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Standard Classification for Rubber Compounding Materials—Ground Coal¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This classification covers the compounding material known as ground coal. It is generally used in rubber compounds as a filler.

1.2 There are three grades of ground coal based on particle size, ash, and moisture. The selected values for these properties are suitable for use in a rubber compound.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*²

[C1070 Test Method for Determining Particle Size Distribution of Alumina or Quartz by Laser Light Scattering](#)

[D1208 Test Methods for Common Properties of Certain Pigments](#)

[D3174 Test Method for Ash in the Analysis Sample of Coal and Coke from Coal](#)

[D3175 Test Method for Volatile Matter in the Analysis](#)

¹ This classification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D11 on Rubber and Rubber-like Materials and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D11.20 on Compounding Materials and Procedures.

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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.

[Sample of Coal and Coke](#)

[D4371 Test Method for Determining the Washability Characteristics of Coal](#)

3. Significance and Use

3.1 Ground coal is commonly used as an inexpensive filler in rubber compounds as a direct or partial replacement for carbon black or as a diluent in the compound.

3.2 Ground coal is very compatible with most rubbers and is very easily mixed into the compound.

4. Basis of Classification

4.1 Particle size will have a direct effect on the modulus, tensile strength, and tear strength of the finished rubber.

4.2 Ash in the coal will effect the specific gravity and high ash can influence the curing characteristics of the rubber.

4.3 Moisture in the ground coal at levels of 0.5 % and above can cause blisters and scorch.

4.4 Lowering the density (specific gravity) will reduce compounding cost and affect volume loading.

4.5 Ground coal for use in rubber compounds shall conform to the three grades listed in [Table 1](#).

5. Keywords

5.1 filler; ground coal

TABLE 1 Properties of Ground Coal

Property (Maximum Values)	Grade I	Grade II	Grade III	Test Method
Average particle size (µm) not weighted	5	6	7	C1070
Top particle size (µm)	20	24	28	C1070
Retained on 325 mesh (g)	0.0100	0.0450	0.0950	^A
Retained on 100 mesh (g)	0.0003	0.0005	0.0010	^A
Ash, %	5	6	7	D3174
Alpha quartz, %	1.0	1.50	2.0	X-Ray Diffraction
Heat loss, % (moisture)	0.5	0.75	1.0	D3174
Acidity	0.02	0.02	0.02	D1208
Volatile matter, %	20	20	20	D3175
Density (Mg/m ³) (specific gravity)	1.35	1.45	1.55	D4371

^A Method is being letter balloted in Subcommittee D11.11. Values based on 100 g samples.

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