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Standard Test Method for Sand Content by Volume of Bentonitic Slurries¹

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^{ε1} NOTE—Editorial changes were made throughout and Section 9 added editorially in September 1993.

1. Scope

1.1 This test method covers the determination of the sand content of bentonitic slurries used in slurry construction techniques. This test method has been modified from API Recommended Practice 13B.

1.2 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety problems, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to consult and establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:

D 653 Terminology Relating to Soil, Rock, and Contained Fluids²

2.2 American Petroleum Institute (API) Standard:

API RP 13B Recommended Practice Standard Procedure for Testing Drilling Fluids³

3. Terminology

3.1 For definitions of terms relating to this test method, refer to Terminology D 653.

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 The glass measuring tube of the sand-screen set (Fig. 1) is filled with bentonitic slurry and water to the appropriate marks and is shaken. The mixture is poured through the wet screen. The funnel is fitted over the top of the screen and the assembly inverted, inserting the tip of the funnel into the glass measuring tube. All material is washed from the screen and the amount of sand read in the graduated tube, as percent by volume.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 This test method evaluates the amount of sand by volume in bentonitic slurry. The significance of this test method mainly relates to bentonitic slurries used for concrete



NOTE 1—Photo courtesy of N. L. Baroid—N. L. Industries, Inc., Houston, TX.

FIG. 1 Sand-Content Set

wall construction. The range of measurement is too limited for use in cement bentonite wall construction.

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D-18 on Soil and Rock and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D18.20 on Impermeable Barriers.

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² *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 04.08.

³ Available from the American Petroleum Institute, 2101 L St., NW, Washington, DC 20037.

6. Apparatus

6.1 *Sand-Content Set* (see Fig. 1), consisting of the following:

6.1.1 *Sieve*, No. 200 mesh (75- μm), 2 in. (50 mm) in diameter.

6.1.2 *Funnel*, to fit screen and glass measuring tube.

6.1.3 *Measuring Tube*, glass tube should be marked from 0 to 20 % by volume.

NOTE 1—Volume of sand, including void spaces between grain, is measured and expressed as percent by volume of bentonitic slurry.

7. Procedure

7.1 Fill the glass measuring tube to the designated mark with bentonitic slurry.

7.2 Add water to the next designated mark.

7.3 Close the mouth of the tube and shake vigorously.

7.4 Pour the mixture into the clean, wet No. 200 (75- μm) mesh sieve.

7.5 Discard the liquid which passes through the sieve.

7.6 Add more water to the tube, shake, and pour into the sieve. Repeat until the water which passes through the sieve is clear.

7.7 Wash the sand retained on the sieve to clean any remaining slurry.

7.8 Attach the funnel upside down over the top of the sieve.

7.9 Carefully invert the assembly and insert the tip of the funnel into the mouth of the glass measuring tube.

7.10 With a fine spray of water, wash the sand retained on the sieve back into the measuring tube.

7.11 Allow the sand to settle.

7.12 Read the volume of sand from the graduations on the glass tube as a percent of the volume of bentonitic slurry originally added in 7.1.

7.13 Wash and dry all equipment thoroughly after each test.

8. Precision and Bias

8.1 No information or data has been developed to determine the precision of the sand-content test.

8.2 Results are usually repeatable within 1 or 2 %.

9. Keywords

9.1 bentonite; sand; slurry

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