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Standard Test Method for Mechanical Torque Rate of Spiral Coils of Thermostat Metal¹

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^{ε1} NOTE—Keywords were added editorially in May 1997.

1. Scope

1.1 The test method covers the principles of determining the mechanical torque rate of spiral coils of thermostat metal.

NOTE 1—This test method has been developed particularly to cover the determination of the mechanical torque rate of spiral coils made of thermostat metal for carburetors and manifold heat controls. The method is not limited to thermostat metals and can be used for spiral coils of other materials for which the torque rate must be measured accurately.

1.2 The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as the standard. The metric equivalents of inch-pound units may be approximate.

1.3 *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. Terminology

2.1 *thermostat metal*—a composite material, usually in the form of sheet or strip, comprising two or more materials of any appropriate nature, metallic or otherwise, that, by virtue of the differing expansivities of the components, tends to alter its curvature when its temperature is changed.

2.2 *mechanical torque rate*—the ratio of torque to deflection. It is a measure of the stiffness of the coil and may have the units of ounce inch or gram centimetre per angular degree.

2.3 *spiral coil*—a part made by winding strip on itself.

3. Summary of Test Method

3.1 The test for mechanical torque rate of spiral coils consists of applying a torque, or moment of force, that will not stress the material in excess of its elastic limits, to the coil and measuring the resulting deflection as angular rotation. Of the several methods for obtaining this value, it is preferred that the outer end of the spiral coil be held stationary, but not fixed, and the inner end of the coil be rotated after applying a load to the

outer end of the coil at a fixed radius.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 This test method is useful to determine the mechanical force of spiral coils of thermostat metal.

4.2 The mechanical properties of a coil may vary from lot to lot of thermostat metal material. This method is useful for determining the optimum thickness and length of the material for a given mechanical torque specification.

4.3 This test is useful as a quality test to determine acceptance or rejection of a lot of thermostat metal coils.

5. Apparatus

5.1 The determination of the mechanical torque rate of spiral coils is subject to many variables and is sensitive to the degree that even different apparatus employing the same test principles will give different results. Therefore it is recommended that the apparatus be standardized. The apparatus shown in Fig. 1 and Fig. 2 and consisting essentially of the following components, has been found satisfactory:

5.1.1 *Specimen Holder*—A specimen holder shall provide for securely holding the inner end of the test specimen. Preferably, the holder or mounting arbor shall be of circular cross section whose diameter is as large as possible without touching the inner turn of the coil under any test conditions of load. The end of the arbor shall be slotted entirely across its diameter, to a depth greater than the width of the specimen, and of a width slightly narrower than the thickness of the specimen. Thus, the inner tab will be a push or snug fit in the slot for its entire width. The edges of the slot shall be sharp where it intersects the circumference of the arbor. The slot shall be so positioned in the arbor that the center of rotation of the arbor and the coil will coincide.

5.1.2 *Protractor*—The angular deflection due to the test torque shall be measured by a protractor with a minimum division of 0.5 angular degrees.

5.1.3 *Loading Pin*—The loading pin is the member by means of which the load is applied to the outer end of the coil. The pin shall be preferably of circular cross section approximately $\frac{3}{32}$ in. (2.4 mm) in diameter. The distance from the center line of the mounting arbor to the center line of the loading pin shall be specified.

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee B-2 on Nonferrous Metals and Alloys and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee B02.10 on Thermostat Metals.

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