

Summary Report: Development of a New ASTM Standard Test Method for Phase Change Materials

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PREFACE

Materials used for thermal insulation and storage, along with other construction and building envelope components, are subjected to transient thermal conditions which can include dynamically changing temperature, moisture content, surface heat transfer, specific heat, etc. In addition, most building design and energy-related standards are based on a steady-state criterion (R-values using the apparent thermal conductivity measurements). This mismatch between the steady-state principles used in design and code requirements and the dynamic operation of buildings can result in lower thermal efficiency than achievable or higher cost (due to addition of more insulation than required). This mismatch can also lead to a gross under-estimation of the performance of materials that store energy under cyclic temperature conditions, for example phase change materials (PCM). Although some experimental methods for transient analysis of building envelopes have been developed, there are no standardized testing procedures available to quantitatively characterize materials and systems under dynamic conditions. Data on dynamic material characteristics are needed to improve thermal design and analysis, whole-building simulations, and energy code-related work. This led to the development of a proposed ASTM Standard Test Method for characterizing PCM products under dynamic conditions.

1. INTRODUCTION

An ASTM International task group was formed with representatives from research organizations, PCM and insulation manufacturers, testing laboratories, etc., to develop an ASTM standard test method, using a heat flow meter apparatus (HFMA), to make heat-flow measurements under prescribed dynamic, or non-steady-state, conditions. The HFMA is typically used for measuring steady-state thermal transmission properties of materials, following ASTM C518 [1]. The new ‘dynamic’ test method is based on a modification of the C518 test method, for measuring volumetric specific heat of regular (i.e. with no PCM) thermal insulation materials [2]. The proposed test method describes the methodology for using a HFMA for measuring thermal storage properties of phase change materials and products. It requires the measurement of non-steady-state heat flow into or out of a flat slab specimen to determine the stored energy (i.e. enthalpy) change as a function of temperature. In particular, this test method is intended to measure the sensible and latent heat storage capacity of products incorporating phase-change materials (PCM). The thermal storage capacity of a PCM is well defined via four parameters [3]: specific heats of both solid and liquid phases, phase change temperature(s) and phase change enthalpy.

This report provides brief summaries of the proposed standard test method and the standard development-related activities at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) during fiscal year 2013 (FY13). The draft standard document is also provided as an appendix.

2. TEST METHOD SUMMARY

Figure 1 shows a typical HFMA being used for the dynamic test standard under development. It contains two independently-temperature-controlled plates that sandwich the test specimen. Each plate also contains a heat flux transducer (HFT) to measure the heat flowing into or out of the plate. This test method is limited to HFMA's containing at least one HFT in each plate, since heat flow measurements are required at both surfaces of the PCM test specimen.

A series of measurements are needed to determine the enthalpy storage of a test specimen over a temperature range. First, both HFMA plates are held at the same constant temperature until steady state is achieved. Steady state is defined by the reduction in the amount of energy entering the specimen from both plates, or vice-versa, to a very small and nearly constant value. Next, both plate temperatures are changed by identical amounts and held at the new temperature until steady state is again achieved. The enthalpy absorbed or released by the specimen from the time of the temperature change until steady state is reached at the new plate temperatures is recorded. Using a series of temperature step changes of $1.5 \pm 0.5^\circ\text{C}$, the cumulative enthalpy stored or released over a certain temperature range is determined. The specific heats of the solid and liquid phases are determined from the slope of the sensible enthalpy storage as a function of temperature, above and below the phase change temperature range. The proposed test method requires the measurement temperature range to begin at least 10°C below the phase change temperature range and continue till 10°C above. Since the phase change temperatures may not be known *a priori*, preliminary tests with coarser temperature step changes are useful in estimating the required measurement temperature range. Complete details of the test method can be found in the draft standard test method document (attached as Appendix A).



Figure 1. Heat flow meter apparatus (HFMA) for dynamic testing of PCM.

3. MEASURED PCM CHARACTERISTICS

In this section, some sample data are shown to illustrate the measurement of the different PCM characteristics. It is important to note that these tests were done to assist in the development of the standard test method, and ***the data shown here are not meant to formally characterize the PCM.*** Figure 2 and Figure 3 illustrate the determination of the phase change temperature range and the specific heats of the solid and liquid phases. The melting and freezing threshold temperatures are determined by performing linear regression using the enthalpy vs. temperature data points from the lowest and highest temperatures, respectively.

To determine the threshold temperature for freezing, a linear regression is initially performed starting with the two highest-temperature data points, resulting in a correlation coefficient of 1. This is followed by a sequence of linear regressions in which the next lower temperature data point is added for each successive calculation, until the correlation coefficient falls below 0.995. The temperature below which the correlation coefficient falls below 0.995 is defined as the freezing threshold temperature. The slope of line from the highest temperature to the freezing threshold is the specific heat of the PCM in its liquid phase.

Prior experience has shown that, unlike freezing, there is no sharp transition at the beginning of melting of PCMs and the correlation coefficient criterion of 0.995 to define melting onset is not appropriate. Similar to freezing, the process starts with the two lowest-temperature data points (correlation coefficient of 1) and progressively adds the next higher temperature data point until the linear regression calculation returns a correlation coefficient less than 0.995. The last linear regression returning a correlation

coefficient greater than 0.995 defines a straight line that is used as a baseline for determining the threshold temperature for melting. The melting threshold temperature is then defined as the temperature above which the measured enthalpy deviates by a 20% or more from the calculated baseline. These threshold criteria are based on the cumulative experience of the ASTM task group members in testing PCMs.

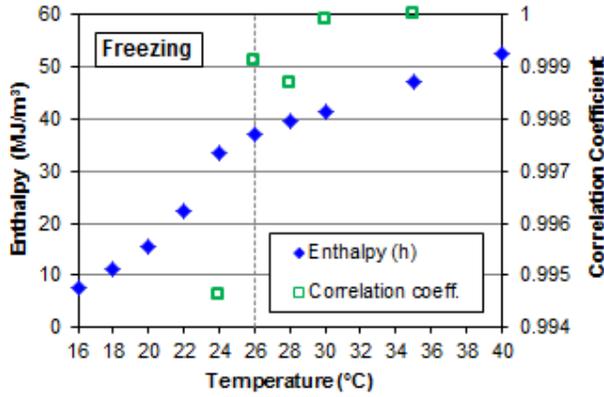


Figure 2. Determination of melting threshold and specific heat of the liquid PCM.

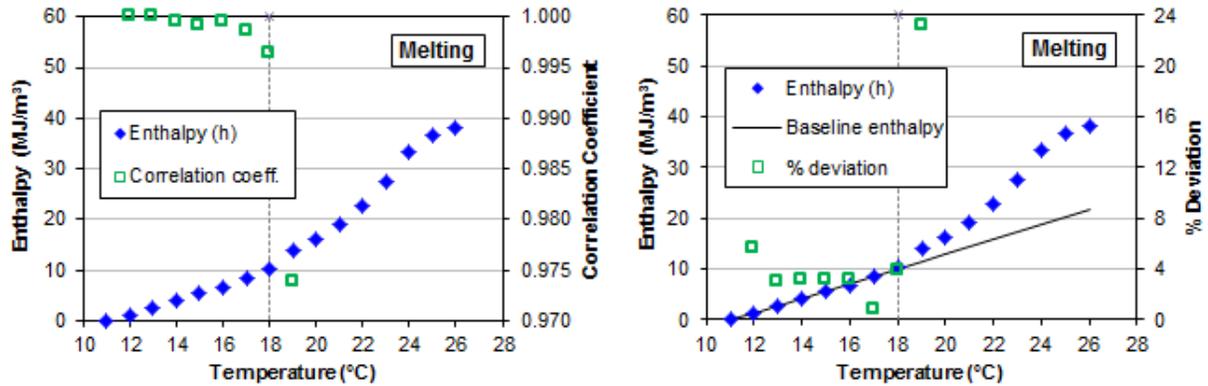


Figure 3. Determination of freezing threshold and specific heat of the solid PCM.

Figure 2 and Figure 3 show the measured enthalpy storage of a sample PCM as a function of temperature during freezing and melting. Based on the above criteria, the phase change range of the tested PCM was 18-26°C. The specific heats of the solid and liquid phases are determined from the slope of the enthalpy vs. temperature curve, above and below the phase change range. Based on the data presented, the volumetric specific heats of the solid and liquid PCM were 1.5 MJ/m³-K and 1.1 MJ/m³-K.

The total enthalpy change between melting threshold (or lower limit of the phase change temperature range, T_L) and freezing threshold (upper limit, T_U) includes both sensible and latent heat effects. The difference between the measured total enthalpy change (Δh) and sensible enthalpy storage is defined as the latent heat (h_{fs}) and can be calculated as:

$$h_{fs} = \sum_{T_L}^{T_U} (\Delta h) - c_{pF}(T_{Mean} - T_L) - c_{pM}(T_U - T_{Mean}) \quad (1)$$

In eq. 1, ' c_{pF} ' and ' c_{pM} ' are the specific heats of the solid and liquid phases of the PCM and ' T_{mean} ' is the mid-point of the phase change temperature range. The calculated volumetric latent heat of the sample PCM, based on above data, was 16.5 MJ/m³.

4. FY13 ORNL ACTIVITIES

During FY13, ORNL researchers led task group meetings at the October 2012 and April 2013 ASTM committee meetings, to discuss the outstanding technical and editorial issues. In addition, there were multiple online task group meetings. The draft standard was updated based on the outcomes of the aforementioned meetings and submitted for balloting. In addition, testing of different PCM samples continued to further add to the draft standard document. Part of the ORNL FY13 funds were used to create a subcontract for Fraunhofer Center for Sustainable Energy, for further PCM testing and assisting ORNL in resolving the negative votes and comments arising from the ASTM ballot process.

The draft standard was submitted to two ASTM ballots. The first ballot was at the sub-committee level, in February 2013. Based on the comments received from this sub-committee ballot and those from the subsequent meetings, the updated draft standard was submitted to the main committee ballot of Committee C16 on Thermal Insulation in June 2013. The main committee ballot returned 26 affirmative and 1 negative votes. The single negative vote is to be discussed and resolved in the upcoming October 2013 ASTM committee meeting.

5. FUTURE WORK

A teleconference was held with ASTM staff during August 2013, to discuss future activities and setting up an inter-laboratory study (ILS). The next step is a repeatability test involving at least five tests each of two most commonly-used types of PCMs. A full ILS will involve at least six testing laboratories and cover the full scope of the standard. The ILS is required for a robust repeatability and reproducibility test of the proposed standard test method.

