



Standard Specification for In-Service Care of Insulating Gloves and Sleeves¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This specification covers the in-service care, inspection, testing, and use voltage of insulating gloves and sleeves for protection from electrical shock.

1.2 The following safety hazards caveat pertains only to the test method portion, Sections 6 and 7, of this specification. *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:

- D 120 Specification for Rubber Insulating Gloves²
- D 1051 Specification for Rubber Insulating Sleeves²
- D 2865 Practice for Calibration of Standards and Equipment for Electrical Insulating Materials Testing³
- F 696 Specification for Leather Protectors for Rubber Insulating Gloves and Mittens²
- F 819 Definitions of Terms Relating to Electrical Protective Equipment for Workers²
- F 1236 Guide for Visual Inspection of Electrical Protective Rubber Products²

2.2 ANSI Standards:

- C 39.5 Safety Requirements for Electrical and Electronic Measuring and Controlling Instrumentation⁴
- C 84.1 Voltage Ratings for Electric Power Systems and Equipment⁴

2.3 IEEE Standard:

- 4-78 Techniques for High Voltage Testing⁵

3. Significance and Use

3.1 Compliance with this specification should continue to provide personnel with insulating gloves and sleeves of known

and acceptable quality after initial acceptance in accordance with Specifications D 120 and D 1051. The specifications herein are to be considered as minimum requirements.

3.2 A margin of safety shall be provided between the maximum use voltage and the voltage at which the gloves and sleeves are retested. The relationship between retest voltage and maximum use voltage at which the gloves and sleeves shall be used is shown in Table 1.

3.2.1 When work is not being performed on energized conductors or equipment, or both, any contact with energized conductors or equipment, or both, would be limited to the phase-to-ground potential. If gloves are the only protection used in such operations, the phase-to-ground voltage to which the gloves may be exposed shall be limited to the maximum use voltage of that class glove as listed in Table 1.

3.3 The user of these types of protective equipment shall be knowledgeable of and instructed in the correct and safe inspection and use of such equipment.

4. Terminology

4.1 Definitions:

4.1.1 *breakdown*—the electrical discharge or arc occurring between the electrodes and through the equipment being tested.

4.1.2 *designated person*—an individual who is qualified by experience or training to perform an assigned task.

4.1.3 *electrical testing facility*—a location with qualified personnel, test equipment, and procedures for the inspection and electrical testing of electrical insulating protective equipment.

4.1.4 *flashover*—the electrical discharge or arc occurring between electrodes and over or around, but not through, the equipment being tested.

4.1.5 *gauntlet*—the area of a glove between the wrist and the reinforced edge of the opening. (See Fig. 1.)

4.1.6 *insulated*—separated from other conducting surfaces by a dielectric substance (including air space) offering a high resistance to the passage of current.

NOTE 1—When any object is said to be insulated, it is understood to be insulated in a suitable manner for the conditions to which it is subjected. Otherwise, it is, within the purpose of this definition, uninsulated. Insulating covering of conductors is one means of making the conductor insulated.

4.1.7 *isolated*—an object that is not readily accessible to persons unless special means of access are used.

4.1.8 *ozone*—a very active form of oxygen that may be

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² *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 10.03.

³ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 10.02.

⁴ Available from American National Standards Institute, 1430 Broadway, New York, NY 10018.

⁵ Available from the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc., 345 East 47th St., New York NY 10017.

TABLE 1 Voltage Requirements

Class Designation of Glove or Sleeve	Maximum Use Voltage, V	AC Retest Voltage, V	DC Retest Voltage, V
00	500	2 500	10 000
0	1 000	5 000	20 000
1	7 500	10 000	40 000
2	17 000	20 000	50 000
3	26 500	30 000	60 000
4	36 000	40 000	70 000

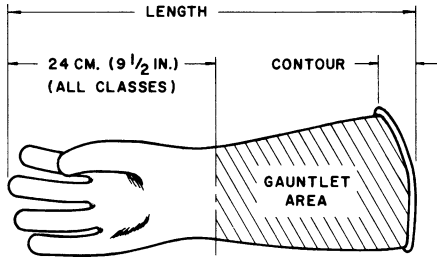


FIG. 1 Rubber Glove—Gauntlet Area (All Classes)

produced by corona, arcing, or ultraviolet rays.

4.1.9 *ozone cutting and checking*—the cutting action produced by ozone on rubber under mechanical stress into a series of interlacing cracks.

