

TECHNICAL REPORT

Electrical steel – Reverse bend test method for electrical steel strip and sheet
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IEC TR 63114:2018

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INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

**ELECTRICAL STEEL –
REVERSE BEND TEST METHOD FOR
ELECTRICAL STEEL STRIP AND SHEET**

FOREWORD

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IEC TR 63114, which is a technical report, has been prepared by IEC Technical Committee 68: Magnetic alloys and steels.

The text of this technical report is based on the following documents:

Enquiry draft	Report on voting
68/565/DTR	68/579A/RVDTR

Full information on the voting for the approval of this technical report can be found in the report on voting indicated in the above table.

This document has been drafted in accordance with the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The committee has decided that the contents of this document will remain unchanged until the stability date indicated on the IEC website under "<http://webstore.iec.ch>" in the data related to the specific document. At this date, the document will be

- reconfirmed,
- withdrawn,
- replaced by a revised edition, or
- amended.

A bilingual version of this publication may be issued at a later date.

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INTRODUCTION

Before the preparation of this document, the working group discussed the actual situation of industry concerning the application of reverse bend tests for the evaluation of the ductility of electrical steel strip and sheet, including non-oriented and grain-oriented materials. The following points were noted:

- The reverse bend test is widely used in industry for the evaluation of ductility of electrical steel, and is referenced by the products standards;
- In actual industry practice, the reverse bend test mainly uses as test specimens Epstein strips of 30 mm in width;
- The product standards of IEC 60404-8-4 [1]¹, IEC 60404-8-7 [2] and IEC 60404-8-8 [3] refer to ISO 7799 for the reverse bend test. However, ISO 7799 specified the width of test specimen to be less than the width of the Epstein strip (30 mm). Therefore, the Epstein strip does not meet with the requirement of ISO 7799;
- There are two modes for the reverse bend test, Europe generally adopts the method of reverse bend test according to ISO 7799 (defined as Mode A), alternatively America and Asia generally adopt that according to ASTM A720 [4] (for non-oriented materials) and JIS C2550 [5] (defined as Mode B), see also the references [6-7];

NOTE ASTM A721 [8] defined a bend method, which is different from the reverse bend test, to determine the ductility of grain-oriented materials.

- The apparatus and the requirements for the reverse bend test are slightly different between Mode A and Mode B, especially on the gap between the specimen and the round edges of the clamp and the requirement that a tensile force is applied to the test specimen; This may cause different deformation mechanisms during bending;
- A comparison test between the two modes has been carried out. It was revealed that number of bends obtained with Mode A and Mode B are different.

The above points indicate the need for a standardization of the reverse bend test method particular to electrical steel to explain how to use the two modes in industry.

This document describes the general principle and technical details of the reverse bend test especially for the evaluation of the ductility of electrical steel with respect to the two modes, Mode A according to ISO 7799 and Mode B according to ASTM A720 and JIS C2550.

Annex A provides information on a specially designed apparatus for the reverse bend test, which can be used for both modes.

Annex B gives test results on the dependence of the number of bends on the tensile force applied to the specimen. The results were obtained using the apparatus described in Annex A in different conditions for Mode A and for Mode B.

¹ Numbers in square brackets refer to the Bibliography.

ELECTRICAL STEEL – REVERSE BEND TEST METHOD FOR ELECTRICAL STEEL STRIP AND SHEET

1 Scope

This Technical Report describes the general principle and technical details of the reverse bend test method used for evaluating the ductility of electrical steel strip and sheet.

This test method is applicable to Epstein test strip specimens obtained from non-oriented and grain-oriented electrical steel of any grade. The test specimens shall not be annealed.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

IEC 60404-2, *Magnetic materials – Part 2: Methods of measurement of the magnetic properties of electrical steel strip and sheet by means of an Epstein frame*

ISO 7799, *Metallic materials – Sheet and strip 3 mm thick or less – Reverse bend test*

[IEC TR 63114:2018](#)

3 Terms and definitions

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For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>
- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <http://www.iso.org/obp>

3.1

reverse bend test

repeated bending of a rectangular test specimen clamped on one end through 90° in opposite directions over a pair of mandrels having a cylindrical cambered surface of 5 mm in radius, until failure

3.2

number of bends

counts of alternate bending in the reverse bend test prior to the appearance of the first crack in the base metal of specimen visible to the naked eye or sudden failure occurs by fracture

3.3

ductility

mechanical property of the materials that refers to the number of bends in the reverse bend test

4 Symbols and designations

The symbols and designations given in IEC 60404-2 and ISO 7799 apply.

