AIR REQUIRED FOR COMBUSTION

The weight of air required for the perfect combustion of a pound of fuel may be determined by use of the ultimate analysis of the fuel as applied to Equations 2 to 4. The various elements are expressed in percentages by weight.

Solid and Liquid Fuels:

$$\text{Pounds air required per pound fuel} = 34.56\left[\frac{C}{3} + \left(H - \frac{O}{8}\right) + \frac{S}{8}\right] \quad (2)$$

Gaseous Fuels:

$$\text{Pounds air required per pound fuel} = 2.46\,CO + 34.56\,H_2 + 17.28\,CH_4 + 13.29\,C_2H_2 + 14.81\,C_2H_4 + 16.13\,C_2H_6 + 6.10\,H_2S - 4.32\,O_2 \quad (3)$$

When the analysis is given on a volumetric basis the equation is expressed as follows:

$$\text{Cubic feet air required per cubic foot gas} = 2.39\,(CO + H_2) + 9.56\,CH_4 + 11.98\,C_2H_2 + 14.35\,C_2H_4 + 16.74\,C_2H_6 - 4.78\,O_2 \quad (4)$$

Equations 5 and 6 may be used as approximate methods of determining the theoretical air requirement for any fuel.

$$\text{Pounds air required per pound fuel} = 0.755 \times \frac{\text{Heating value (Btu per pound)}}{1000} \quad (5)$$

$$\text{Cubic feet air required per unit fuel} = \frac{\text{Heating value (Btu per unit)}}{100} \quad (6)$$

Approximate values for the theoretical air required for different fuels are given in Table 3.

It is customary to make use of the analysis of the products of combustion to determine the amount of flue gas produced and the actual

TABLE 3. APPROXIMATE THEORETICAL AIR REQUIREMENTS

Solid Fuel	Pounds Air Per Pound Fuel
Anthracite	9.6
Semi-bituminous coal	11.2
Bituminous coal	10.3
Lignite	6.2
Coke	11.2

Fuel Oil	Pounds Air Per Gallon Fuel
Commercial Standard No. 1	102.6
Commercial Standard No. 2	104.5
Commercial Standard No. 3	106.5
Commercial Standard No. 5	112.0
Commercial Standard No. 6	114.2

Gaseous Fuels	Cubic Feet Air Per Cubic Foot Gas
Natural gas	10.0
Mixed, natural and water gas	4.4
Carbureted water gas	4.4
Water gas, coke	2.1
Coke oven gas	5.2

amount of air supplied for combustion. The analysis of flue gases has been well described in various publications of the *Bureau of Mines* and in the literature and the details of Orsat manipulation need not be considered in this discussion. (See Chapter 11.)

The weight of dry flue gas per pound of fuel burned is used in combustion loss calculations and may be determined by Equation 7.

$$\text{Pounds dry flue gas per pound fuel} = \frac{11\,CO_2 + 8\,O_2 + 7\,(CO + N_2)}{3\,(CO_2 + CO)} \times C \quad (7)$$

Values for CO_2, O_2, CO and N_2 are percentages by volume from the flue gas analysis and C is the weight of carbon burned per pound of fuel corrected for carbon in the ash.

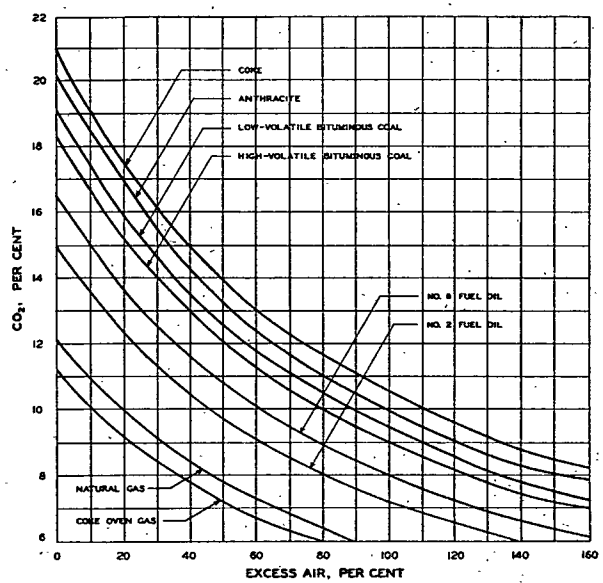


FIG. 1. RELATION BETWEEN CO_2 AND EXCESS AIR IN GASES OF COMBUSTION

EXCESS AIR

Since one measure of the efficiency of combustion is the relation existing between the amount of air theoretically required for *perfect* combustion and the amount of air actually supplied, a method of determining the latter factor is of value. Equation 8 will give reasonably accurate results, for most solid and liquid fuels, for determining the amount of air supplied per pound of fuel.

$$\text{Pounds dry air supplied per pound of fuel} = \frac{3.04\,N_2}{(CO_2 + CO)} \times C \quad (8)$$

Values for CO_2, CO and N are percentages by volume from the flue gas analysis and C is the weight of carbon burned per pound of fuel corrected for carbon in the ash.