4.1.10 *proof-test current*—the leakage current measured during ac proof tests. This current is an indication of the validity of the dielectric constant of the type of material used and the thickness of the total contact area under test.

4.1.11 *sleeve roll-up*—a sleeve carrier formed of flat canvas-like material in which a pair of sleeves is rolled lengthwise.

4.1.12 *voltage, maximum use*—the ac voltage (rms), classification of the protective equipment that designates the maximum nominal design voltage of the energized system that may be safely worked. The nominal design voltage is equal to the phase-to-phase voltage on multiphase circuits.

4.1.12.1 *Discussion*—If there is no multiphase exposure in a system area, and the voltage exposure is limited to the phase (polarity on dc systems) to ground potential, the phase (polarity on dc systems) to ground potential shall be considered to be the nominal design voltage.

4.1.12.2 *Discussion*—If electrical equipment and devices are insulated or isolated, or both, such that the multiphase exposure on a grounded wye circuit is removed, then the nominal design voltage may be considered as the phase-to-ground voltage on that circuit.

4.1.13 *voltage, nominal design*—a nominal value consistent with the latest revision of ANSI C84.1, assigned to the circuit or system for the purpose of conveniently designating its voltage class.

4.1.14 *voltage, retest*—voltage, either ac rms or dc average, that used protective equipment must be capable of withstanding for a specified test period without breakdown.

4.1.15 For definitions of other terms, refer to Definitions F 819.

5. Classification

5.1 Gloves and sleeves covered under this specification are designated as Type I or Type II; Class 00, Class 0, Class 1,

Class 2, Class 3, or Class 4.

5.1.1 *Type I*, nonresistant to ozone, made from a high-grade *cis*-1,4-polyisoprene rubber compound of natural or synthetic origin, properly vulcanized.

5.1.2 *Type II*, ozone resistant, made of any elastomer or combination of elastomeric compounds.

5.1.3 The electrical properties correspond to those shown in Table 1. The class designations are those specified in Specifications D 120 and D 1051.

6. Inspection and Testing at an Electrical Testing Facility

6.1 The recommended sequence of inspection and testing of gloves and sleeves at an electrical testing facility is:

- 6.1.1 Check-in, washing, and preliminary inspection.
- 6.1.2 Repair.
- 6.1.3 Electrical test.
- 6.1.4 Drying.
- 6.1.5 Final inspection.
- 6.1.6 Record-keeping and marking.
- 6.1.7 Powdering, pairing, and packing for storage or shipment.

6.2 When gloves and sleeves are received at an electrical test facility, they should be checked in as soon as practicable to eliminate any folds, creases, and improper storage.

6.3 The gloves and sleeves shall be washed with a mild soap or mild detergent and water. After washing, the gloves and sleeves shall be thoroughly rinsed with water to remove all soap or detergent and dried. Mild household type chloride bleach may be used for disinfectant purposes. Soaps, detergents, and bleaches shall not be used at strengths that would attack or harm the rubber surface.

NOTE 2—The cleaning agent shall not degrade the insulating qualities of the gloves and sleeves.

NOTE 3—A commercial tumble-type washing machine may be used, but caution must be observed to eliminate any interior surfaces or edges that will cut, abrade, puncture, or pinch the gloves and sleeves.

NOTE 4—Gloves and sleeves may be suspended to allow drainage and air circulation or dried in a commercial tumble-type automatic dryer. In an automatic dryer, caution must be observed to eliminate any ozone or ultraviolet lamps and interior surfaces that will cut, abrade, puncture, or pinch the gloves and sleeves.

6.4 Prior to the electrical test, gloves and sleeves should be given a preliminary inspection for punctures, tears, cuts, bruises, ozone cutting or checking, or any other obvious conditions that would adversely affect performance. If any of these conditions are found, the glove or sleeves shall be rejected, or repaired in accordance with Section 10. Minor surface corona cutting or ozone checking in the gauntlet area, above the water line, need not be cause for rejection.

6.5 The gloves and sleeves shall be tested in accordance with Section 7.

6.6 The gloves and sleeves shall not be air-dried with an air temperature in excess of 150°F (65.5°C).

6.7 The gloves and sleeves shall be given a detailed inspection over their entire surface for physical defects and ozone damage. They may be turned inside out for inside inspection, but only for the duration of the inspection. They may be inflated with air to enhance the identification of small defects, but caution shall be exercised to avoid over-inflation (see Note

10). This detailed inspection may be performed prior to the electrical tests, where it can be demonstrated that the electrical testing process does not cause ozone damage.