5 Principles

Apply the reverse bend test to an Epstein test strip specimen and take the number of bends as an evaluation of the ductility of electrical steel strip and sheet.

6 Apparatus

There are two types of apparatus according to two modes of the reverse bend test: Mode A is according to ISO 7799, and Mode B is according to ASTM A720 [4] or JIS C2550:2000 [5], as shown in Figure 1 (numbers in mm).

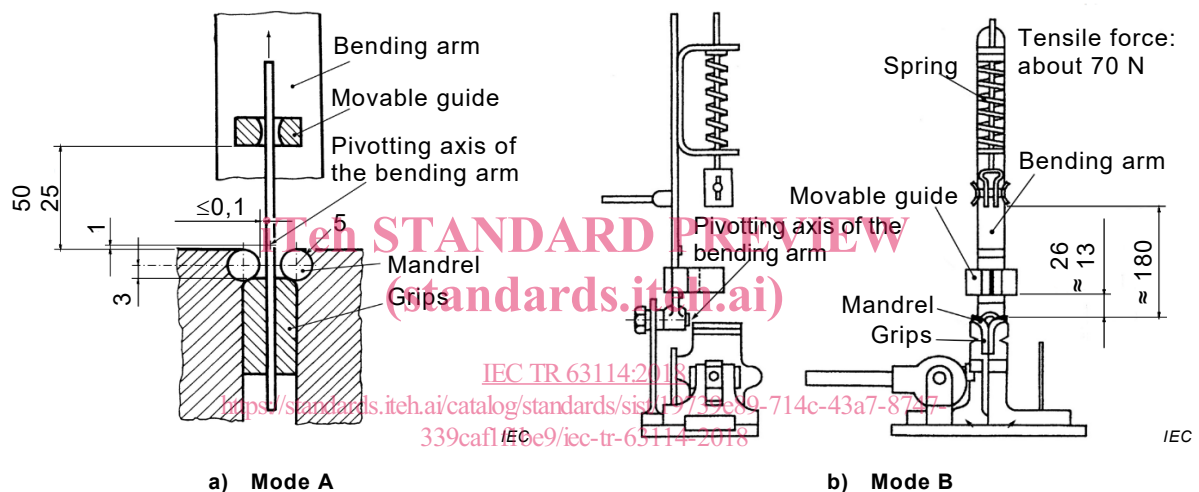
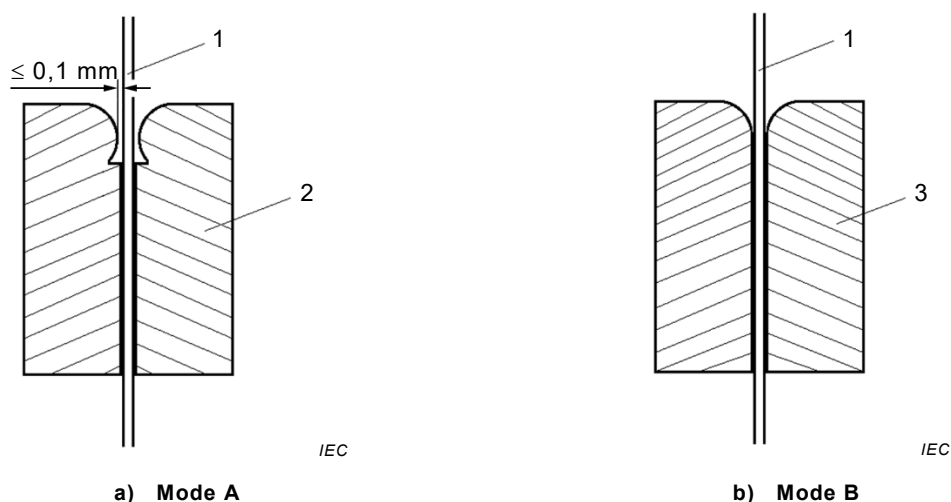


Figure 1 – Apparatus for the reverse bend test of Mode A and Mode B

The radius r of the cylindrical cambered surface of mandrels for Mode A and Mode B should be $5,0 \text{ mm} \pm 0,1 \text{ mm}$ as specified in the different electrical steel standards regardless of the strip thickness. These mandrel surfaces should be wider than the width of the test strip specimen. The examples of mandrels for Mode A and Mode B are shown in Figure 2.



Key

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------|---|--------------------|
| 1 | specimen | 2 | mandrel for Mode A |
| 3 | mandrel for Mode B | | |

Figure 2 – Schematic view of the mandrels for Mode A and Mode B

NOTE Annex A gives an example of the apparatus specially designed which can be used both for Mode A and Mode B by changing different mandrels.

