



Designation: ~~D543~~—~~20~~ D543 – 21

## Standard Practices for Evaluating the Resistance of Plastics to Chemical Reagents<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D543; 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 ( $\epsilon$ ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

*This standard has been approved for use by agencies of the U.S. Department of Defense.*

### 1. Scope\*

1.1 These practices cover the evaluation of all plastic materials including cast, hot-molded, cold-molded, laminated resinous products, and sheet materials for resistance to chemical reagents.

1.2 Three procedures are presented, two under practice A (Immersion Test), and one under practice B (Mechanical Stress and Reagent Exposure under Standardized Conditions of Applied Strain). These practices include provisions for reporting changes in weight, dimensions, appearance, color, strength, and other mechanical properties. Standard reagents are specified to establish results on a comparable basis without precluding the use of other chemical reagents pertinent to specific chemical resistance requirements. Provisions are made for various exposure times, stress conditions, and exposure to reagents at elevated temperatures. The type of conditioning (immersion or wet patch) patch/wipe method depends upon the end-use of the material. If the material is used as a container or transfer line, immersion of the specimens is used. If the material will only see short exposures or will be used in proximity and reagent will splash or spill on the material, the wet patch or wipe method of applying reagent to the material is used.

NOTE 1—Practice B for evaluating environmental stress cracking resistance differs from Practice D7474, which seeks to measure residual stresses in molded sulfone plastic parts with the use of calibrated chemical reagents. Practice B differs from Test Method D1693, which seeks to quantify the susceptibility of ethylene plastics to environmental stress-cracking subjected to specific conditions, by measuring the proportion of specimens that crack in a given time.

1.3 The effect of chemical reagents on properties shall be determined by making measurements on standard specimens for such tests before and after immersion or stress, or both, if so tested.

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

1.5 *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, health, and environmental practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.* Specific hazards statements are given in Section 7.

NOTE 2—ISO 175 and ISO 22088 Part 3 address the same subject matter as Practices A and B of this standard, but differ in technical content and the results cannot be directly compared.

1.6 *This international standard was developed in accordance with internationally recognized principles on standardization established in the Decision on Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations issued by the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.*

<sup>1</sup> These practices are under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D20 on Plastics and are the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D20.50 on Durability of Plastics. Current edition approved Feb. 1, 2020/Dec. 1, 2021. Published March 2020/December 2021. Originally approved in 1939. Last previous edition approved in 2014/2020 as ~~D543—14~~:D543—20. DOI: ~~10.1520/D0543-20~~:10.1520/D0543-21.

\*A Summary of Changes section appears at the end of this standard

## 2. Referenced Documents

### 2.1 ASTM Standards:<sup>2</sup>

- D13 Specification for Spirits of Turpentine
- D396 Specification for Fuel Oils
- D618 Practice for Conditioning Plastics for Testing
- D883 Terminology Relating to Plastics
- D1040 Specification for Uninhibited Mineral Insulating Oil for Use in Transformers and in Oil Circuit Breakers (Withdrawn 1980)<sup>3</sup>
- D1693 Test Method for Environmental Stress-Cracking of Ethylene Plastics
- D2244 Practice for Calculation of Color Tolerances and Color Differences from Instrumentally Measured Color Coordinates
- D5947 Test Methods for Physical Dimensions of Solid Plastics Specimens
- D7474 Practice for Determining Residual Stresses in Extruded or Molded Sulfone Plastic (SP) Parts by Immersion in Various Chemical Reagents

### 2.2 Military Specifications:<sup>4</sup>

- MIL-A-11755 Antifreeze, Arctic-Type
- MIL-A-46153 Antifreeze, Ethylene Glycol, Inhibited, Heavy Duty, Single Package
- MIL-C-372 Cleaning Compound, Solvent (For Bore of Small Arms and Automatic Aircraft Weapons)
- MIL-D-12468 Decontaminating Agent, STB
- MIL-F-46162 Fuel, Diesel, Referee Grade
- MIL-G-5572 Gasoline, Aviation, Grades 80/87, 100/130, 115/145
- MIL-H-5606 Hydraulic Fluid, Petroleum Base, Aircraft, Missiles, and Ordnance
- MIL-H-6083 Hydraulic Fluid, Petroleum Base, for Preservation and Operation
- MIL-H-83282 Hydraulic Fluid, Fire Resistant, Synthetic Hydrocarbon Base, Aircraft
- MIL-L-7808 Lubricating Oil, Aircraft Turbine Engine, Synthetic Base, NATO Code Number 0–148
- MIL-L-14107 Lubricating Oil, Weapons, Low Temperature
- MIL-L-23699 Lubricating Oil, Aircraft Turbine Engines, Synthetic Base
- MIL-L-46000 Lubricant, Semi-Fluid (Automatic Weapons)
- MIL-T-5624 Turbine Fuel, Aviation, Grades JP-4 and JP-5
- MIL-T-83133 Turbine Fuel, Aviation, Kerosene Type, Grade JP-8