6. REFERENCES

1. ASTM C518-10. *Standard Test Method for Steady-State Thermal Transmission Properties by Means of the Heat Flow Meter Apparatus*. ASTM International, West Conshohocken, PA, United States.
2. Tleoubaev, A. Brzezinski, A. and Braga, L. *Accurate Simultaneous Measurements of Thermal Conductivity and Specific Heat of Rubber, Elastomers, and Other Materials*. 12th Brazilian Rubber Technology Congress, 2008.
3. Gunther, E., Hiebler, S., Mehling, H. and Redlich, R., 2009. *Enthalpy of Phase Change Materials as a Function of Temperature: Required Accuracy and Suitable Measurement Methods*. International Journal of Thermophysics, Vol. 30, 2009, pp. 625 1257-1269.

APPENDIX A

Standard Test Method for Using a Heat Flow Meter Apparatus for Measuring Thermal Storage Properties of Phase Change Materials and Products

1

This standard is issued under the fixed designation X XXXX; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

1. Scope

- 1.1 This test method covers the measurement of non-steady-state heat flow into or out of a flat slab specimen to determine the stored energy (i.e. enthalpy) change as a function of temperature using a heat flow meter apparatus (HFMA).
 - 1.2 In particular, this test method is intended to measure the sensible and latent heat storage capacity for products incorporating phase-change materials (PCM). The storage capacity of a PCM is well defined via four parameters: specific heats of both solid and liquid phases, phase change temperature(s) and phase change enthalpy (1).
 - 1.3 To more accurately predict thermal performance, information about the performance of PCM products under dynamic conditions is needed to supplement the properties (thermal conductivity) measured under steady-state conditions.
- Note 1:** This test method defines a dynamic test protocol for products or composites containing PCMs. Due to the macroscopic structure of these products or composites, small sample sizes used in conventional Differential Scanning Calorimeter (DSC) measurements, as specified in E793 and E967, are not representative of the relationship between temperature and enthalpy storage of full-scale PCM products.
- 1.4 This test method is based upon the HFMA technology used for Test Method C518 but includes modifications for specific heat and enthalpy change measurements for PCM products as outlined in this test method.
 - 1.5 Heat flow measurements are required at both the top and bottom HFMA plates for this test method. Therefore, this test method applies only to HFMA's that are equipped with at least one heat flux transducer on each of the two plates and that have the capability for computerized data acquisition and temperature control systems. Further, the amount of energy flowing through the transducers must be measureable at all points in time. Therefore, the transducer output shall never be saturated during a test.
 - 1.6 This test method makes a series of measurements to determine the enthalpy storage of a test specimen over a temperature range. First, both HFMA plates are held at the same constant temperature until steady state is achieved. Steady state is defined by the reduction in the amount of energy entering the specimen from both plates to a very small and nearly constant

¹ This Practice/Guide is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee C16 and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee C16.30.

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value. Next, both plate temperatures are changed by identical amounts and held at the new temperature until steady state is again achieved. The enthalpy absorbed or released by the specimen from the time of the temperature change until steady state is again achieved will be recorded. Using a series of temperature step changes, the cumulative enthalpy stored or released over a certain temperature range is determined.

- 1.6.1 The specific heats of the solid and liquid phases are determined from the slope of the sensible enthalpy storage as a function of temperature, above and below the phase change temperature range.
- 1.7 Calibration of the HFMA to determine the ‘correction factors’ for the enthalpy stored within the plate heat flux transducers and any material placed between the test specimen and the HFMA plates must be performed following Annex A. These correction factors are functions of the beginning and ending temperatures for each step, as described in Annex A.
- 1.8 This test method applies to PCMs and composites, products and systems incorporating PCMs, including: dispersed in, or combined with, a thermal insulation material, boards or membranes containing concentrated or dispersed PCM, etc. Specific examples include solid PCM composites and products, loose blended materials incorporating PCMs, and discretely contained PCM.
- 1.9 This test method may be used to characterize material properties, which may or may not be representative of actual conditions of use.
- 1.10 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as standard. No other units of measurement are included in this standard.
- 1.11 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:

C168 Terminology Relating to Thermal Insulation

C518 Standard Test Method for Steady-State Thermal Transmission Properties by Means of the Heat Flow Meter Apparatus

E793 Standard Test Method for Enthalpies of Fusion and Crystallization by DSC

E967 Standard Test Method for Temperature Calibration of Differential Scanning Calorimeters and Differential Thermal Analyzers

2.2 Other Standard:

RAL-GZ 896 Phase Change Material, German Institute for Quality Assurance and Certification E.V.².

² Available online at http://www.pcm-ral.de/uploads/media/RAL_GZ_896_Phase_Change_Material_2010_01.pdf

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—Terminology C168 applies to terms used in this specification

3.2 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

3.2.1 *phase change material (PCM)*, n—a material that changes its physical state (solid to liquid or vice-versa) over a certain temperature range, used in engineering applications specifically to take advantage of its latent heat storage properties

3.2.2 *PCM Active Range*, n—a broad temperature range in which a PCM changes phase from solid to liquid (melting) or liquid to solid (freezing), with associated enthalpy changes

3.2.3 *PCM composite*, n—material embedded with PCM to enhance its thermal performance

3.2.4 *PCM product*, n—material amended to include enthalpy storage capabilities via inclusion of PCM or PCM composites

3.2.5 *PCM system*, n—array or assembly of PCM products

3.3 *Symbols and Units*—The symbols used in this test method have the following significance:

3.3.1 A —HFMA metering area, m^2 .

3.3.2 $C_{hft}(T_{begin}, T_{end})$ —Correction factor for heat storage in the heat flux transducers, $J/(m^2 \cdot ^\circ C)$

3.3.3 $C_{other}(T_{begin}, T_{end})$ —Correction factor for heat storage in other materials used to surround the test specimen, $J/(m^2 \cdot ^\circ C)$

3.3.4 $c_p(T)$ —specific heat as a function of temperature, $J/kg \cdot ^\circ C$.

3.3.5 c_{pM} —specific heat of a melted PCM product, defined at a temperature greater than the upper limit of the PCM Active Range, $J/kg \cdot ^\circ C$.

3.3.6 $c_{pM,A}$ —areal specific heat of a melted PCM product, defined at a temperature greater than the upper limit of the PCM Active Range, $J/m^2 \cdot ^\circ C$.

3.3.7 $c_{pM,V}$ —volumetric specific heat of a melted PCM product, defined at a temperature greater than the upper limit of the PCM Active Range, $J/m^3 \cdot ^\circ C$.

3.3.8 c_{pF} —specific heat of a frozen PCM product, defined at a temperature less than the lower limit of the PCM Active Range, $J/kg \cdot ^\circ C$.

3.3.9 $c_{pF,A}$ —areal specific heat of a frozen PCM product, defined at a temperature less than the lower limit of the PCM Active Range, $J/m^2 \cdot ^\circ C$.

3.3.10 $c_{pF,V}$ —volumetric specific heat of a frozen PCM product, defined at a temperature less than the lower limit of the PCM Active Range, $J/m^3 \cdot ^\circ C$.

3.3.11 E —heat flux transducer output, μV

3.3.12 f —fraction of total PCM mass in the sample that has undergone phase change, dimensionless

3.3.13 h —enthalpy, J/kg

3.3.14 h_A —areal enthalpy, J/m^2

- 3.3.15 h_{fs} —latent heat per unit mass, J/kg
- 3.3.16 $h_{fs,A}$ —latent heat per unit area, J/m²
- 3.3.17 h_v —volumetric enthalpy, J/m³
- 3.3.18 k —thermal conductivity, W/m·K.
- 3.3.19 L —thickness of the test specimen, usually equal to the separation between the hot and cold plate assemblies during testing, m.
- 3.3.20 N —number of heat flux readings at a specific temperature step
- 3.3.21 q —heat flux (heat flow rate, Q , through area A), W/m².
- 3.3.22 $q_{\text{equilibrium}}$ —average heat flux at the end of a specific temperature step, W/m².
- 3.3.23 Q —heat flow rate in the metered area, W.
- 3.3.24 R —thermal resistance, (m²·K)/W.
- 3.3.25 S —calibration factor of the heat flux transducer, (W/m²)/V.
- 3.3.26 T – Temperature, °C.
- 3.3.27 T_{begin} —Beginning temperature for each temperature step, °C.
- 3.3.28 T_{end} — Ending temperature for each temperature step, °C.
- 3.3.29 T_L —lower temperature limit of the PCM Active Range, °C.
- 3.3.30 T_U —upper temperature limit of the PCM Active Range, °C.
- 3.3.31 ΔT —temperature difference during a temperature step ($T_{\text{end}} - T_{\text{begin}}$), °C.
- 3.3.32 α — thermal diffusivity, m²/s.
- 3.3.33 ρ —(bulk) density of the material tested, kg/m³.
- 3.3.34 λ —thermal conductivity, W/(m·K).
- 3.3.35 τ —time interval, s.
- 3.3.36 $\Delta\tau$ —time interval corresponding to each individual flux reading (data value), s.
- 3.4 Subscripts and Superscripts—
 - 3.4.1 A – Areal, per m²
 - 3.4.2 F – Frozen, solid
 - 3.4.3 fs – latent, associated with the transition from solid to liquid or liquid to solid
 - 3.4.4 i,k – index denoting i^{th} , k^{th} member of a series
 - 3.4.5 L – Lower
 - 3.4.6 M – Melted, liquid
 - 3.4.7 U – Upper
 - 3.4.8 V – Volumetric, per m³

4. Summary of the Test Method

4.1 This test method describes a method of using a heat flow meter apparatus (HFMA) to perform heat flux measurements on samples exposed to dynamic, that is non-steady-state, temperature conditions. The HFMA plates are allowed to stabilize at a certain identical temperature, above or below the PCM Active Range, and then their temperatures are incrementally decreased or increased. The plates are allowed to reach steady-state after each temperature step and the enthalpy change of the test specimen is determined for each step change in temperature, hence the dynamic nature of the test.

Note 2: Since the ‘dynamic’ portion of the test method does not involve measurements made under steady-state conditions, nor lead to determination of steady-state thermal transmission properties, the Test Method C518 cannot be used.

4.1.1 The test method is specifically designed to address materials and products that undergo physical changes with latent heat absorption or release during the course of the test. In particular, a phase transition will occur within PCM products, when the test temperatures span the PCM Active Range.

