test Apparatus and Materials	4
5 Test Procedure	4
6 Test Parameters.....	6
7 Data Analysis.....	7
8 Data Quality Control	8
9 Reporting Results	9
10 References	13
Informative Annex A: Bibliography.....	13
Informative Annex B: Selection of Challenge Gases.....	14
Informative Annex C: Gas Monitoring Methodologies	29
Normative Annex D: Report and Interpretation of Results	34

NOTE

When addenda, interpretations, or errata to this standard have been approved, they can be downloaded free of charge from the ASHRAE Web site at www.ashrae.org.

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FOREWORD

The air around us may contain a variety of undesirable contaminants in gaseous form. Concentrations of these contaminants may vary from trace amounts to toxic levels and at certain concentrations may become a problem for people and/or for equipment. Occupant impacts may include odor, irritation, and adversely affected health, while equipment may be affected by corrosion. When problem concentrations are present in the air distribution system of a heating, ventilating, and air conditioning (HVAC) system, removal may be necessary to protect (a) building occupants, (b) HVAC system components, (c) building furnishings or stored materials, and/or (d) industrial/manufacturing equipment, processes, or products.

Gaseous air contaminants can be removed by various air-cleaning processes. The most common removal process employs physical adsorption with or without chemical reaction using filtration media in granular (pellet) form in particle sizes ranging from 4 to 12 mesh in the US sieve series (0.187–0.661 in. [1.68–4.76 mm]). Such media include plain (untreated) or chemically impregnated activated carbons and activated aluminas, other adsorbent materials, and catalysts. These media are those generally used in the gas-phase air-cleaning equipment that is most often selected for use in a building HVAC system. This standard provides a performance test method for this form of media and is not intended to test the performance of flat media (e.g., carbon-impregnated fibers). The results obtained here cannot be used to predict the performance of sorptive media gas-phase air-cleaning devices or installed systems.

This standard outlines a test procedure with quality control constraints to develop a performance metric using percent removal efficiency and removal capacity of a small media sample when it is challenged under steady-state conditions by a number of gaseous contaminants. Two groups of chemical contaminants are prescribed (the acid gas challenge group and the volatile organic compounds challenge group), and the user may select one or both of the groups for testing. However, all representative compounds of a group selected are tested for reporting purposes. Other challenge gases may be tested using the methodology described in this standard but are not part of the reporting requirements of this standard. The procedure is written for testing individual chemical contaminants. Testing of mixtures of chemical contaminants, although possible using this procedure, would be considered a non-standard test and requires a much higher level of understanding, expertise, control, and analysis to achieve meaningful results.

The laboratory test apparatus, equipment, test protocol, quality control guidelines, and equipment calibration specified in this standard are designed to ensure repeatability within $\pm 10\%$ of the measured value. Considerable capital is

required to establish a laboratory with the test apparatus and instrumentation prescribed. However, compliance with the test standard cannot be met with alternative test apparatus or procedures because of the complexity of gaseous contaminant removal processes.

Standard 145.1 is the first of three planned under SPC 145, the project committee responsible for this standard. This standard is for assessing the performance of loose granular media. The second standard, designated as Standard 145.2 and titled "Laboratory Test Method for Assessing the Performance of Gas-Phase Air-Cleaning Systems: Air-Cleaning Devices," will focus on assessing the performance of sorptive media gas-phase air-cleaning devices. The third standard, designated as Standard 145.3 and titled "Field Test Method for Assessing the Performance of Gas-Phase Air-Cleaning Systems: Installed Systems," will provide test methods for assessing the performance of gas-phase air-cleaning equipment as installed in typical applications.

1. PURPOSE

To provide a standard laboratory test method for assessing the performance of loose granular media used in gas-phase air-cleaning systems. The results of these tests can provide information to the engineer useful for the design and selection of air-cleaning equipment and the design of air-cleaning systems for controlling indoor concentrations of gaseous air contaminants.

2. SCOPE

2.1 This standard prescribes a small-scale laboratory test method for measuring the contaminant removal efficiency of loose granular sorptive media used in gas-phase air-cleaning equipment as installed (in a test apparatus) in an airstream and challenged with test gases under steady-state conditions. This test is conducted at elevated gas challenge concentrations (relative to ventilation applications) and therefore should be used to compare media rather than directly predict performance in any particular application.

2.2 This standard defines methods of calculating and reporting results obtained from the test data and establishes a results reporting system that can be applied to loose granular media covered by this standard.

2.3 This standard does not apply to

- a. bonded carbon panels, beaded activated carbon, carbon cloths, absorbent-loaded nonwovens, dry-process carbon composites, or similar products or
- b. particulate removal equipment.

3. DEFINITIONS AND ACRONYMS

3.1 Definitions. Some terms are defined here for the purposes of this standard. When definitions are not provided, refer either to *ASHRAE Terminology of HVAC&R*¹ or to ASTM's *Standard Terminology Relating to Activated Carbon*.² Otherwise, common usage shall apply.