### 2.3 U.S. Army Regulation:<sup>4</sup>

- AR 70-71 Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical Contamination Survivability of Army Material

### 2.4 ISO Standards:<sup>5</sup>

- ISO 175 Plastics—Determination of Resistance to Liquid Chemicals
- ISO 22088 Part 3 Plastics—Determination of Resistance to Environmental Stress Cracking (ESC)—Bent Strip Method

### 2.5 SAE Standards:

- SAE J1681 Gasoline, Alcohol and Diesel Fuel Surrogates for Materials Testing<sup>6</sup>

## 3. Terminology

- 3.1 *Definitions*—Definitions of terms applying to these practices appear in Terminology D883.

## 4. Significance and Use

4.1 There are limitations of the results obtained from these practices. The choice of types and concentrations of reagents, duration of immersion or stress, or both, level of stress, temperature of the test, and properties to be reported are necessarily arbitrary. The specification of these conditions provides a basis for standardization and serves as a guide to investigators wishing to compare the relative resistance of various plastics to chemical reagents.

4.2 Correlation of test results with the actual performance or serviceability of plastics is necessarily dependent upon the similarity

<sup>2</sup> For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, [www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org), or contact ASTM Customer Service at [service@astm.org](mailto:service@astm.org). For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

<sup>3</sup> The last approved version of this historical standard is referenced on [www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org).

<sup>4</sup> Available from Standardization Documents Order Desk, DODSSP, Bldg. 4, Section D, 700 Robbins Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19111-5098, <http://dodssp.daps.dla.mil>.

<sup>5</sup> Available from American National Standards Institute (ANSI), 25 W. 43rd St., 4th Floor, New York, NY 10036, <http://www.ansi.org>.

<sup>6</sup> Available from SAE International (SAE), 400 Commonwealth Dr., Warrendale, PA 15096, <http://www.sae.org>.

between the testing and the end-use conditions. For applications involving continuous immersion, the data obtained in short-time tests are of interest only in eliminating the most unsuitable materials or indicating a probable relative order of resistance to chemical reagents.

4.3 Evaluation of plastics for special applications involving corrosive conditions shall be based upon the particular reagents and concentrations to be encountered. Base the selection of test conditions on the manner and duration of contact with reagents, the temperature of the system, applied stress, and other performance factors involved in the particular application.

4.4 The practices present general guidelines without covering specifics on all the varied applications of plastics, such as use in automobiles and exposure to various automotive fluids, or use in hospital environments with exposure to disinfectants and cleaning fluids. These practices can be extended to such applications with specifics on the study conducted noted in the report.

4.5 The use of appropriate controls is critical to evaluate the utility of the information generated by these practices. Particular attention should be given to the variability in the data generated, especially for the baseline controls, and issues in data generation reported to mitigate misuse of information.

## 5. Apparatus

5.1 *Balance*—Use a balance capable of weighing accurately to 0.05 % for a test specimen weighing 100 g or less, and to 0.1 % for a test specimen weighing over 100 g. Assurance that the balance meets the performance requirements is provided by frequent checks on adjustments of zero points and sensitivity and by periodic calibration for absolute accuracy, using standard masses.

5.2 *Micrometers*—Use a suitable micrometer for measuring the dimensions of test specimens similar to that described in Test Method [D5947](#). The micrometer should have an incremental discrimination of at least 0.025 mm (0.001 in.). For specimens 0.100 in. thick or less, the micrometer used shall have an incremental discrimination of at least 0.0025 mm (0.0001 in.). The micrometer must be verified using gauge blocks traceable to the international system of units (SI) through a national metrology institute (NMI)<sup>7</sup>.

5.3 *Room*, or enclosed space capable of being maintained at the standard laboratory atmosphere of  $23 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$  ( $73.4 \pm 3.6^\circ\text{F}$ ) and  $50 \pm 10\%$  relative humidity in accordance with Practice [D618](#), Procedure A.