4.2 The object of the test, especially for a PCM product, is generally to determine the temperature dependence of the enthalpy storage characteristics of the specimen.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 Materials used in building envelopes to enhance energy efficiency, including PCM products used for thermal insulation, thermal control, and thermal storage, are subjected to transient thermal environments, including transient or cyclic boundary temperature conditions. This test method is intended to enable meaningful PCM product classification, as steady-state thermal conductivity alone is not sufficient to characterize PCMs.

Note 3: This test method defines a dynamic test protocol for complex products or composites containing PCMs. Due to the macroscopic structure of these products or composites, conventional measurements using a Differential Scanning Calorimeter (DSC) as specified in E793 and E967, which use very small samples, are not representative of the relationship between temperature and enthalpy storage of full-scale PCM products due to the sample size limitation.

5.2 Dynamic measurements of the thermal performance of PCM products shall only be performed by qualified personnel with understanding of heat transfer and error propagation. Familiarity with the configuration of both the apparatus and the product is necessary.

5.3 This test method focuses on testing PCM products used in engineering applications, including in building envelopes to enhance the thermal performance of insulation systems.

5.3.1 Applications of PCM in building envelopes take multiple forms, including: dispersed in, or otherwise combined with, a thermal insulation material; a separate object implemented in the building envelope as boards or membranes containing concentrated PCM that operates in conjunction with a thermal insulation material. Both of these forms enhance the performance of the structure when exposed to dynamic, i.e., fluctuating, boundary temperature conditions.

5.3.2 PCMs can be studied in a variety of forms: as the original “pure” *PCM*; as a *composite* containing PCM and other embedded materials to enhance thermal performance; as a *product* containing PCM or composite (such as micro- or macro-encapsulated PCM); or as a *system*, comprising arrays or assemblies of PCM products.

5.4 This test method describes a method of using a heat flow meter apparatus to determine key properties of PCM products, which are listed below. Engineers, architects, modelers, and others require these properties to accurately predict the in-situ performance of the products (2).

5.5 The objective is generally to conduct a test under temperature conditions that will induce a phase transition—e.g., melting or freezing—in the PCM product during the course of the test.

5.6 Determination of thermal storage properties is the objective of this test method, and key properties of interest include the following:

5.6.1 PCM Active Range, that is temperatures over which the phase transitions occur, for both melting and freezing of the PCM product or composites containing PCMs

5.6.2 Specific heat of the fully melted and fully frozen product, defined outside the PCM Active Range

5.6.3 Enthalpy change as a function of temperature, $h(T)$, including both sensible and latent components

5.6.4 Enthalpy plot—a histogram or table that indicates the change in enthalpy associated with incremental temperature changes that span the tested temperature range

5.6.5 Enthalpy of phase transition during the PCM melting and freezing processes in materials and composites containing PCMs

5.7 PCM products often possess characteristics that complicate measurement and analysis of phase transitions during a test. Following are some of the known issues with PCMs:

5.7.1 Imprecise PCM Active Range —PCMs in general do not have precise melting or freezing temperatures, and the entire active temperature range, from the beginning to the end of phase transitions, must be determined.

Note 4: The onset of freezing will not necessarily coincide with the end of melting. Therefore, the freeze and melt enthalpy curves must be independently defined to determine the PCM Active Range.

5.7.2 Multiple phase transitions—many PCMs exhibit a solid-solid transition with significant latent heat effects at temperatures near the melting transition

5.7.3 Sub-cooling—occurs when the specimen cools below its nominal freezing temperature before it actually begins to freeze, thus exhibiting an unusual enthalpy-temperature curve. The temperatures to initiate solid-liquid and solid-solid phase changes are often dependent on heating and cooling rate, purity of the PCM and if the PCM is somewhat amorphous (non-crystalline).

5.7.4 Hysteresis—occurs when a specimen heated from one temperature to another, and then returned to the original temperature, absorbs more (or less) heat at any particular temperature during the heating stage than it releases during cooling.

5.8 The properties measured are determined by fundamental thermophysical properties of the constituent materials of the product, and are thus inherent to the PCM product. The desired thermal performance enhancement, however, will depend strongly on the particular environment, climate, and mode of the actual engineering application of the PCM.

6. Apparatus

6.1 Follow the Apparatus section of Test Method C518 with these additional requirements:

6.1.1 A minimum of two heat flux transducers, one mounted on each plate of the apparatus, are required.

6.1.2 The ability to scan temperature and heat flux data at specified intervals and store results in a form that is immediately accessible in real time to the user or other programs running concurrently is required; e.g., a text file to which data are written after each scan. The ability to record a time stamp of each scan is required.

6.1.3 The ability to accept a user-defined temperature program for control of both plate temperatures. This test method includes a series of temperature steps, with specified intervals determined by time or equilibrium criteria.

Note 5: Independent time or equilibrium criteria control for each setpoint will facilitate the test.

6.1.4 The amount of energy flowing through the transducers must be measureable at all times. To avoid saturating the transducers, either their voltage gain must be variable, or in apparatus without variable transducer gain, the alternative approaches described in Appendix D must be followed.

7. Specimen Preparation

7.1 Instructions are given here separately for solid samples, loose blended materials, and discretely contained PCM.

7.2 For solid samples such as gypsum wallboard containing PCM (3-5).

7.2.1 Cut the specimen to the same size as the HFMA plate area.

Note 6: If the specimen has a conductive facing, e.g., foil, place a sheet of craft paper between the facing and the corresponding apparatus plate. If the heat capacity of this sheet is expected to be significant relative to the enthalpy storage of the specimen, independently measure the heat capacity in the same manner as for the HFMA transducers, described in Annex A. Then correct the measured heat flow into the assembly for this material as described in Section 10.

7.3 For loose material blended with PCM (6,7).

7.3.1 Construct the sides of a frame using thin low mass material between 2.5 to 5 cm in height and sized so the frame will be located at the periphery of the test chamber. Affix a net material to form the frame bottom.

7.3.2 Since the frame is located far from the metering area, it is unlikely that the frame presence will have a significant effect on the thermal measurement. This shall be verified by separate measurement on solid specimens made with and without the sample frame.

7.4 For arrays of PCM pouches or PCM containers (8).

7.4.1 Ensure the portion of the product within the metered area is representative of the array pattern.

7.4.2 A sketch or photograph of the test specimen is required for this type of product, due to the spatial non-uniformities and discontinuities that are common with this product type.

7.5 Ensure good contact between the HFMA plates and the product. If necessary, use an elastomeric or soft foam rubber sheet between one or both sides of the product and the

corresponding apparatus plate. This sheet will improve contact between the controlled temperature plates and prevent air circulation between the panel and the plates. The enthalpy storage correction for the sheet(s) must be independently measured, in the same manner as for the HFMA transducers, as described in Annex A. The measured heat flow into the assembly must then be corrected for this material as described in Section 10.3.

7.6 For PCM products with high lateral thermal conductivity, use an insulating frame to avoid significant edge losses. Ensure the frame is far away from the metered area to maximize the one-dimensional heat flow in the metered area.

8. Calibration

8.1 Prior to using this test method, calibrate the HFMA to determine the temperature-dependent calibration coefficients for both heat flux transducers using the procedure for the multiple temperature and thickness points in the Calibration section of Test Method C518.

8.2 The heat flux levels obtained during an HFMA test run are, in general, determined by heat flowing into or out of the specimen. The heat flux readings are also impacted by the heat that enters or leaves the transducers themselves, as a result of the change of the transducer temperature that corresponds to the change in plate temperature. Such heat flow is incidental to the values used in characterizing the PCM product. Therefore, separately calibrate the heat flux transducers within the HFMA to measure the correction factor for heat storage in the heat flux transducers. This additional apparatus calibration is described in Annex A.

9. Procedure

9.1 Personnel qualifications: This test method shall only be performed by qualified personnel with experience in heat transfer analysis and experimental error propagation. To ensure accurate measurement, the operator shall be fully proficient in the operation of the equipment and must have detailed familiarity with the configuration of the apparatus, the apparatus control and data reporting software, and the specimen itself.

9.2 Procedure overview: In order to characterize the PCM product, test parameter definitions are required, as are multiple series of measurements at discrete temperature steps. Instructions are given here to first define the general process used during a series of measurements (9.3); describe how to determine the test parameters (9.4); and finally, to apply this process to characterize the PCM product (9.5). Additional instructions are included to describe an optional investigation of the hysteresis within partially melted or frozen specimens (9.6, Appendix E).

9.3 Define general series of temperature steps for both plates, e.g. 11°C and 11°C, 13°C and 13°C, 15°C and 15°C, and so on.

9.3.1 To measure the enthalpy stored in the test specimen in each temperature range, make a series of measurements.

9.3.2 First, both plates shall be held at the same constant temperature until steady state is achieved.

Note 7: Please see Annex A for a description of experimental work that has been done with an apparatus with plates at different temperatures to achieve the same goals.

9.3.2.1 Steady state is defined by the reduction in the amount of energy entering the specimen from both plates to a very small and nearly constant value. See section 10.2.

9.3.3 After steady state is achieved, both plate temperatures will be changed to the same new temperature and held at that value until steady state is again achieved.

9.3.4 The cumulative amount of energy that enters the specimen from the time of the temperature change until steady state is again achieved will be recorded.

9.3.5 Heat flux readings shall include the proper sign to indicate direction of heat flow; normally a positive reading indicates heat entering sample, and negative values indicate heat leaving the specimen.

9.3.6 The initial temperature selection, the temperature difference between setpoints, and the number of temperature steps, will vary according to the purpose of each particular test series.

Note 8: The temperature range available depends on the construction of the HFMA equipment, the heat rejection bath temperature, and the calibration of the equipment.

9.4 Determine the test parameters.

9.4.1 An initial test shall be used to estimate the PCM Active Range and determine the time required for each temperature step. This step is not required if the specimen phase change characteristics are already well known, for example from differential thermal analysis (DTA) tests or differential scanning calorimetry (DSC) tests (using the step method or appropriately slow heating and cooling rates, as described in Ref. 9).

9.4.2 Make series of measurements, as described in 9.3, starting at a temperature at least 10°C below the expected melting temperature, or at the lowest temperature available on the HFMA, whichever is higher. Use temperature difference steps of $1.5 \pm 0.5^\circ\text{C}$. Allow a minimum of two hours for each setpoint during the initial specimen characterization.

9.4.3 End the series when the amount of energy stored in a temperature step returns to a small value, that is, when the test specimen is fully melted. See section 10.2.

Note 9: As described in Section 10.2, the amount of time required at each temperature step will vary depending on the size of the temperature step, the thermal diffusivity of the specimen, and the amount of enthalpy storage that occurs over that temperature step.