7 Test specimen

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The Epstein strip conforming to IEC 60404-2 should be used, and should have the following dimensions:

- width $b = 30 \text{ mm} \pm 0,2 \text{ mm}$;
- length $280 \text{ mm} \leq l \leq 320 \text{ mm}$.

NOTE 1 ISO 7799 specifies the width of the test specimen between 20 mm and 25 mm.

NOTE 2 ASTM A720 [4] specifies: “the test specimens shall be about 1.2 in. [30 mm] in width and not less than 6 in. [150 mm] in length”, in case of the test equipment designed for this limited length, the Epstein strip may not be used.

According to the different electrical steel standards, the test specimen shall be cut with its longitudinal axis perpendicular to the rolling direction for non-oriented electrical steel, and parallel to the rolling direction for grain-oriented steel. It shall be carefully cut, without any additional deformation. The surfaces of the specimen should be free of cracks or marks, and the edges should not have excessive burrs.

NOTE 3 ASTM A720 [4] specifies: “the long axis of at least five test specimens shall be in the direction of rolling and at least five at right angles to the direction of rolling”.

8 Procedure

The tests should be carried out at an ambient temperature of $(23 \pm 5)^\circ\text{C}$ on the specimen.

Fix the specimen in an apparatus of the reverse bend test for Mode A or Mode B, as shown in Figure 1.

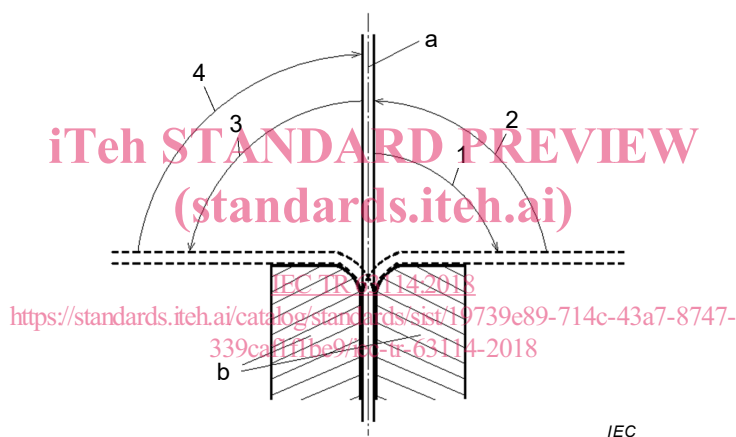
To ensure continuous contact between the test specimen and round surfaces of the mandrels and to localize the bend during the test, a tensile stress may be applied on the test specimen. A tensile force, e.g. 70 N, is recommended.

NOTE 1 ISO 7799, Mode A, recommends a tensile stress not greater than 2 % of the value of the nominal tensile stress to ensure continuous contact between the test specimen and the cylindrical mandrels during the test, unless otherwise specified in the relevant standard. ASTM A720 [4], Mode B, specifies to provide sufficient tension in the specimen to localize the bend. JIS C2550:2000 [5], Mode B, specifies a tensile force of 70 N.

NOTE 2 A tensile force applied to specimen has an evident influence on the number of bends, especially in the case of non-oriented electrical steel, which is related to the deformation mechanism during the reverse bend test, Annex B gives some examples of results obtained from different conditions.

Bend the specimen through 90° by its longitudinal direction, alternately in opposite directions. Do not interrupt the testing between successive bends. The rate of reverse bending should be at a uniform rate without shock and not exceeding one bend per second.

Count the number of bends. A bend of 90° from the initial position and subsequent return to the initial position counts as one bend (items 1 and 2 in Figure 3), and the following bend in the opposite direction and return to initial position counts as the next bend (items 3 and 4 in Figure 3).



Key

a	Specimen	2	back to original position and count as one bend
b	a pair of mandrels	3	bending in opposite direction
1	start bending	4	back to original position and count as another bend

Figure 3 – Method of counting reverse bends

NOTE 3 ASTM A720 [4] uses a different method for counting the bends.

The test shall be stopped on the appearance of the first crack in the base metal visible to the naked eye. Alternatively, the test may be stopped for any of the following reasons:

- When the number of bends specified in the relevant standard or contractual agreement is reached without the occurrence of cracks;
- Upon the sudden failure of the specimen caused by fracture;
- Upon hearing an audible sound that may indicate the creation of a crack in the specimen; The indication of a crack by an audible sound shall be confirmed by visual inspection.

The last bend should not be counted in the last two cases above.