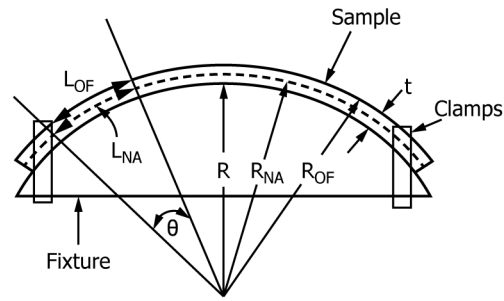
5.4 *Containers*—Suitable containers for submerging specimens in chemical reagents. They must be resistant to the corrosive effects of the reagents being used. Provide venting when using volatile reagents at elevated temperatures. Tightly sealed containers are preferred for room temperature testing to minimize loss.

5.5 *Strain Jigs*—Jigs are to be capable of supplying known amounts of strain to test specimens. These jigs are three point flexural strain devices ~~and are to be made of stainless steel with stainless steel tabs at each end~~ capable of affixing the test specimen to the fixtures in such a way that intimate contact is maintained between the test specimen and the fixture along the entire length of the ~~test specimen—gage area or specimen area to be tested~~. The clamping system should allow for thermal expansion of the material when exposure to elevated temperature is specified. [Fig. 1](#) is a side view drawing of a typical strain jig used to obtain 1.0 % strain in a 3.2 mm (0.125 in.) thick test specimen. Shown in [Fig. 1](#) is an equation that can be used to calculate strain from known dimensions or back-calculate jig dimensions for a desired specimen strain.

NOTE 3—The jigs should be constructed such that they are able to maintain a constant level of strain under the conditions of testing. Significant distortion or changes in dimension of the jig during the chemical exposure testing will result in strain changes and should be avoided. Regarding the material of construction for the jigs, one should recognize that dissolution of metal ions may alter the ESCR behavior of certain polymers. For example, transition metal oxides can cause autocatalytic oxidation in polyethylene, which would in turn likely influence the ESCR behavior of the polymer material. If some constituent of a metal jig preferentially corrodes without causing apparent distortion or an apparent change in jig shape (for example, dezincification corrosion of yellow brass, decarburization of carbon steel, or preferential etching of carbides), this may affect ESCR results due to the electrochemical effects of dissolved metal ions and/or metal oxide formation. Thus it is critical to monitor any effects on the jigs themselves.

5.6 *Oven or Constant Temperature Bath*, capable of maintaining temperatures within  $\pm 2^\circ\text{C}$  of the specified test temperatures.

<sup>7</sup> NMI includes such organizations as the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).



$R$  = radius of jig  
 $R_{NA}$  = radius of neutral axis  
 $R_{OF}$  = radius of outer fiber  
 $t$  = thickness of specimen  
 $\theta$  = arbitrary angle  
 $L_{OF}$  = length of outer fiber  
 $L_{NA}$  = length of neutral axis

considering a portion of test bar determined by angle  $\theta$

$$L_{NA} = R_{NA} \theta = (R + \frac{1}{2}t) \theta \quad R_{NA} = R + \frac{1}{2}t$$

$$L_{OF} = R_{OF} \theta = (R + t) \theta \quad R_{OF} = R + t$$

$$\Delta L = L_{OF} - L_{NA} = (R + t) \theta - (R + \frac{1}{2}t) \theta$$

$$\epsilon = \frac{\Delta L}{L} = \frac{(R + t) \theta - (R + \frac{1}{2}t) \theta}{(R + \frac{1}{2}t) \theta}$$

$$\epsilon = \frac{(R + t) - R + \frac{1}{2}t}{R + \frac{1}{2}t} = \frac{\frac{1}{2}t}{R + \frac{1}{2}t}$$

$$\epsilon = \frac{1}{\frac{2R}{t} + 1}$$

$$R = \frac{(\frac{1}{\epsilon} - 1)t}{2}$$

FIG. 1 Determination of Strain Level of Environmental Stress Crack Resistance (ESCR) Fixtures (Practice B)

<https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/7fd96957-0a16-4b48-b4d4-7b43db6967be/astm-d543-21>

5.7 *Testing Devices*, for determining specific properties of specimens before and after submersion, such as color coordinates, strength, strain, and impact, conforming to the requirements prescribed in the ASTM test methods for the specific properties being determined.

5.8 *Laboratory Hood* or other system adequate for vapor ventilation.