9.4.4 Repeat this procedure starting at the fully melted temperature condition and decreasing the plate temperatures in $1.5 \pm 0.5^\circ\text{C}$ steps until the amount of energy stored in a temperature step returns to a small value, that is, when the test specimen is fully frozen. See section 10.2.

9.4.5 Examine the data as described in section 10. Determine the estimated PCM Active Range, the desired temperature step size, and the amount of time required for each step.

9.4.6 An example of such a test series is shown in Annex B.

9.5 Characterize the PCM product.

9.5.1 Make a series of measurements, as described in 9.3, starting at a temperature at least 10°C below estimated PCM Active Range, and heating the plates with temperature difference steps of $1.5 \pm 0.5^\circ\text{C}$. End at a temperature at least 10°C above the estimated PCM Active Range. The amount of time required at each temperature step shall be as determined in 10.2.

Note 10: The minimum and maximum temperature difference step size will be limited by the combined uncertainty of the temperature measurement and heat flux measurement within the HFMA.

9.5.2 Make a series of measurements, as described in 9.3, starting at a temperature at least 10°C above the estimated PCM Active Range, and cooling the plates with temperature difference steps of 1.5±0.5°C. End at a temperature at least 10°C below the estimated PCM Active Range.

9.5.3 Examine the data as described in Section 10 to determine:

9.5.3.1 Whether either of the data series shall be repeated using longer equilibrium times at any particular temperature.

9.5.3.2 Whether the temperature range needs to be expanded to capture the full PCM Active Range.

9.5.4 A minimum of three heating series, as described in Section 9.5.1, and a minimum of three cooling series, as described in Section 9.5.2, are required.

9.5.4.1 In order to define the enthalpy curve of enthalpy storage vs. temperature with adequate precision, select beginning temperatures for the subsequent heating and cooling series that differ from those used for the initial heating and cooling series.

Note 11: For example: If the initial heating series spanned 10 to 30°C in 2°C steps, retain the 2°C step size, but start the second heating series at 10.6°C and the third heating series at 11.3°C. If the initial cooling series spanned 30 to 10°C in 2°C steps, retain the 2°C step size, but start the second heating series at 29.4°C and the third heating series at 28.7°C.

9.5.4.2 Examine the data as described in Section 10.2 to determine whether either of the data series shall be repeated using longer equilibrium times at any particular temperature.

9.6 Hysteresis effects when starting from partially frozen or partially melted material may be explored using the method described in Appendix E.

10. Calculations

10.1 Calculations Overview: The calculations require several separate stages. First it is necessary to examine the data to evaluate whether an adequate amount of time was spent at each and every temperature step (10.2). Once this has been established, it is possible to calculate the net enthalpy storage within the test specimen corresponding to each temperature step (10.3). That data form can then be used to express the enthalpy of the product as a function of temperature (10.4); to define the specific heat of the fully melted and fully frozen product (10.5, 10.6); and to define the latent heat of the product (10.7).

10.2 Evaluate adequacy of time intervals at each temperature step

10.2.1 The amount of time required at each temperature step will vary depending on the size of the temperature step, the thermal diffusivity of the specimen, the material thickness, and the amount of enthalpy storage that occurs over that temperature step. The time interval required to reach steady state during phase change phenomena are much greater than time intervals required when the material is subjected to sensible enthalpy storage phenomena.

10.2.1.1 The maximum heat rate into or out of the specimen is limited by apparatus capability and the specimen thermal diffusivity. It is possible to estimate the minimum amount of time ($\tau_{min,est}$) needed for each step by neglecting the apparatus limits and the impact of thermal storage on the thermal transmittance through the specimen, as shown in Eq. 1. This approach is only possible when there is some basis for estimating the enthalpy storage needed for that particular temperature step and when an estimate is available for the thermal conductivity of the

material. Possible sources for the enthalpy storage estimate include prior heating or cooling series or data from a DSC run.

$$\tau_{min,est} = \frac{\text{Estimated enthalpy storage for a particular temperature step}}{\text{Maximum conductance rate through specimen}}$$

or,

$$\tau_{min,est} = \frac{c_p(T)\rho L\Delta T}{(k\Delta T/(L/2))} = \frac{c_p(T)\rho L^2}{2k} \quad (1)$$

Note 12: If data are available to permit the calculation shown in Eq. 1, reasonable rules of thumb for the adequate total time for that temperature step would be: (1) for heating away from the expected latent range, use 1.5 times the estimated minimum; (2) for heating within the latent range, use 2.5 times the estimated minimum; (3) for cooling away from the expected latent range, use 2.5 times the estimated minimum; (4) for cooling within the latent range, use 5 times the estimated minimum.

10.2.2 Plot the heat flux signal vs. time for each temperature step for each plate as shown in Fig. 1. This plot is also useful in determining how much time is required at each temperature step. For example, the time spent at temperatures labeled 20.5 and 19.5 is longer than necessary and the time spent at temperature 18.5 is barely sufficient.

Note 13: The raw data are evaluated in this step. The raw data, typically in microvolts, will be transformed into the integrated heat flux in a subsequent step as described in Section 10.3.

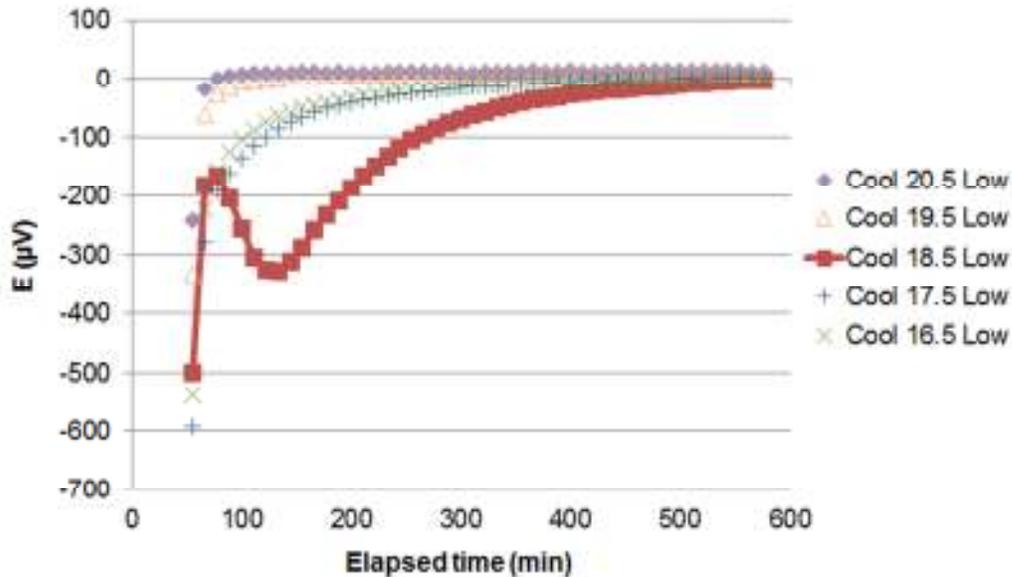


Figure 4. Example of transducer output (E) data taken during a series of cooling temperature steps of the lower plate of an HFMA

Note 14: It is useful to examine the equilibrium portions of the curves by either limiting the range of the plot on the y-axis, or plotting the absolute values of the electrical signal on a log axis.

10.2.3 As shown in 10.2.2 and Fig. 1, at steady state conditions at the end of each temperature step, a small non-zero HFMA signal remains, largely due to edge heat losses. For each series of temperature steps, determine whether each temperature step was held for an adequate length of time by examining this residual, or equilibrium, HFMA signal.

10.2.3.1 Calculate the residual heat flux transducer output (E), which is average output over the last 60 minutes of each temperature step. Plot this residual value vs. the plate temperature for that step. All the steps that have reached steady-state will show very similar values, or values that vary slightly with plate temperature.

Note 15: In Figure 2, the test was initially run with 6 h for each temperature step. For all of the data points except the four highlighted with arrows, this appears to have been an adequate length of time. The test was then repeated with those four steps increased to 9.25 h. It appears that the cooling step at 18.5°C (temperature step from 19 to 18°C) requires even more than 9 h. Note the entire cooling sequence would need to be repeated, starting at the highest temperature, to get the data for this temperature step interval.

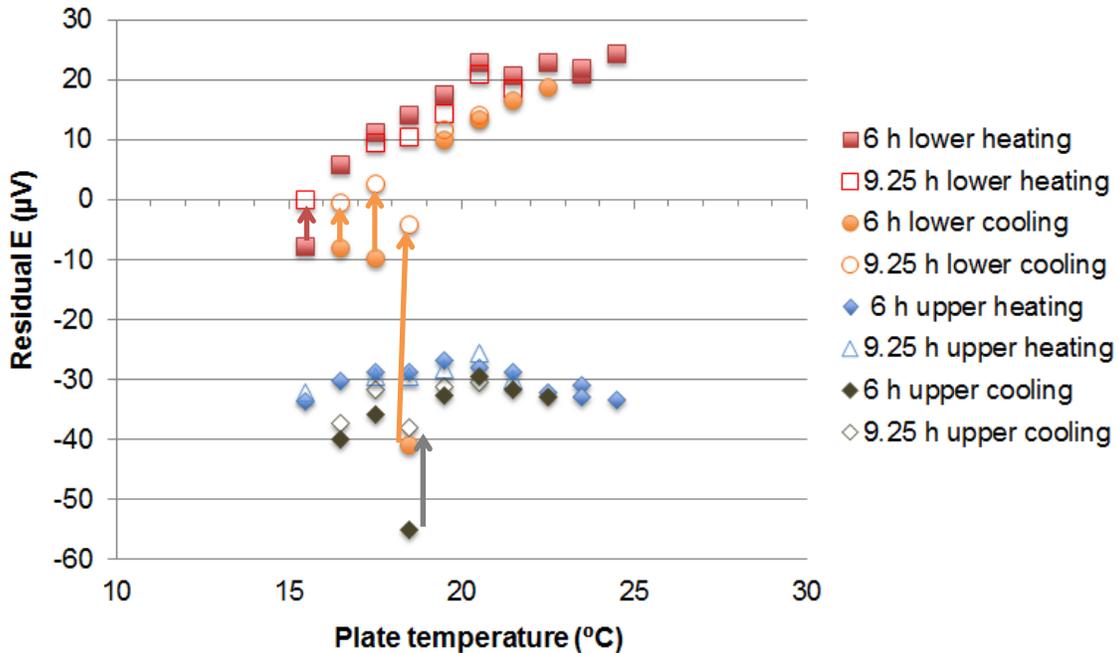


Figure 5. Residual transducer output (E) over the last 60 minutes during heating and cooling for upper and lower plates at two different time periods for each temperature step.

