



Global Aggregate Test Methods

Chemical Analyses

Impurities such as Na_2O and SiO_2 are determined on the feedstock for Tabular Alumina and Spinel with an ICP-AES or an ARL 29000 series Quantometer. Samples are prepared for the ICP by dissolving the alumina in a heated mixture of sulfuric and phosphoric acids. Samples are prepared for the Quantometer by co-grinding the alumina with graphite and pressing the resultant powder into an electrode for electric spark emission testing.

The metallic iron content of all Tabular Alumina finished products is determined by means of a magnetic analyzer or a Soluble Fe_2O_3 test. The magnetic analyzer is manufactured by Buck & Co. INC, 186 Grove Street, PO Box 468, Franklin, MA 02038, USA. The Soluble Fe_2O_3 method determines the amount of soluble iron in crushed Tabular Alumina by digesting a sample in hot, diluted 1:1 hydrochloric acid to effect dissolution of the iron. The digested sample is then filtered and an aliquot analyzed by development of the 1-10 phenanthroline color. The absorbance of the color, which is directly proportional to the iron content, is determined at 510 nm using a colorimeter.

The wt-% of Al_2O_3 is calculated from the difference between 100 wt-% and the sum of all impurities.

Analyses of Physical Properties

These include Water Absorption [WA], Apparent Porosity [AP] and Bulk Specific Gravity [BSG]. These parameters are calculated from the dry weight [w_t], and wet weight after boiling in water [w_w] of crushed Converter Discharge balls (particle size about 6-12 mm) and from the volume of displaced water [V_{di}], measured by means of a hydrostatic scale, according to following formulas:

$$\text{Water Absorption [wt-\%]} = [w_w - w_t / w_t] \times 100$$

$$\text{Apparent Porosity [vol-\%]} = [w_w - w_t / V_{di} \times \rho_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}] \times 100$$

$$\text{BSG [g/cm}^3] = w_t / V_{di}$$

In all calculations it is assumed that the density $\rho_{\text{H}_2\text{O}}$ of water is exactly 1 g/cm³.

Sieve Analysis

For all closed size and open size Tabular Alumina and Spinel products a sieve analysis is performed on an assembly of sieves according DIN/ISO 3310/1 and Tyler Screen Scale respectively. The assembly of required sieves is arranged in order of increasing mesh size with the coarsest sieve in the top position and a receiving pan in the bottom position. A weighed sample is placed on the top sieve and the assembly is placed in a sieve shaker. The sample is shaken for 10 minutes and the amount of material on each sieve is weighed. The percentage of material on each sieve is calculated and expressed as wt-% of the original sample weight. The coarse products are dry sieved whereas the -45 micron products are dry or wetsieved and the -20 micron products are wet sieved.



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CILAS 1064 Laser Diffraction

The PSD of Tabular Alumina -20 micron and of all Spinel sizes with upper limits < 90 micron (MR 66 -90 micron; AR 78 -90 micron, -45 micron, -20 micron) is measured in a Cilas 1064 Laser Diffraction. In this method a powder sample is ultrasonically dispersed in an aqueous solution with sodium metaphosphate. The Cilas method allows the determination of the PSD from the diffraction behavior of a laser beam.



Contacts for sales, technical information and application assistance

Almatis GmbH

Giulinistrasse 2
67065 Ludwigshafen
Germany

☎ 49 621 5707 0
☎ 49 621 5707 130

Almatis B.V.

Theemsweg 30
3197KM Botlek RT
The Netherlands

☎ 31 181 2701 0
☎ 31 181 2178 53

Almatis, Inc.

501 West Park Road
Leetsdale, PA 15056, USA

☎ 800 643 8771 Gened
☎ 1 412 630 2800
☎ 1 412 630 2900

Qingdao Almatis Co., Ltd.

F15, Sunshine Tower
61 Hongkong Middle Road
Qingdao, 266071
P.R. China

☎ 86 532 8572 8085
☎ 86 532 8572 8551

Qingdao Almatis Trading Co., Ltd.

Room 1807, Eton Place
69 Dong Fang Road
Shanghai, 200120
P.R. China

☎ 86 21 5879 4887
☎ 86 21 5879 6502

Almatis do Brasil Ltda.

Avenida Jose de Souza
Campos, 243
2º Andar – Cambuí
13025-320 – Campinas,
SP – Brasil

☎ 55 19 3515-1400
☎ 55 19 3515-1410



Almatis GmbH
Lyoner Straße 9
60528 Frankfurt/Germany

Phone 49 69 957 341 0
Fax 49 69 957 341 13

info@almatis.com
www.almatis.com

Almatis Alumina Private Limited

Kankaria Estate
2nd Floor
6, Little Russell Street
Kolkata 700-071, India

☎ 91 33 2289 4694
☎ 91 33 2289 4693

Almatis Limited

Morimura Bldg.
1-3-1 Toranomon
Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-8451
Japan

☎ 81 3 3502 2371
☎ 81 3 3502 2375