6.8 The inside surface of gloves may be dusted with a powder. Gloves and sleeves should be sorted by pairs and packed in accordance with Section 8 for field care, inspection, and storage.

7. Electrical Tests

7.1 Electrically retest gloves or sleeves issued for service. Base the interval between date of issue and retests on work practices and test experience. It shall not exceed 6 months for gloves and twelve months for sleeves. Gloves or sleeves that have been electrically tested but not issued for service shall not be placed into service unless they have been electrically tested within the previous twelve months.

7.2 **Caution:** The test apparatus should be designed to afford the operator full protection in the performance of his duties. Reliable means of de-energizing and grounding the high-voltage circuit should be provided. It is particularly important to incorporate positive means of grounding the high-voltage section of dc test apparatus due to the likely presence of high-voltage capacitance charges at the conclusion of the test. See ANSI C39.5.

7.3 Industries, such as telecommunications, that utilize insulating gloves as precautionary protection against unintentional contact with energized conductors, may increase the maximum interval between issue and retest to nine months.

7.4 Both ac and dc voltage retest methods are included and either method may be selected for electrical testing.

7.5 Glove Tests:

7.5.1 Perform all electrical tests on clean gloves and at normal room temperatures. Fill the gloves, right side out, with conductive, clean water and immerse to a depth in compliance with Table 2 for the retest voltage to be used. The water level during the test shall be the same inside and outside the gloves. Connect the water inside the glove, which forms one test electrode, and the water in the tank outside the glove, which forms the other electrode, to the opposite terminals of the high-voltage source. The water should be free of air bubbles and air pockets inside or outside the glove and the exposed portion of the glove above the water line shall be dry.

7.5.2 Insulating gloves being retested by the a-c method shall meet the requirements of Table 3. If the proof test current is in excess of these limits, the glove shall be rejected.

NOTE 5—For further details on recommended equipment and procedures, refer to Specification D 120.

TABLE 2 Flashover Clearances Between Electrodes^A

Class Designation, Glove or Sleeve	AC Retest		DC Retest	
	in.	mm	in.	mm
00	3	76	3	76
0	3	76	3	76
1	3	76	4	102
2	5	127	6	152
3	7	178	8	203
4	10	254	12	305

^A Flashover clearances are stated in terms of the shortest electrical air path between electrodes around the edge of the item being tested. In those cases where atmospheric conditions make the specified clearances impractical, the distance may be increased by the maximum of 2 in. (51 mm).

TABLE 3 AC Proof-Test Current, max, mA^A

Class Designation of Glove	Retest Voltage, max	Glove, 11 in. (279 mm)	Glove, 14 in. (356 mm)	Glove, 16 in. (406 mm)	Glove, 18 in. (457 mm)
00	2 500	8	12	^B	^B
0	5 000	8	12	14	16
1	10 000	—	14	16	18
2	20 000	—	16	18	20
3	30 000	—	18	20	22
4	40 000	—	—	22	24

^A If the ac proof test is made at any frequency other than 60 Hz, the permissible proof-test current shall be computed from the direct ratio of the frequencies.

^B Not applicable.

dures, refer to Specification D 120.

7.6 *Sleeve Tests*— Perform all electrical tests on clean sleeves right side out and at normal room temperature. Six methods of mounting sleeves are described in the following sections, with test limitations on some of the methods. Both ac and dc proof-test procedures are included in this section. In each of the five test methods, the inner and outer electrodes shall be connected to the opposite terminals of the high-voltage source. Electrode to electrode clearances shall be as specified in Table 2.

7.6.1 Electrodes:

7.6.1.1 *Water Electrodes, Inverted Mounting*—In this method, invert the small end of the sleeve and pull through to the large end to form an annular trough as shown in cross section in Fig. 2. (see Note 6). Immerse the sleeve in water and fill the trough with water until the levels both inside and outside the trough are the same. Particular care should be taken to avoid any sharp folds in the sleeves as they may cause premature dielectric breakdown at these points.

NOTE 6—Use of this method may result in excessive breakdown failures when tested above 10 000 V ac or 50 000 V dc.