10.2.3.2 Another way to examine the residual heat flux data is to look at the difference between the output from the transducers in the upper and lower plates, as shown in Fig. 3. The PCM Active Range for this example, based on the sample data, is about 17-21°C. For a few data points, far away from the PCM Active Range, there is no difference between the data at 3 h and 6 h. Within the PCM Active Range, some of the data points in the cooling series still show significant changes between the 6 and 9 h values. This is also shown in the lower linear regression coefficient for the 9 h cooling data series. This would also indicate that the time intervals between 18 and 20°C during the cooling series need to be longer.

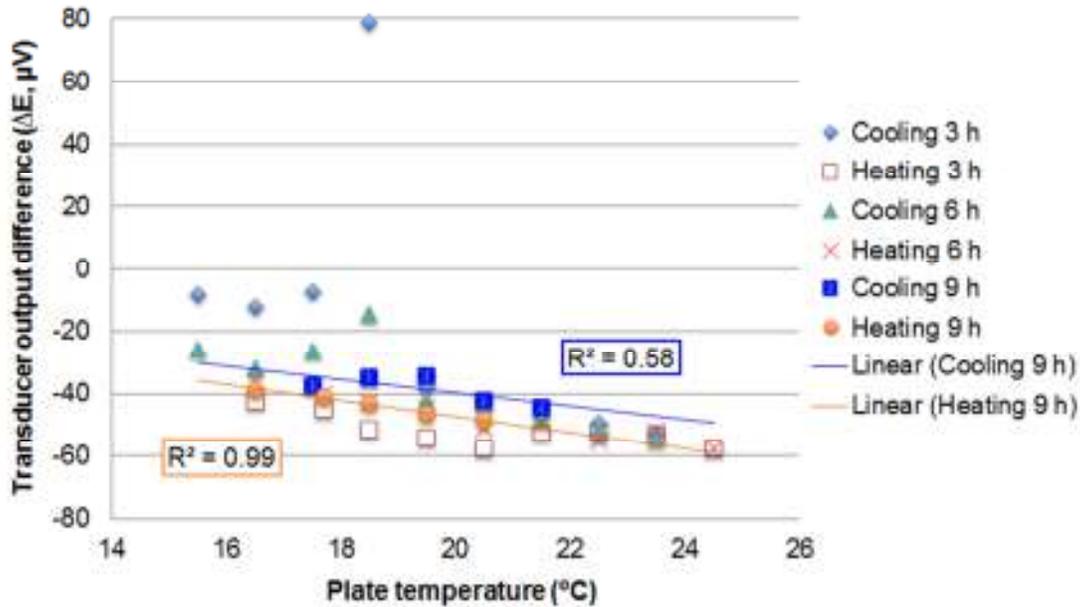


Figure 6. Transducer output difference ($\Delta E = E_{\text{upper plate}} - E_{\text{lower plate}}$) for different temperature step time periods during heating and cooling series

10.2.4 Use the data from 10.2.3 to determine whether the time spent at each temperature step within the series was adequate. If not, adjust the time interval settings and repeat the entire series of temperature steps.

10.2.5 Time interval estimates based on results from a heating series are not a reliable predictor for the same temperature steps during a cooling series.

Note 16: Experience has shown that for some materials the time intervals required for some freezing phenomena are much greater than for the melting phenomena.

10.3 Calculate the net enthalpy storage for each temperature step.

10.3.1 After determining that the time spent at each and every temperature step within the series was adequate to reach steady state as described in 10.2, calculate the heat gain/loss for each plate for each temperature step as shown in Eq. 2 (9).

10.3.2 The equilibrium, or residual, heat flux described in Section 10.2 shall be subtracted in the summation, independently for each plate.

Note 17: It is possible that this correction is pre-programmed in the HFMA control software. Determine whether this is so in order to avoid erroneous heat gain/loss calculations.

10.3.3 The energy that is stored within the transducers themselves (see Annex A) must also be subtracted, as well as the heat stored in any material placed between the test specimen and the HFMA plates. These correction factors for the transducer enthalpy storage and for any other material included with the test specimen are functions of the beginning and ending temperatures for each step, as described in Annex A.

Note 18: It is possible that this correction is pre-programmed in the HFMA control software. Determine whether this is so in order to avoid erroneous heat gain/loss calculations.

10.3.4 Eq. 2 shows the calculation of the enthalpy storage in the specimen for a given temperature interval (T_{begin}, T_{end}). The recorded heat flux for both plates, corrected for the residual equilibrium heat flux, is multiplied by the length of time ($\Delta\tau$) for each data point (q_i), and summed over the total number of data points (N) for the given temperature interval (ΔT). After subtracting the transducer heat storage correction factors, as well as the correction for any other material included within the HFMA, from the sum of the heat flow into the specimen, the total amount of enthalpy stored in the specimen during that temperature interval is calculated as shown in Eq. 2.

$$h_A = \left[\left(\sum_{i=1}^N (q_i - q_{equilibrium}) \Delta\tau \right) - C_{hft}(T_{begin}, T_{end}) \Delta T - C_{other}(T_{begin}, T_{end}) \Delta T \right]_{upper} + \left[\left(\sum_{i=1}^N (q_i - q_{equilibrium}) \Delta\tau \right) - C_{hft}(T_{begin}, T_{end}) \Delta T - C_{other}(T_{begin}, T_{end}) \Delta T \right]_{lower} \quad (2)$$

10.4 Combine the temperature step data to define the enthalpy storage as a function of temperature

10.4.1 Define the zero amount of cumulative heat as corresponding to the bottom of the step(s) starting from the lowest temperature used in 9.5.

10.4.2 Plot the corrected cumulative heat into or out of the specimen vs. the ending temperature for each step. An example is shown in Annex B.

10.4.3 That plot of areal enthalpy (h_A , J/m²) can also be manipulated to show the specific enthalpy (h , J/kg) and volumetric enthalpy (h_V , J/m³) as a function of temperature. See Annex B for an example of merging the data from multiple series onto a single plot of h_V vs. T.

$$h(T) = h_A(T) / (\rho L) \quad (3)$$

$$h_V(T) = h_A(T) / L \quad (4)$$

10.4.4 The data from heating series and cooling series shall be kept separate except that the final enthalpy from the heating series shall be taken as the starting enthalpy for the cooling series. See Annex B.

10.5 Define the specific heat of the fully frozen product, c_{pF} , and define T_L , the lower temperature limit of the PCM Active Range, when the melting initiates or freezing ends. Fig. 4 shows a sample PCM behavior during melting and freezing. In this example, the freezing ends at a lower temperature than the melting initiation, and T_L needs to be defined based on the freezing series. See Annex B.6 for an example calculation.

Note 19: The accuracy of T_L will be limited by the temperature step size.

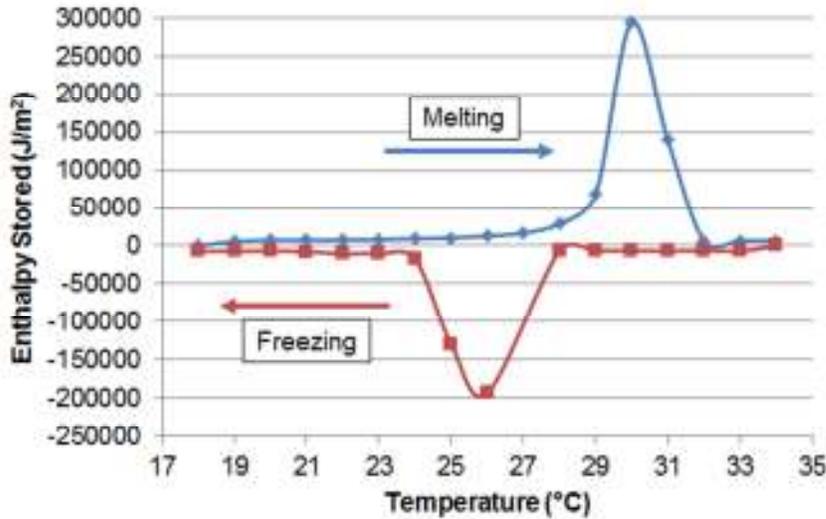


Figure 7. Sample PCM behavior during melting and freezing.

10.5.1 Examine the data for h vs. T from 10.4.3. Start with the values at the lowest temperatures measured for the combined heating and cooling series. Perform a linear regression for the first 2 data points and calculate both the slope of the line (in units of $J/m^2 \cdot ^\circ C$) and the regression coefficient (R^2). Since only 2 data points were used, the regression coefficient is 1.0.

10.5.2 Perform the linear regression again using the first 3, 4, 5, 6, etc. data points until the regression coefficient is less than 0.995. Prior experience has shown that, during melting, there is no sharp transition at the beginning of melting of PCMs (also evident in the melting curve of Fig. 4). Therefore, using a threshold correlation coefficient of 0.995 to define melting onset is not appropriate.

10.5.3 The melting onset, for the purpose of this test, is defined by a 20% deviation from the baseline linear cumulative enthalpy of the frozen PCM. To obtain this baseline, fit a straight line through the data points with regression coefficient greater than or equal to 0.995. Identify the lower temperature limit of the PCM Active Range, T_L , as that temperature above which the percentage deviation of the measured cumulative enthalpy deviates by more than 20% from the calculated baseline linear cumulative enthalpy. See Annex B.6 for the example calculation.

10.5.4 Use the calculated slope (in units of $J/m^2 \cdot ^\circ C$) of the line connecting the first to the last data point with the percent deviation in measured cumulative enthalpy from the calculated baseline less than 20% as the areal specific heat of the fully frozen product, c_{pFA} . The areal specific heat can be manipulated to show the specific heat and volumetric specific heat as a function of temperature.

$$c_{pF}(T) = c_{pFA}(T)/(\rho L) \quad (5)$$

$$c_{pFV}(T) = c_{pFA}(T)/L \quad (6)$$

10.6 Define the specific heat of the fully melted product, c_{pM} , and define T_U , the upper temperature limit of the PCM Active Range, when melting ends or freezing initiates. In the

example shown in Fig. 4, the melting ends at a higher temperature and will define T_U . See Annex B.6 for an example calculation.

Note 20: The accuracy of T_U will be limited by the temperature step size.

10.6.1 Examine the data for h vs. T from 10.4.3. Start with the values at the highest temperatures measured for the combined heating and cooling series. Perform a linear regression for the first 2 data points and calculate both the slope of the line (in units of $J/kg \cdot ^\circ C$) and the regression coefficient (R^2). Since only 2 data points were used, the regression coefficient is 1.0.

