



Standard Test Method for Formability of Zinc-Rich Primer/Chromate Complex Coatings on Steel¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D 4146; 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 evaluation of the formability and adhesion of factory applied zinc-rich primer/chromate complex coatings on steel with thicknesses of 0.65 to 1.25 mm (0.025 to 0.05 in.) typical of those used in the coil coating industry.

1.2 The degree of oil removal prior to forming, the techniques of taping, and differences in adhesive strength of the tape can affect the adhesion rating.

1.3 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as the standard. The values given in parentheses are for information only.

1.4 *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.* For a specific hazard statement, see Section 7.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:

D 3330 Test Method for Peel Adhesion of Pressure-Sensitive Tape²

2.2 Other Document:

*Pictorial Standards of Coating Defects*³

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.1.1 *dome height*—the height of the dome formed in the test.

3.1.2 *indenting ball diameter*—the diameter of the spherical-ended penetrator (ball) used to deform the specimen.

3.1.2.1 *Discussion*—The 41-mm (1 $\frac{5}{8}$ -in.) diameter ball was selected because it minimizes the variability in the localized peak strain. This size ball is commercially available and is as large as most testing machines can accommodate.

3.1.3 *percent strain*—the percent elongation of scribed gage lengths after forming. For the draw height of 13 mm (0.512 in.), using a 1 $\frac{5}{8}$ -in. diameter ball, the localized peak strain is about 19 % (see Fig. 1).

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 A coated specimen is biaxially stretched a given distance in an appropriate machine, adhesive tape is applied to the deformed area (dome) and then pulled off, and the amount of coating removed is compared with a photographic standard to determine the coating adhesion rating.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 The results of the combined deformation and tape test are related to the ability of the coated metal to withstand stamping in factory applications.

5.2 This test can be used to control the manufacturing process or in development work to improve the product.

5.3 It should be recognized that variability in the results persist due to the test conditions and forming machine variations.

6. Apparatus and Materials (see Fig. 2)

6.1 *Forming Machine*, equipped with a spherical-ended penetrator to deform the specimen with appropriate dies, until the required height is obtained, and clamping arrangement to hold the specimen with a minimum pressure of 8.9 kN (2000 lbf).

6.1.1 The speed of forming shall be between 4.8 and 25 mm/min (0.2 and 1.0 in./min). The speed is usually slowed to measure more accurately the final height as shown on the dial indicator, but the final punch speed shall be controlled at 6 mm (0.24 in.)/min maximum.

6.2 *Indenting Ball*, with a diameter of 41 mm (1 $\frac{5}{8}$ in.), a Rockwell hardness number not less than 61 on the Rockwell C scale (HRC), and a smooth surface finish not exceeding 4 μ m

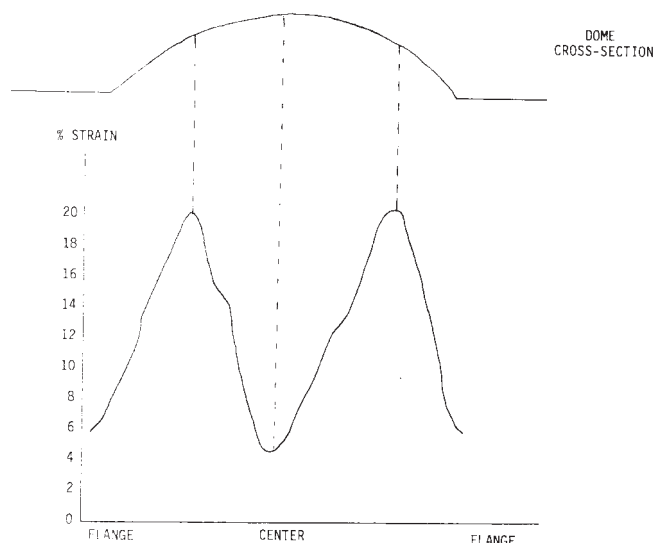
¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D01 on Paint and Related Coatings, Materials, and Applications and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D01.53 on Coil Coated Metal.

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² *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 15.09.