## 6. Reagents and Materials

6.1 The following list of standard reagents is intended to be representative of the main categories of pure chemical compounds, solutions, and common industrial products. Chemicals used in these practices shall be of technical grade or greater purity. All solutions shall be made with freshly prepared distilled water. Specific concentrations are on a weight percent or specific gravity basis.

6.2 The following list of standard reagents is not intended to preclude the use of other reagents pertinent to particular chemical resistance requirements. It is intended to standardize typical reagents, solution concentrations, and industrial products for general testing of the resistance of plastics to chemical reagents. It is not intended that all these reagents be used in any study referencing this standard. Material specifications in which chemical resistance is indicated shall preferably be based upon reagents and conditions selected from those listed herein except by mutual agreement between the seller and the purchaser and/or where other reagents are more appropriate for the end use application.

6.3 *Standard Reagents*:

- 6.3.1 *Acetic Acid (sp gr 1.05)*—Glacial acetic acid.
- 6.3.2 *Acetic Acid (5 %)*.
- 6.3.3 *Acetone*.
- 6.3.4 *Ammonium Hydroxide (sp gr 0.90)*—Concentrated ammonium hydroxide (NH<sub>4</sub>OH).
- 6.3.5 *Ammonium Hydroxide (10 %)*.
- 6.3.6 *Aniline*.
- 6.3.7 *Benzene*.
- 6.3.8 *Carbon Tetrachloride*.
- 6.3.9 *Chromic Acid (40 %)*.
- 6.3.10 *Citric Acid (1 %)*.
- 6.3.11 *Cottonseed Oil*, edible grade.
- 6.3.12 *Detergent Solution, Heavy Duty (0.025 %)*—Dissolve 0.05 g of alkyl aryl sulfonate and 0.20 g of trisodium phosphate in 1000 mL of water.
- 6.3.13 *Diethyl Ether*.
- 6.3.14 *Dimethyl Formamide*.
- 6.3.15 *Distilled Water*, freshly prepared.
- 6.3.16 *Ethyl Acetate*.
- 6.3.17 *Ethyl Alcohol (95 %)*—Undenatured ethyl alcohol.
- 6.3.18 *Ethyl Alcohol (50 %)*.
- 6.3.19 *Ethylene Dichloride*.
- 6.3.20 *2-Ethylhexyl Sebacate*.
- 6.3.21 *Heptane*, commercial grade, boiling range from 90 to 100°C.
- 6.3.22 *Hydrochloric Acid (sp gr 1.19)*—Concentrated hydrochloric acid (HCl).
- 6.3.23 *Hydrochloric Acid (10 %)*.
- 6.3.24 *Hydrofluoric Acid (40 %)*.
- 6.3.25 *Hydrogen Peroxide Solution*, 28 % or USP 100 volume.
- 6.3.26 *Hydrogen Peroxide Solution (3 % or USP 10 volume)*.
- 6.3.27 *Isooctane*, 2,2,4-trimethyl pentane.
- 6.3.28 *Kerosine*—No. 2 fuel oil, Specification **D396**.

6.3.29 *Methyl Alcohol*.

6.3.30 *Mineral Oil, White, USP*, sp gr 0.830 to 0.860; Saybolt at 100°F: 125 to 135 s.

6.3.31 *Nitric Acid (sp gr 1.42)*—Concentrated nitric acid (HNO<sub>3</sub>).

6.3.32 *Nitric Acid (40 %)*.

6.3.33 *Nitric Acid (10 %)*.

6.3.34 *Oleic Acid, cP*.

6.3.35 *Olive Oil*, edible grade.

6.3.36 *Phenol Solution (5 %)*.

6.3.37 *Soap Solution (1 %)*—Dissolve dehydrated pure white soap flakes (dried 1 h at 105°C) in water.

6.3.38 *Sodium Carbonate Solution (20 %)*.

6.3.39 *Sodium Carbonate Solution (2 %)*.

6.3.40 *Sodium Chloride Solution (10 %)*.

6.3.41 *Sodium Hydroxide Solution (60 %)*.

6.3.42 *Sodium Hydroxide Solution (10 %)*.

6.3.43 *Sodium Hydroxide Solution (1 %)*.

6.3.44 *Sodium Hypochlorite Solution, National Formulary, (4 to 6 %)*.

6.3.45 *Sulfuric Acid (30 %)*—(sp gr 1.84)—Concentrated sulfuric acid. <https://standards.iteh.ai/ASTM/D543-21/16-4b48-b4d4-7b43db6967be/astm-d543-21>

6.3.46 *Sulfuric Acid (30 %)*.