10.6.2 Perform the linear regression again using the first 3, 4, 5, 6, etc. data points until the regression coefficient is less than 0.995. Identify the upper temperature limit of the PCM Active Range, T_U , as that temperature at which the regression coefficient first dropped below 0.995. Based on prior experience, the enthalpy storage curve of the PCM exhibits a sharp transition at the freezing onset. Therefore, T_U is defined solely by the temperature below which the correlation coefficient drops below 0.995.

10.6.3 Use the calculated slope of the line connecting the first to the last data point set with a regression coefficient greater than 0.995 as the specific heat of the fully melted product, c_{pM} .

10.7 Calculate the latent heat.

10.7.1 The total enthalpy change between T_L and T_U includes both sensible and latent heat effects. Use the specific heat of the fully frozen product below the mean temperature of the PCM Active Range, and the specific heat of the fully melted state above the mean temperature of the PCM Active Range to define the sensible heat storage over the temperature range. The difference between the total and sensible heat storage is the latent heat (h_{fs}).

$$h_{fs} = \sum_{T_L}^{T_U} (\Delta h) - c_{pF}(T_{Mean} - T_L) - c_{pM}(T_U - T_{Mean}) = \sum_{T_L}^{T_U} (\Delta h) - \frac{(c_{pF} + c_{pM})(T_U - T_L)}{2} \quad (7)$$

10.7.2 The areal form of the latent heat is shown in Eq. 8.

$$h_{fs,A} = h_{fs} \times \rho \times L \quad (8)$$

11. Report

11.1 For each test, report the following information:

11.1.1 Identify the report with a unique numbering system to allow traceability back to the individual measurements taken during the test performed.

11.1.2 Identify the material and give a physical description.

11.1.2.1 Provide a specimen diagram or photograph if any materials other than the PCM product were placed in the HFMA, or if the area of the specimen is different from the area of the HFMA plates.

11.1.2.2 Provide a specimen diagram if the test specimen consisted of arrays of PCM pouches or PCM containers

11.1.3 Provide a brief conditioning history of the specimen, if known.

11.1.4 Thickness of the specimen as received and as tested, m.

11.1.5 Mass of the specimen, kg.

11.1.6 Volume of the specimen, m³.

11.1.7 Density of the specimen, kg/m³.

11.1.8 Area of the specimen exposed to each HFMA plate, m².

11.1.9 Method and environment used for conditioning, if used.

11.1.10 Dates the tests started and ended.

11.1.11 The temperature step size(s) used in the melting and freezing tests.

11.1.12 Table of corrected cumulative enthalpy into or out of the specimen vs. the end temperature for each step, combining the data from the multiple heating and cooling series as described in Annex B. Present the data as shown in Table 1. An acceptable alternative is to present separate heating and cooling test data following RAL-GZ 896 (Appendix F).

Table 1 Required Enthalpy Change Data Report Table

Mean temperature, °C	Enthalpy change during heating, J/m ³	Enthalpy change during cooling, J/m ³
First entry at least 3°C below T _L		
Maximum step size between entries is 1°C		
Last entry at least 3°C above T _U		

11.1.13 Plot of corrected cumulative heat into or out of the specimen vs. the end temperature for each step, as shown by the combined data curve in Fig. B.1 (Annex B) or the histograms in Figs. F.1 and F.2 (Appendix F).

11.1.14 Measured parameters, as listed in Table 2

Table 2 Required Report Table of Measured Parameters

Variable	Measured Value
T _U , °C	
T _L , °C	

$c_{p,M}$, J/kg-°C	
$c_{p,M}$, J/kg-°C	
h_{fs} , J/kg	

11.2 Description of calibration test results from Annex A, including the date of the last heat flux transducer calibration, and the type or types of calibration materials used, as shown in Table 3.

Table 3 Heat Storage Correction Factor Calibration Test Report Format

Date: _____ Calibration Material(s): _____	Temperature, °C	Correction Factor, J/m ² ·°C
	Lowest temperature used, °C	
	Maximum step size between entries is 10°C	
	Maximum temperature used, °C	

11.3 Estimated or calculated uncertainty in reported values, following the equipment error analysis described in Test Method C518.

Note 21: This methodology is pending a precision and bias statement and an interlaboratory study, which will guide the determination of uncertainties in the measurements of the characteristics of the phase change materials and products.

11.4 The name of the operator performing the tests and the data analyst preparing the test report

11.5 Describe impact of any machine/calibration temperature range limitations upon the test procedure. List the HFMA type and model, and the name and version identification of the control software.

11.6 Describe any external test results used to define phase change temperature range.

11.7 Statement of compliance, or where circumstances or requirements preclude complete compliance with the procedures of the test, agreed exceptions. A suggested wording is “This test conformed with all requirements of ASTM xxxx – with the exception of (a complete list of exceptions follows)

12. Precision and Bias

12.1 It is not possible to specify either the precision or bias of the procedure in this Test Method for measuring thermal storage properties of phase change materials because the test method is still under review and an interlaboratory study is pending.

13. Keywords

13.1 Phase Change Material, Enthalpy Storage, Latent Heat

14. References

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ANNEXES

(Mandatory Information)

A. Calculation of Correction Factors

A.1. The heat flux levels obtained during an HFMA test run are, in general, determined by heat flowing into or out of the sample, but also by heat that enters or leaves the HFTs themselves, due to a change of the transducer temperature. Such heat flow is incidental to the values used in characterizing the PCM product, and the magnitude of the heat flow must be determined separately by conducting a heat storage correction factor calibration of the HFMA’s heat flux transducers.

A1.1 This calibration shall be performed once for each apparatus, using the test procedure based on Tleoubaev et al. (9).

A1.2 The correction factor is not equal to the specific heat of the transducers themselves because the temperature profile through the transducer thickness is not linear until the temperature within the apparatus plate has reached steady state. Therefore the electrical output of the transducers is not directly proportional to the heat flowing into the transducers during this time period (11).

A1.3 If any other material is placed between the HFMA plates and the test specimen, the same type of correction must be made.

A.2. The apparatus heat flux transducer correction factor calibration must be performed over the entire temperature range in which PCM products will be tested, using an incremental temperature step procedure:

A2.1 Use two or more specimens of the same material with a known and small heat capacity in the HFMA chamber to provide data at multiple plate separation values.

Note A.1: Multiple thin boards of well-aged extruded polystyrene, 10 mm each, have been used for this purpose.

A2.2 Starting at the lowest expected temperature and ending at the highest expected temperature, make a series of measurements as described in 9.3, with the temperature difference between setpoints of approximately 10°C, recording readings of heat flux.

A2.3 Use the calculations described in 10.2 and 10.3 to calculate the integral of the heat flux over time (total heat gained or lost by the transducers and the specimen, h_A) for that temperature step, according to Eq. 2. The residual heat flux, $q_{\text{equilibrium}}$, must be subtracted as in Eq. 2. Divide this integrated heat flux by the temperature change ($h_A/\Delta T$) and plot the result vs. plate separation, for each setpoint, identified by the average temperature over the step. Extrapolate back to a zero plate separation to obtain the transducer heat storage correction factors as a function of temperature. See Table A.1 and Figs. A.1 and A.2.

Note A.2: For example, if the total heat gain (h_A) was 100 J/m² when the plate temperature was increased by 10°C, the integrated heat flux per unit temperature difference ($h_A/\Delta T$) would be 100 divided by 10, or 10 J/m²-°C

Table A.4 Example data used to calculate heat flux transducer correction factor

Raw Data (Fig. A.1)			Linear extrapolation from data (Fig. A.2)	
Mean Temperature, °C	Plate separation [mm]	Integrated flux per unit temperature difference ($h_A/\Delta T$), J/m ² -°C	Mean Temperature, °C	Intercept, $h_A/\Delta T$ at dx = 0, J/m ² -°C
10	9.5	2,531	10	2,155
	9.5	2,531	15	2,122
	9.5	2,516	20	1,843
	38.4	3,654	30	1,950
	38.4	3,651	40	2,082
15	38.5	3,658	50	2,330
	9.5	2,563		
	9.5	2,360		
	9.5	2,560		
	19.1	2,947		
	19.2	3,008		
	28.9	3,392		
	28.9	3,185		
	29.0	3,342		
	38.5	3,704		
20	38.5	3,722		
	38.5	3,718		
	9.5	2,225		
	9.5	2,223		
	9.5	2,225		
	38.4	3,386		
	38.4	3,376		
30	38.5	3,387		
	9.5	2,348		
	9.5	2,347		
	9.5	2,342		
	38.4	3,547		
	38.4	3,550		
	38.5	3,551		

40	9.5	2,493		
	9.5	2,489		
	9.5	2,488		
	38.4	3,740		
	38.4	3,728		
	38.5	3,723		
50	9.5	2,756		
	9.5	2,763		
	9.5	2,761		
	38.4	4,116		
	38.4	4,017		
	38.5	4,068		

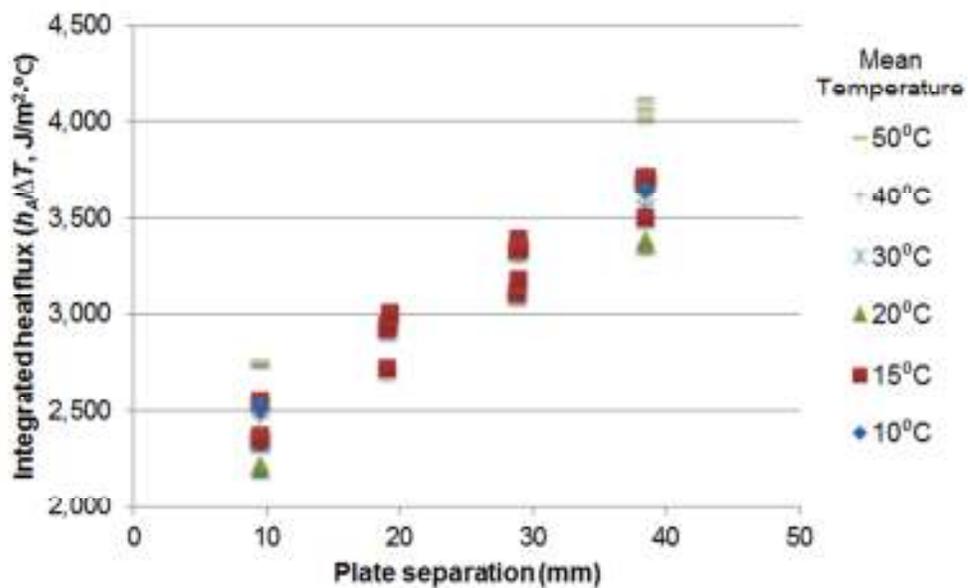


Figure A.1. Plot of raw data to visualize extrapolation of integrated heat flux ($h_s/\Delta T$) to plate separation of zero

