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MICROTRAC

DATA DESCRIPTION

See following pages...



The above represents a sample printout of particle size data obtained using the Microtrac[®] S3000 Analyzer. Data printouts for other Microtrac diffraction instrument models are interpreted similarly as presented below.

Primary Data Sections:

- 1. Sample information and summary data
- 2. Percent passing (retained) and percent in channel data 3. Cumulative volume graph
- 4. Relative volume graph
- 5. Measurement parameters

The following equations are used for computation of the values:

$$MV = \frac{\sum V_{i}d_{i}}{\sum V_{i}} \quad MN = \frac{\sum (V_{i}/d_{i}^{2})}{\sum (V_{i}/d_{i}^{3})} \quad MA = \frac{\sum V_{i}}{\sum (V_{i}/d_{i})} \quad SD = \frac{(84\%-16\%)}{2}$$

1. Sample Information and Summary Data

If data are supplied from our Florida laboratory, it will contain the following information to identify and track the sample:

- A Microtrac laboratory tracking "ID"
- Your company name
- The time and date of the analysis.

Percentile

1% through 99% – Software-selectable **Percentile Points**, in microns, show the percentage of the volume (or weight, if the specific gravity for all the particles is the same) that is smaller than the size indicated. The "50" percentile is also known as the "median diameter," which is one of several measures of "average particle size."

Summary

mv - Mean Diameter, in microns, of the Volume

distribution – represents the center of gravity of the distribution. Implementation of the equation used to calculate mv will show it to be weighted (strongly influenced) by coarse particles. It is another type of "average particle size."

mn – **Mean Diameter,** in microns, of the **Number** distribution – is calculated using the volume distribution data and is weighted to the small particles. This type of "average particle size" is related to population.

ma - Mean Diameter, in microns, of the Area

distribution – is calculated from the volume distribution. The area mean is a type of "average" that is less weighted than \mathbf{mv} by the presence of coarse particles, and therefore shows smaller particle size. Mean diameter represents a particle surface measurement.

cs – **Calculated Specific Surface Area** (M²/CC) – provides an indication of specific surface area. The **cs** computation assumes smooth, solid, spherical particles. It should not be interchanged with BET or other adsorption methods of surface area determination. Calculated specific surface area does not reflect porosity or unique topographic characteristics of particles.

sd – **Standard Deviation**, in microns, describes the width of the measured particle size distribution. It does *not* provide an indication of the statistical error about the mean of multiple measurements.

Dia, Vol %, and Width – Microtrac software automatically separates the distribution into one or more peaks/modes. The following data pertain to individual peaks of the distribution:

 $\ensuremath{\text{Dia}}$ – the calculated 50% of each mode/peak in the distribution

Vol %- the percent volume contribution of each peak/mode to the distribution

Width - the 84% to 16% for each peak/mode of the distribution.

2. % PASS (%RETN) and % CHAN Numerical Data

The measuring range is divided into fixed "channel" or particle sizes. Particle sizes are identified on the left column in units of microns. Cumulative data values are on the same line as the particle size and are read "percent smaller than (or larger than) the particle size." Volume percent-in-channel data (%-CHAN) are read as "volume percent between the particle size on the same line and the line below."

For example, in the printout, 13.64% of the volume is smaller than 8.482 microns, while 10.40% of the material lies between the sizes 8.482 and 7.778 microns. When data are presented in the percent retained format (% RETN column), the data are read using 8.482 microns and the line above (9.250 microns).

3. Cumulative Graph

A cumulative graph, with "% PASS" or "% RETN" data, is presented as a line graph. The values used to produce the cumulative graph are those shown in the "% PASS" (%RETN) column in the numerical data. The percent value may be found by determining the point of intersection of the desired size and the cumulative curve; this is true for any particle size. The percent passing is determined from the point on the left axis that corresponds to the intersection point.

Microtrac only provides information within its particle size range. Particles smaller or larger than the instrument measuring range are not be included as part of the distribution. For this reason, "percent smaller or larger than" data begins with 100 % at the largest or smallest measurable size, even though particles outside the measuring range may be present in the sample.

4. Relative Graph (% CHAN)

When bar graphs are printed, midpoints between the channel sizes are used. Line graphs are developed by connecting the midpoints. Graphical data provide an opportunity to view the distribution at a glance. In the example, 5.00% of the volume is indicated at approximately 14 microns. Quantitative data are obtained from the numerical data in the table below the graph.

5. Measurement Parameters

Presented at the bottom of the page, this information relates to the measurement parameters used for data collection, calculations and final presentation of the distribution.