



Standard Test Methods for Electrical Resistivity of Liquid Paint and Related Materials¹

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1. Scope

1.1 These test methods cover the determination of specific resistance (resistivity) of liquid paints, solvents, and other fluids in the range of 0.6 to 2640 M Ω -cm.

1.2 Test Method A describes a procedure for making resistance tests with a commonly used paint application² test assembly (Fig. 1).

1.3 Test Method B describes a procedure for making resistance tests with a conductivity meter³ (Fig. 2).

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.*

2. Terminology

2.1 Definitions:

2.1.1 *specific resistance (resistivity)*—The ratio of the d-c potential gradient in volts per centimeter paralleling the current flow within the specimen to the current density in amperes per square centimeter at a given instant of time and under prescribed conditions.

2.1.1.1 *Discussion*—This is numerically equal to the resistance between opposite faces of a centimeter cube of the liquid. The units are ohm centimeters (or megohm centimeters).

2.2 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

2.2.1 *kilohms (K Ω)*—resistance value equal to 1000 Ω (10^3).

2.2.2 *megohms (M Ω)*—resistance value equal to 1 000 000 Ω (10^6).

2.2.3 *ohm-centimeters (or megohm-centimeters)*—unit of specific resistance (resistivity).

¹ These test methods are under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D-1 on Paint and Related Coatings, Materials, and Applications and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D01.24 on Physical Properties of Liquid Paints and Paint Materials. Current edition approved March 15, 1995. Published May 1995.

² Paint application test assembly such as the Ransburg 70408-00 Tester or equivalent may be obtained from ITW Ransburg Electrostatic Systems, P.O. Box 913, Toledo, OH 43697-0913.

³ Conductivity meter such as the Byk-Gardner LC2 conductivity meter, Model 1722/1710 or equivalent may be obtained from Byk-Gardner, Inc., 2435 Linden Lane, Silver Spring, MD 20910.



FIG. 1 Paint Application Test Assembly

3. Summary of Test Methods

3.1 Test Methods A and B measure direct current through concentric cylinder electrodes immersed in a liquid paint specimen.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 These tests are suitable for testing paints adjusted for compatibility with various electrostatic spray coating applications, and by their use, spray performance can be optimized.

5. Interferences

5.1 Contamination of the specimen is the most likely cause of error. Very small amounts of water, acids, or polar solvents will lower the resistance of high resistivity solvents and paints.

5.2 High humidity is not known to interfere with the test itself but can lead to water pickup by the specimen. For repeatable results, tests should be made under the same atmospheric conditions and specimens should be stored and handled so as to keep water pickup to a minimum.

5.3 Resistivity varies with temperature. A standard test temperature of 25°C is recommended. Other temperatures are possible on agreement between the producer and the user.

5.4 Electrification time must be the same for every test due to ion migrations that cause current flow to decrease with time. Variations with time of electrification can result in appreciable variation in the test results.

5.5 Equipment outlined in Test Methods A and B apply



FIG. 2 Conductivity Meter

different test voltages (45 V and 15 V, respectively). Because of this, some variation in results may be expected.

6. Apparatus

6.1 *Paint Application Test Assembly*²—designed to provide measurement of the electrical resistance of paint formulations for all electrostatic applications. To provide greater accuracy in measuring low resistance paints, the meter is equipped with dual range selection. Range “A” is .005 to 1 MΩ, Range “B” is .05 to 20 MΩ.

7. Reagents and Materials

7.1 *Low Resistivity Cell Constant Standards* (see Appendix X1 for cell constant determination method).

7.2 *Potassium chloride*, 1000 μΩ/cm.⁴

7.3 *Cleaning Solvents and Solutions*—It is essential to thoroughly clean the probe before and after tests. The cleaning solvent should be chosen on the basis of the paint tested. Due care must be exercised in cleaning to ensure all cleaning solvents are removed from the probe before reusing. The probe must be dry and free from contaminates or results will vary.

TEST METHOD A

8. Standardization

8.1 For maximum accuracy, the probe should be standard-

⁴ One thousand μΩ/cm test solutions are available from scientific supply companies (see⁵).

ized to determine the exact cell constant. For routine measurements a cell constant (*K*) of 132 may be used (see Appendix X1).

8.2 The electronic-resistance measuring assembly may be checked by use of a standard-resistance decade box (½ % accuracy or better).

9. Procedure

9.1 Prior to tests, make sure that the probe is thoroughly cleaned (see Section 9.2).

9.2 Insert the paint test probe into the jack in the lower right side of the meter case.

9.3 Set the scale select switch (top center) to the Scale B position.

9.4 Move the mode select switch (top right) to the Zero Adjust position and rotate the zero adjust knob (top left) until the dial indicator needle centers on the adjust position (far right). Maximum accuracy will be realized with the meter lying flat, meter face up.

NOTE 1—If the needle will not adjust to zero, replace the battery.

9.5 Move the mode select switch to the Paint Test position.

9.6 Immerse the probe vertically into a well-mixed, visually uniform specimen of the subject material until the holes at the bottom of the slots in the probe sleeve are submerged.

Caution—Do NOT immerse the probe past the top of sleeve.

9.7 Read the paint resistance from Scale B. If the reading is less than 0.5 on the B scale, move the scale select switch to the Scale A position, repeat 9.4, then read the paint resistance from Scale A.

9.8 Read the scale value at 10 s after immersion in the test sample. Ignore any slow drift that may occur after this time.

9.9 To convert the megohms reading on the tester to resistivity in megohm-centimeters, multiply by constant “K” found in 8.1 or 132.

9.10 Clean the probe thoroughly. Allow the apparatus and specimen to stand for 1 h (keep lids on specimens tightly closed to prevent loss of volatiles). Repeat the measurement, making certain to remix the specimen.

9.11 Report the result as the mean value of the two measurements.

TEST METHOD B

10. Apparatus

10.1 *Conductivity Meter*,³ provides measurement of electrical resistivity of solvents and pain formulations for electrostatic spray applications. This meter permits evaluation of solvents and liquid paints in the resistance range of 0.05–20 MΩ.

11. Standardization

11.1 For maximum accuracy, the probe should be standardized to determine the cell constant. For routine measurement, a cell constant (*K*) of 132 may be used (see Appendix X1).

11.2 The electronic resistance measuring assembly may be checked by use of a standard resistance decade box (½ % accuracy or better).