

Australian Standard™

**Methods for the analysis and testing of
lower rank coal and its chars**

**Part 8: Lower rank coal—Determination
of ash**

This Australian Standard was prepared by Committee MN-001, Coal and Coke. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 16 September 2002 and published on 1 October 2002.

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Australian Coal Association
Australian Coal Preparation Society
Australian Institute of Energy
CSIRO, Energy Technology
Coalfield Geology Council of New South Wales
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PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Committee MN-001, Coal and Coke, to supersede AS 2434.8—1993, *Methods for the analysis and testing of lower rank coal and its chars*, Part 8: *Lower rank coal—Determination of ash*.

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FOREWORD

During the incineration of lower rank coal, most of the inorganic species such as sodium, calcium, magnesium and iron undergo chemical changes. These changes generally involve oxidation and sulfation (and other reactions) and result in the residual ash having a much higher mass than the mineral and inorganic matter originally present in the coal. This mass increase occurs despite the possibility of decreases in mass during incineration because of losses of sodium chloride. However, in the case of coals having very high sodium chloride content, the mass losses may exceed the mass increases. The determination of ash is empirical because the conditions of incineration control the extent to which these and other chemical changes occur. The ash so determined is not necessarily of the same magnitude and composition as the ash from combustion under other conditions. It is essential, therefore, to adhere strictly to the procedure specified. A moisture determination is carried out concurrently.

STANDARDS AUSTRALIA**Australian Standard****Methods for the analysis and testing of lower rank coal and its chars****Part 8: Lower rank coal—Determination of ash****1 SCOPE**

This Standard sets out a method for the determination of ash in lower rank coal.

2 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS

The following documents are referred to in this Standard:

AS

1038 Coal and coke—Analysis and testing

1038.16 Part 16: Assessment and reporting of results

2243 Safety in laboratories (series)

2434 Methods for the analysis and testing of lower rank coal and its chars

2434.7 Part 7: Lower rank coal—Determination of moisture in the analysis sample

2508 Safe storage and handling information card (series)

2706 Numerical values—Rounding and interpretation of limiting values

3 PRINCIPLE

A known mass of coal is heated in air to 500°C in 30 min, maintained at this temperature for 30 min, then heated to 815°C until incineration is complete. The percentage of ash is calculated from the mass of the residue remaining after incineration.

4 SAFETY

For information on laboratory safety, reference should be made to the relevant parts of AS 2243 and AS 2508.

5 SAMPLE**5.1 General**

The sample shall be the analysis sample prepared to a nominal top size of 212 µm.

5.2 Equilibration of the sample

The moisture content of the analysis sample shall be equilibrated with the laboratory atmosphere by exposure in a thin layer on a tray. Exposure time shall be kept to a minimum. The sample shall be thoroughly mixed immediately before analysis.

6 APPARATUS**6.1 Muffle furnace**

The furnace shall be capable of—

- (a) achieving an adequate zone at a uniform temperature of $500 \pm 10^\circ\text{C}$ in 30 min from room temperature;