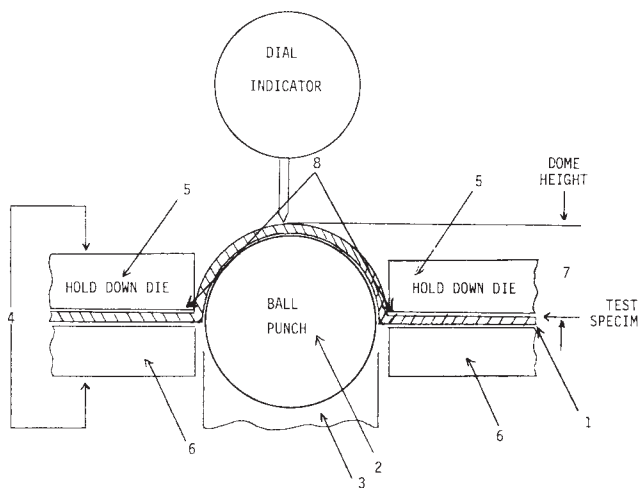
³ Copies of the pictorial photographic reference standard are contained in the publication *Pictorial Standards of Coatings Defects* and may be obtained from the Federation of Societies for Coatings Technology, 492 Norristown Rd., Blue Bell, PA 19422. The silver halide gelatin photographs are intended to be the only primary reference standards for this test method. The reproductions of them in this test method are for the purpose of illustration only.

A TYPICAL CURVE



Draw distance 0.512 in. (13 mm) Ball diameter 1½ in. (41 mm)
FIG. 1 Survey of Strain Over Biaxially Stretched Dome

TABLE 2



Key	Dimensions	
	Inch-Pound	Metric
1 Test specimen	—	—
2 Spherical-ended penetrator (ball)	1½ in.	41 mm
3 Ball holder	—	—
4 Clamp force (minimum)	2000 lbf	8.9 kN
5 Upper die; bore diameter	1.64 in.	42 mm
6 Lower die; bore diameter	1.64 in.	42 mm
7 Dome height	0.512 in.	13 mm
8 Upper die corner radius	0.0625 in.	1.6 mm

FIG. 2 Tooling for Forming Test

(160 µin.). The indenting ball shall not deform during the test. The ball and holder shall move through the centerline of the top and bottom dies. The ball shall be clean and free of oil, grease, oxide buildup, rust, dirt, nicks, or damage.

6.3 *Ball Holder*, to hold the ball in its seat during the test. Most ball holders are removable so that other ball punch deformation tests can be done in the same machine.

6.4 *Upper and Lower Dies* with a hardness of 56 HRC or higher. The upper die shall have an approach radius of 1.6 ± 0.05 mm (0.0625 ± 0.002 in.). The diameter of the opening in the upper and lower die shall be 42 mm (1.64 in.). In most machines, these dies are removable.

6.5 *Dial Indicator*, riding on the surface of the forming sheet to monitor the movement of the penetrator (ball) and graduated so that the displacement, or ball height, can be measured at least to 60 µm (±0.0025 in.) but preferably to 25 µm (±0.001 in.).

6.6 *Adhesive Tape*, 25 mm (1 in.) wide, transparent, high-tack, pressure-sensitive tape with an adhesive strength to steel of 50 g/mm (45 oz/in.) of width when tested in accordance with Test Method D 3330, and a tensile strength of 500 g/mm (28 lb/in.) of width.

6.7 *Photographic Standard*⁴—Steps in rating from 10 (good, no removal) to 0 (poor, complete removal) to rate visually the adhesion of the coating after forming and tape removal by comparison with the adhesive-backed tape.

7. Hazards

7.1 There are possible hazards to personnel when performing tests on any hydraulic equipment. Stand free when machine is operating.

8. Sampling and Test Specimens

8.1 *Sampling*—The coated steel coil is cut, usually at the head or tail of the coil, into a sheet sample, which can be easily handled.

8.2 *Specimen Size*—The specimens may be square or rectangular but not narrower than 90 mm (3.5 in.) in either dimension. Strips of full width of the coil can be tested if precautions are taken not to nick or damage the adjacent dome in the machine.

8.3 *Specimen Thickness*—Thicknesses should be 0.64 to 1.25 mm (0.025 to 0.05 in.). With thicknesses less than 0.025 in., fracture of the steel may occur, in which case the dome height can be reduced if agreed upon between the supplier and the user of the sheet product. When thicknesses greater than 0.05 in. are being tested, die modifications may be needed, but such modifications require agreement between the supplier and the user.

8.4 Test specimens shall be free of oil, grease, lubricants, rust, and burrs that may affect the holding pressures or dome height.