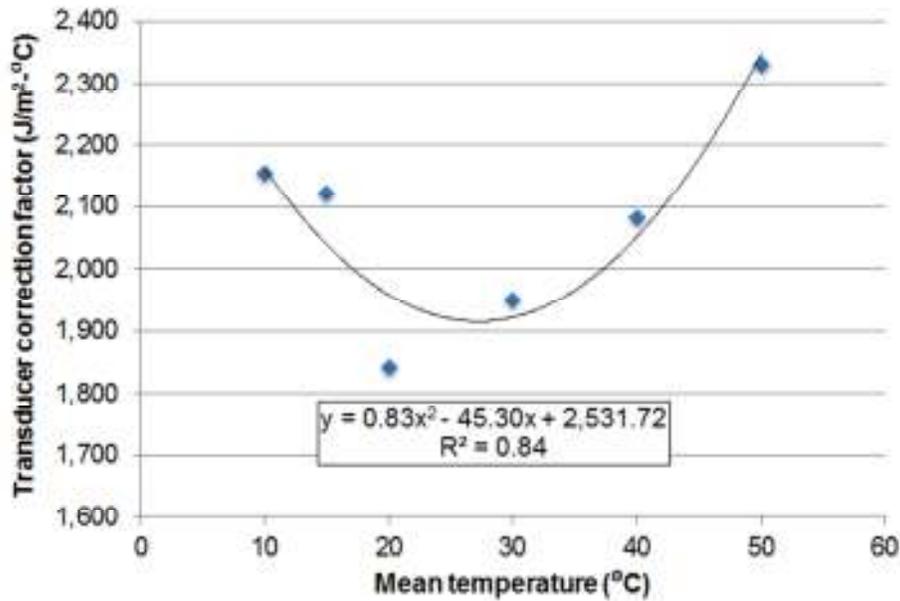


Figure A.2. Plot of integrated heat flux ($h_f/\Delta T$) at zero plate separation vs. mean temperature for each step to derive transducer correction factor as a function of plate temperature

A.3. When a similar correction needs to be made for materials placed between the HFMA plates and the test specimen:

A3.1 Follow A.2, except the temperature difference between setpoints shall be 2°C.

A3.2 The specimen described in A2.1 shall be replaced by the material of interest.

A3.3 The heat flux recorded as in A2.3 shall be first corrected using the apparatus heat flux transducer correction factor.

B. Example Of Merging The Data From Multiple Series Into A Single Plot

B.1. Make all corrections for transducers, equilibrium, and for any other material included in the test specimen.

Note B.1: Be sure to understand the values reported by the software. Determine whether any of these corrections have already been made in the values given. Determine whether the value is given on an areal or volumetric basis.

B.2. Keep all the heating series and cooling series data separate, except that the starting enthalpy for the cooling series data is taken from the heating series data.

B.3. For the heating series:

B3.1 Define $h_V=0$ to correspond to the state at the lowest T measured. Within a single test series, add the accumulating energy as shown in Steps 1 and 2 in Table B.1.

B3.2 For additional heating test series that start at higher temperatures:

B3.2.1 If the previous series included a value at the initial temperature for this series, set the Cumulative Enthalpy Stored equal to that value, as shown in Step 3 in Table B.1. Continue through that series using Step 2.

B3.2.2 If the previous series did not include a value at the initial temperature for this series, interpolate from the previous data, as shown in Step 4 in Table B.1. Continue through that series using Step 2.

B.4. For the cooling series:

B4.1 Define $h_V=0$ to correspond to the state at the lowest T measured during the heating series. Select the cooling series that starts from the highest temperature. Use the highest temperature(s) in the heating series to determine the starting cumulative enthalpy for that cooling series. Within a single test series, subtract the absolute values of the accumulating energy as shown in Steps 1 and 2 in Table B.1

B4.2 For additional cooling test series that start at lower temperatures:

B4.2.1 If the previous cooling series included a value at the initial temperature for this series, set the Cumulative Enthalpy Stored equal to that value, as shown in Step 3 in Table B.1. Continue through that series using Step 2.

B4.2.2 If the previous series did not include a value at the initial temperature for this series, interpolate from the previous data, as shown in Step 4 in Table B.1. Continue through that series using Step 2.

B.5. Plot the data to see if it makes sense, as shown in Fig. B.1. In this example, the heating and cooling lines were nearly the same. That is not be the case for many PCM products.

Table B.1. Multiple heating and cooling series data

$T_{start}, ^\circ C$	$T_{end}, ^\circ C$	Enthalpy stored during step, MJ/m ³	Cumulative Enthalpy Stored relative to 11°C, MJ/m ³	
Start heating series	12		1.3	Step 3: Define equal to 12°C value from step 2
12	14	2.6	3.9	Step 2
14	16	2.8	6.7	Step 2
16	18	3.2	9.9	Step 2
18	20	4.4	14.3	Step 2
20	22	6.6	20.9	Step 2
22	24	10.6	31.5	Step 2

24	26	4.8	36.3	Step 2
Start heating series	11			Step 1: Select Lowest temperature in series, 0 B3.1 Define cumulative enthalpy storage equal to 0
11	12	1.3	1.3	Step 2: =previous value + enthalpy stored for this temperature step
12	13	1.3	2.6	Step 2
13	14	1.4	4	Step 2
14	15	1.4	5.4	Step 2
15	16	1.4	6.8	Step 2
16	17	1.6	8.4	Step 2
17	18	1.9	10.3	Step 2
18	19	1.8	12.1	Step 2
18	19	1.9	14	Step 2
19	20	2.3	16.3	Step 2
20	21	2.8	19.1	Step 2
21	22	3.7	22.8	Step 2
22	23	4.8	27.6	Step 2
23	24	5.6	33.2	Step 2
24	25	3.6	36.8	Step 2
25	26	1.2	38	Step 2
Start cooling series	28		39.65	Step 4: Set equal to value interpolated between 26 and 30°C during the heating series
28	26	-2.4	37.25	Step 2
26	24	-3.6	33.65	Step 2
24	22	-11.4	22.25	Step 2
22	20	-6.8	15.45	Step 2
20	18	-4.4	11.05	Step 2
18	16	-3.6	7.45	Step 2

16	14	-3	4.45	Step 2
14	12	-2.8	1.65	Step 2

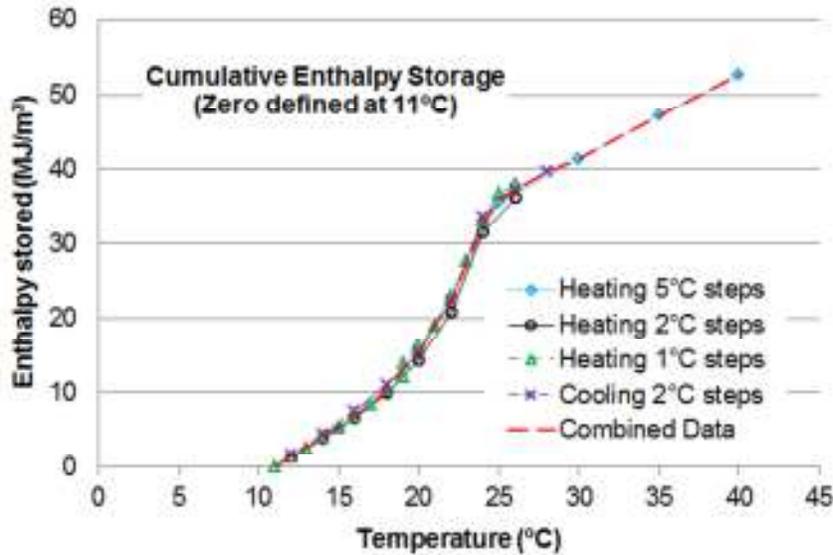


Figure B.1. An example of combining data from multiple heating and cooling test series.

B.6. Calculate the specific heat of the fully frozen and fully melted product.

B6.1 As in Section 10.5, the cumulative enthalpy storage from Table B.1 is plotted vs. the ending temperature in Fig. B.1. The correlation coefficients, baseline linear cumulative enthalpy and percent (%) deviations from the baseline have been calculated for each incremental temperature step as shown in Table B.2 and plotted in Fig. B.2.

Table B.2. Cumulative enthalpy storage, correlation coefficients and average specific heat of the frozen PCM

Tend, °C	Cumulative Enthalpy Stored relative to 11°C, MJ/m ³	Correlation coefficient (R ²) above this data point	Baseline linear cumulative enthalpy (using data points with R ² ≥ 0.995)	% Deviation from baseline	Average volumetric specific heat relative to 11°C, MJ/m ³ -°C
11	0		0		
12	1.3	1	1.19	9.24	1.30
13	2.6	1	2.634	1.29	1.30
14	3.9	1	4.078	4.36	1.30
14	4	0.9995	4.078	1.91	1.33
15	5.4	0.9992	5.522	2.21	1.35
16	6.7	0.9995	6.966	3.82	1.34

16	6.8	0.9994	6.966	2.38	1.36
17	8.4	0.9985	8.41	0.12	1.40
18	9.9	0.9982	9.854	0.47	1.41
18	10.3	0.9963	9.854	4.53	1.47
19	12.1	0.9943	11.298	7.10	
19	14	0.9738	11.298	23.92	
20	14.3	0.978	12.742	12.23	
20	16.3	0.9687	12.742	27.92	
21	19.1	0.9606	14.186	34.64	
22	20.9	0.9624	15.63	33.72	
22	22.8	0.9557	15.63	45.87	
23	27.6	0.9414	17.074	61.65	
24	31.5	0.9114	18.518	70.10	
24	33.2	0.919	18.518	79.29	
25	36.8	0.9145	19.962	84.35	
26	36.3	0.9249	21.406	69.58	
26	38	0.9352	21.406	77.52	

