



Designation: B 887 – 98

Standard Test Method for Determination of Coercivity (H_{cs}) of Cemented Carbides¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This test method covers the determination of magnetization coercivity (H_{cs}) of cemented carbide materials and products using coercive force instrumentation. It is patterned after ISO 3326.

1.2 *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. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:

A 340 Terminology of Symbols and Definitions Relating to Magnetic Testing²

B 243 Terminology of Powder Metallurgy³

2.2 ISO Standard:

ISO 3326 Hardmetals - Determination of (the Magnetization) Coercivity⁴

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions:

3.1.1 For definition of terms used in this procedure refer to Terminology A 340 and Terminology B 243.

3.1.2 *dc*—direct current

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 A test sample is positioned in the dc magnetic field of the test apparatus and magnetized to technical saturation. The magnetic field polarity is then reversed and the test sample is demagnetized by increasing the energy of the reversed magnetic field until the test sample reaches zero magnetism. The coercive force (H_c) is the magnetizing force required to return the saturated magnetic induction to zero.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 Measurement of coercivity provides a relative comparison of carbide grain size, binder content, and possibly carbon deficiency for a given graded carbide material or product, and may be employed as a non-destructive measurement indicating deviation from a specified norm.

5.2 This test method allows the non-destructive estimate of average carbide grain size in sintered cemented carbide hardmetals. It is appropriate for a wide range of compositions and tungsten carbide (WC) WC grain sizes, and can be used for acceptance of material or product to specification.

6. Interferences

6.1 H_{cs} measurement is a non-destructive “bulk” measurement that is averaged over the specimen volume. Bi-modal grain size distributions will give approximately the same H_c value as would be obtained from a normal grain size distribution about the same mean value.

6.2 Large test specimens must be sized to fit within the magnetic field coil spacing available for the apparatus employed.

6.3 Small test specimens may be immeasurable if their size prohibits detection by the magnetic field coils for the apparatus employed.

6.4 Specimen shape, that is, symmetry and aspect ratio, influence H_c measurement values and repeatability of results. Test specimens should be positioned with their long axis in the direction of the magnetic field. Asymmetrically shaped test specimens should be tested in several positions, the measurement values recorded, and the average value reported.

7. Apparatus

7.1 Instrumentation capable of the dc magnetization of appropriately sized test samples to technical saturation and accurate measurement of the energy required to restore the magnetic induction to zero.

8. Procedure

8.1 For commercial instrumentation, refer to the equipment operators manual and follow the manufacturer’s operating instructions.

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee B-9 on Metal Powders and Metal Powder Products and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee B09.06 on Cemented Carbides.

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² *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 03.04.

³ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 02.05.

⁴ Available from American National Standards Institute, 11 W. 42nd St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10036.