8.4.1 Typically a light spindle oil is applied to reduce corrosion on the uncoated side of the coil.

8.4.2 Remove oil, grease, and lubricants.

9. Procedure

9.1 Condition the specimens for at least 24 h at 23 ± 2°C (73.5 ± 3.5°F) and 50 ± 5 % relative humidity before conducting the test, unless otherwise agreed.

⁴ The photographic reference standards that are part of this test method and are provided in the *Pictorial Standards of Coating Defects Handbook*³ are representative of the adhesion ratings. The photograph shown in Fig. 3 is for illustration purposes only and should not be used for evaluation.

9.2 Place the specimen in the machine so that the coating to be tested will be on the convex side of the dome away from the punch.

9.3 With the ball touching the uncoated side of the specimen and the dial gage indicating zero penetration at the start of the test, indent the specimen with the ball to a distance of 13 mm (0.512 in.), ensuring that the hold-down pressure does not decrease during forming of the dome and that there is no evidence of slippage of the specimen under the hold-down dies during the test. The speed of forming the domes is done in accordance with 6.1.1.

9.4 Return the ball to the original position, remove the specimen from the machine, and lay it on a flat surface.

9.5 Apply the tape over the peak of the dome, press firmly, and then pull the tape from the dome at a fast, steady rate. The 25-mm (1-in.) wide tape will not fully cover the dome and will wrinkle at the edges.

9.6 Place the tape on a piece of white paper, compare the amount of coating on the tape with the photographic standard, and estimate coating adhesion to the nearest whole number. In Fig. 3, areas of darkness are coating removal so that a tape rating of No. 10 is perfect adhesion and No. 0 is complete removal of the coating. Wrinkles in the tape can be seen in the photographic standards as light areas.

9.7 Typically, a full-width specimen is cut from each coated coil and tested at three areas along the strip. Usually, domes are made at both edges and the center of the coated full width strip.

10. Report

10.1 Report the following information:

10.1.1 Identification of the material such as coil number and location of the specimen within the coil,

10.1.2 Specimen thickness,

10.1.3 Number of tests or domes evaluated, and

10.1.4 Adhesion rating including mean, range, or standard deviation, if applicable.

11. Precision

11.1 On the basis of an interlaboratory study of this test method, in which one operator in each of three laboratories tested five separate panels cut from the same coated steel, the within-laboratory standard deviation was 0.61 units with 12 df and the between-laboratory standard deviation was 0.35 with 2 df. Based on these standard deviations, the following criteria should be used for judging the acceptability of results at the 95 % confidence level:

11.1.1 *Repeatability*—Two results obtained by the same operator should be considered suspect if they differ by more than 2 rating numbers.

11.1.2 *Reproducibility*—Two results, each the mean of two determinations, obtained by operators in different laboratories should be considered suspect if they differ by more than 2.9 rating numbers.

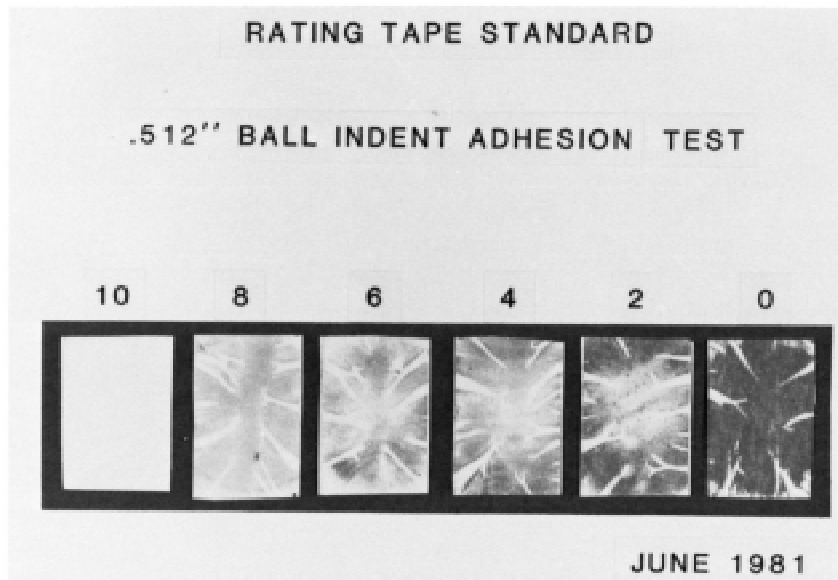


FIG. 3 Photographic Standard Adhesion Rating on Tape After Deformation

12. Keywords

12.1 chromate complex; coil coating; zinc-rich primer

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