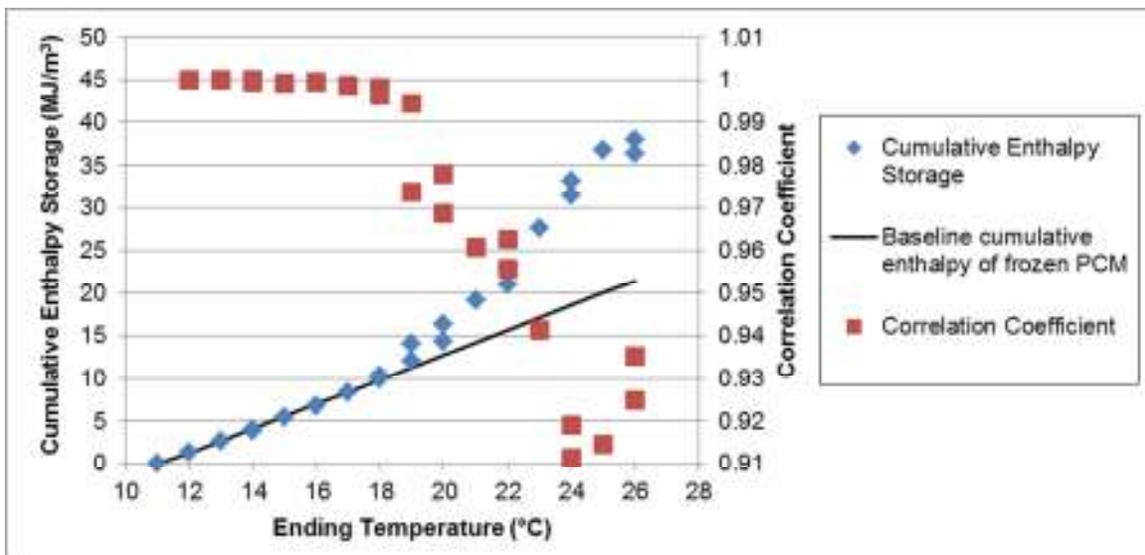


Figure B.2. Cumulative enthalpy storage and correlation coefficients calculated for each incremental temperature step, which are utilized to determine the average specific heat of a frozen PCM product.

B6.2 The correlation coefficient shows a sharp drop off at $T = 19^{\circ}\text{C}$, so the baseline linear cumulative enthalpy for frozen PCM is plotted using the data points from 11 to 18°C . Here, the percent (%) cumulative enthalpy deviation from the baseline increases over 20% at 19°C . Therefore, T_L is 18°C .

B6.2.1 In this particular case, both the correlation coefficient drops below 0.995 and the percent cumulative enthalpy deviation rises above 20% at 19°C . When those two occur at

different temperatures, T_L shall be defined as the temperature above which the percent cumulative enthalpy deviation rises above 20%

B6.3 For the data points before $T=19^\circ\text{C}$, the specific heat is the slope of the line, or $\sim 1.44 \text{ J/m}^2\cdot^\circ\text{C}$ (average of the two values at $T=18^\circ\text{C}$).

B6.4 Perform the same exercise, but coming down from the highest temperature to find the specific heat of the fully melted product and T_U . Based on prior experience, the enthalpy storage curve of the PCM exhibits a sharp transition at the freezing onset (or melting end for heating), so T_U is defined solely by the temperature below which the correlation coefficient drops below 0.995.

APPENDICES

(Nonmandatory Information)

C. History of the Standard

C.1. Experimental measurements were made by Ken Wilkes, David Yarbrough and Jan Kosny to examine a mixture of cellulose and PCM. These initial efforts were directed toward determining the impact of the PCM on the thermal conductivity of the mixture, as well as on determining the PCM enthalpy storage characteristics (6).

C.2. Extensive work has been done in Europe and Asia, as described by Gunther et al. (1), Castellon et al. (9), Zhang et al. (12), etc. The T-history approach to PCM characterization is described by Zhang et al. (12) and Lazaro et al. (13).

C2.1 The use of the experimental data to characterize PCM is described in Phase Change Material Quality Assurance, RAL-GZ 896.

C.3. This modification of the Test Method C518 now used for PCM was initially proposed by A.Tleoubaev and A.Brzezinski (LaserComp, Inc.) for volumetric specific heat measurements of regular (i.e. with no PCM) thermal insulation and other materials.

D. Alternate Experimental Approaches

D.1. Not all HFMA machines accommodate a variable gain. However, the amount of energy flowing through the transducers must be measurable at all points in time. That is, the transducer output shall never be saturated during a test. Without a variable gain, there are two ways to ensure this requirement is met.

D1.1 Limit the temperature step size to reduce the heat flow rate to the measurable range. Consult the manufacturer regarding any accuracy limitations on minimum temperature step size.

D1.2 Insert a thin layer of an insulating material between each side of the specimen and the apparatus plates to reduce the heat flow rate to the measurable range. The enthalpy storage correction for the insulating material must be independently measured, in the same manner as for the HFMA transducers, as described in Annex A. The measured heat flow into the assembly must then be corrected for this material as described in section 10.

D.2. Not all HFMA machines allow a zero temperature difference between the plates.

D2.1 One experimental approach has been to use the smallest temperature difference possible. When stepping to a new temperature condition, both plates will undergo equal temperature steps and be brought to equilibrium at the new temperatures.

D2.1.1 Under this condition, calculate the net heat flux entering the specimen after the system has reached steady state. Use an approach similar to that described in 10.1 to correct for the heat flux due to temperature difference across the specimen.

D2.2 For test specimens with low thermal resistance, place a thin insulating layer between the specimen and one plate in order to keep the PCM temperature at a nearly uniform temperature (aside from the temperature gradients that develop in the course of the melting/freezing process). Measure the temperature on the surface of the PCM product not in contact with an apparatus plate directly with an auxiliary temperature sensor.

Note D.1: For many such cases the uncertainty in PCM product temperature can be kept below a few tenths of a Kelvin.

D2.2.1 Corrections shall be made for the heat capacity of the insulating layer, similar to the plate heat storage correction factor described in Annex A.

E. Explore Hysteresis Effects

E.1. Explore hysteresis effects when starting from partially frozen or partially melted material.

E1.1 Examine the behavior when partially melted material is refrozen. Start at a temperature 2°C below the lower temperature limit (T_L) of the PCM Active Range, as defined in section 10.5. Use 1.5 +/-0.5°C steps to reach a temperature midway between T_L and T_U , as defined in section 10.6. Immediately cool in 1.5 +/-0.5°C steps until the start temperature is reached.

E1.2 Examine the behavior when partially frozen material is remelted. Start at a temperature 2°C above the upper temperature limit (T_U) of the PCM Active Range, as defined in section 10.6. Use 1.5 +/-0.5°C steps to reach a temperature midway between T_U and T_L , as defined in section 10.5. Immediately heat in 1.5 +/-0.5°C steps until the start temperature is reached.

E1.3 Evaluate the enthalpy storage as a function of temperature using the method described in section 10.4 and Annex B.

F. Data Reporting Following RAL-GZ 896

F.1. RAL-GZ 896 requires the specification of stored enthalpy as a function of temperature separately for the cases of heating and cooling, as there will be differences in the temperature profile in most cases. It is tabulated in a predetermined temperature range. This must be done in each case with respect to mass (J/g) and volume (J/m³).

F.2. Figures F.1 and F.2 list the enthalpy storage for each temperature step of the heating and cooling tests, respectively.

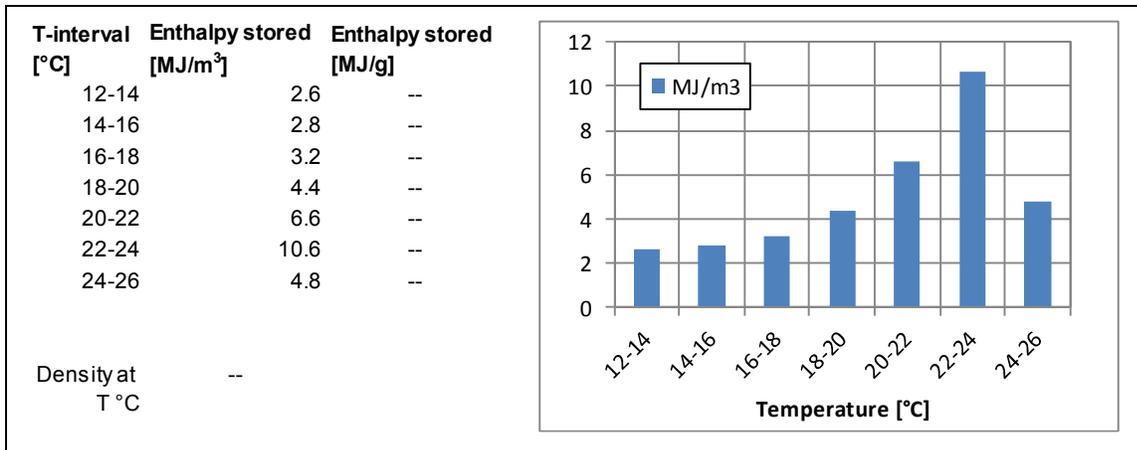


Figure F.1. Enthalpy stored during a heating test

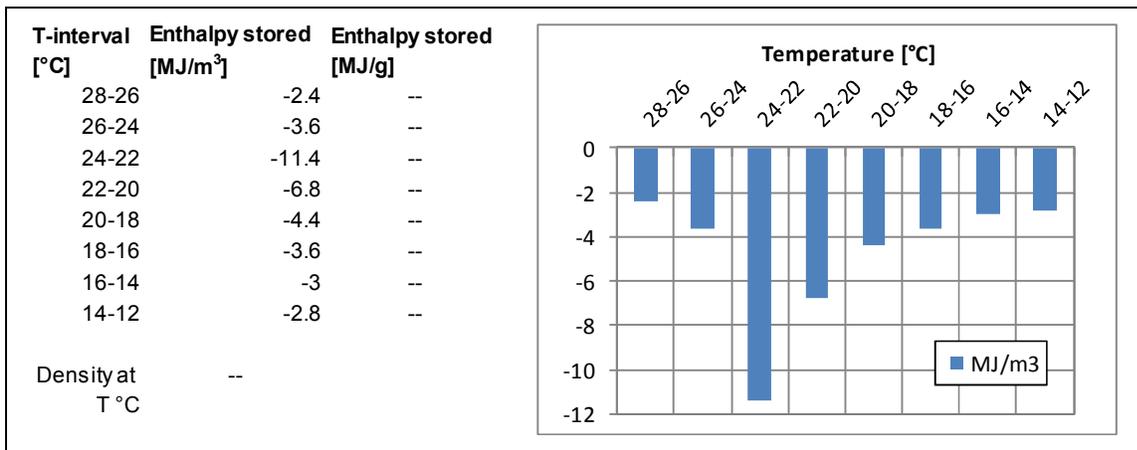


Figure F.2. Enthalpy stored during a cooling test