6.3.47 *Sulfuric Acid (3 %)*.

6.3.48 *Toluene*.

6.3.49 *Transformer Oil*, in accordance with the requirements of Specification **D1040**.

6.3.50 *Turpentine*—Gum spirits or steam distilled wood turpentine in accordance with Specification **D13**.

NOTE 4—Prior versions of this standard, D543-14 and earlier, listed recipes for preparing several of the standard reagents listed above, which were not accurate. The use of commercially available mixed reagents is encouraged; the recipes in the prior versions of this standard may be evaluated as an information source when appropriate.

6.4 **Table 1** contains a list of military specifications for various liquids intended to be representative of the main types of liquids that are sometimes encountered in a military service environment. Plastics that are intended for use in such environments shall be tested for chemical resistance to the liquids in **Table 1** as applicable. It is not intended that all these reagents be used in any study referencing this standard.

6.4.1 Army Regulation 70-71 establishes the requirement for chemical contamination survivability of Army material intended to withstand the hazards of a chemical warfare (CW) environment. Decontaminating agents STB is included in **Table 1**. In addition, selected CW agents (or suitable simulants) are liquids against which it is appropriate to test the resistance of certain plastics.

**TABLE 1 Military Specifications for Liquids Encountered in Military Service Environments**

Specification	Title
MIL-C-372	Cleaning Compound, Solvent (for Bore of Small Arms and Automatic Aircraft Weapons)
MIL-G-5572	Gasoline, Aviation, Grades 80/87, 100/130, 115/145
MIL-H-5606	Hydraulic Fluid, Petroleum Base, Aircraft, Missiles, and Ordnance
MIL-T-5624	Turbine Fuel, Aviation, Grades JP-4 and JP-5
MIL-H-6083	Hydraulic Fluid, Petroleum Base, for Preservation and Operation
MIL-L-7808	Lubricating Oil, Aircraft Turbine Engine, Synthetic Base
MIL-A-11755	Antifreeze, Artic-Type
MIL-D-12468	Decontaminating Agent, STB
MIL-L-14107	Lubricating Oil, Weapons, Low Temperature
MIL-L-23699	Lubricating Oil, Aircraft Turbine Engines, Synthetic Base
MIL-L-46000	Lubricant, Semi-Fluid (Automatic Weapons)
MIL-A-46153	Antifreeze, Ethylene Glycol, Inhibited, Heavy Duty, Single Package
MIL-F-46162	Fuel, Diesel, Referee Grade
MIL-T-83133	Turbine Fuel, Aviation, Kerosene Type, Grade JP-8
MIL-H-83282	Hydraulic Fluid, Fire Resistant, Synthetic Hydrocarbon Base, Aircraft

6.5 SAE J1681 contains a list of gasoline, alcohol and diesel fuel surrogates intended to be representative of the fuels that are encountered in internal combustion engines in automobile applications. Plastics that are intended for use in such environments shall be tested for chemical resistance to these fuel surrogates as applicable.

6.6 Plastics that are intended for semi-durable use in a hospital environment encounter disinfectants and cleaning agents, similar to those listed below. Material specifications in which chemical resistance is indicated shall preferably be based upon reagents and conditions selected from those listed as applicable:

6.6.1 Quaternary ammonium compound (QAC) 0.8 % with isopropyl alcohol 60% by weight.

6.6.2 Quaternary ammonium compound (QAC) 2 % with diethylene glycol butyl ether 10% by weight.

6.6.3 Bleach, represented by 2 % sodium hypochlorite,

6.6.4 Hydrogen peroxide, 5 % with benzyl alcohol 5 % by weight,

6.6.5 Hydrogen peroxide, 5 % with acetic acid 10 % by weight,

6.6.6 Isopropyl alcohol,

6.6.7 Diethylene glycol butyl ether, 10 %,

6.6.8 2-butoxyethanol, 5 %, and

6.6.9 Hexylene glycol, 30 %.

6.7 This standard does not list all the possible chemical reagents that plastics encounter in use. For example, one can foresee that a plastic used in a hospital environment would be subjected to disinfectants and cleaning agents encountered. Relevant chemical reagents used in the study to evaluate a plastic for an application should be reported use in all possible environments and applications. It is not intended that all the above reagents be used in any study referencing this standard. Specific reagents and exposure conditions may be determined by mutual agreement between the seller and the purchaser and/or where other reagents are more appropriate for the end use application.