7.6.1.2 *Water Electrodes, Sling Mounting*—In this method, place a non-insulating pipe or rod at least 2 in. in diameter at about the midpoint between the cuff and underarm edge. The pipe or rod should be of sufficient weight to hold the sleeve down to prevent creasing and its length should be no less than

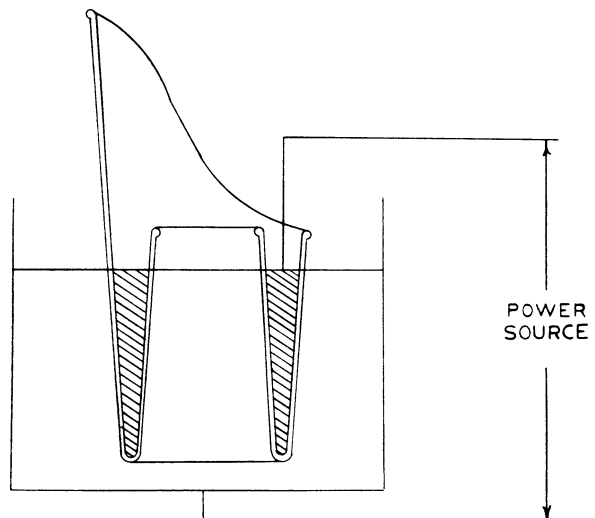


FIG. 2 Water Electrodes, Inverted Mounting

the width of the sleeve. Immerse the sleeve in water with the rod in place and fill with water until the water levels are the same both inside and outside the sleeve, and the cuff and underarm edges are equidistant above the water line as shown in the cross section in Fig. 3 (see Note 6). Particular care should be taken to avoid any sharp folds in the sleeves as they may cause premature dielectric breakdown at these points.

7.6.1.3 *Water Electrodes, Hammock Mounting*—The sleeve shall be hung in the test machine so that the top of the shoulder area, the top of the underarm, and the cuff edge are all in a horizontal plane, parallel to the surface of the water in the test tank (see Fig. 4). The test equipment holding or supporting the sleeve under test should be of such design that there is minimal stress created in the sleeve material. Place a rod or pipe across the top surface of the sleeve at approximately the midpoint between the cuff and underarm edge. The pipe or rod shall be noninsulating, at least 2 in. (50.8 mm) in diameter, and of sufficient weight to hold the sleeve down to prevent creasing. The length of the pipe or rod shall be no less than the width of the sleeve. Fill the sleeve with water and immerse the sleeve to the test position, allowing for proper flashover clearance for the test voltage used. In so far as practical, the water levels should be the same both on the inside and outside of the sleeve, and the top of the shoulder area, the top of the underarm, and the cuff edge are equidistant above the water line (see Fig. 4). Particular care shall be taken to avoid any sharp folds or areas of stress in the sleeve, as they may cause premature dielectric breakdown or ozone cutting, or both, at these points.

7.6.1.4 *Water Electrodes Straight Mounting*—In these methods, a high-dielectric medium is used to separate and electrically isolate the water electrodes inside and outside the vertically mounted sleeve.

(1) *Straight Mounting, Liquid Cuff Seal* (see Fig. 5)—In this method, a high dielectric medium is used to separate and isolate the water electrodes inside and outside the vertically mounted sleeve. Place a layer of high dielectric strength liquid, having a specific gravity greater than 1.0 and insoluble in water, in the test tank to a depth of approximately 2 in. greater than the depth listed in Table 2. Then fill the tank with water to the desired level. Immerse the sleeve, with the cuff end first,

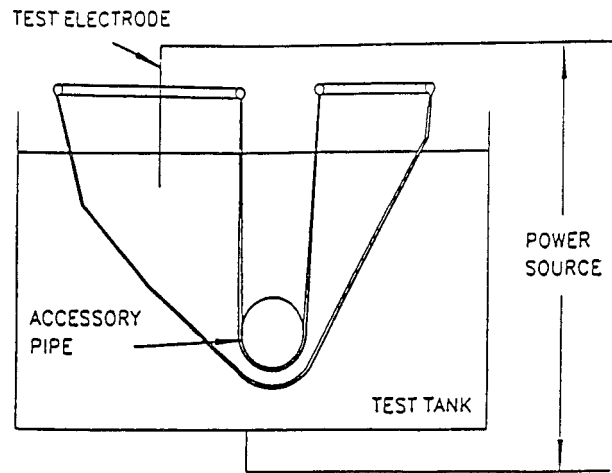


FIG. 4 Water Electrodes, Hammock Mounting

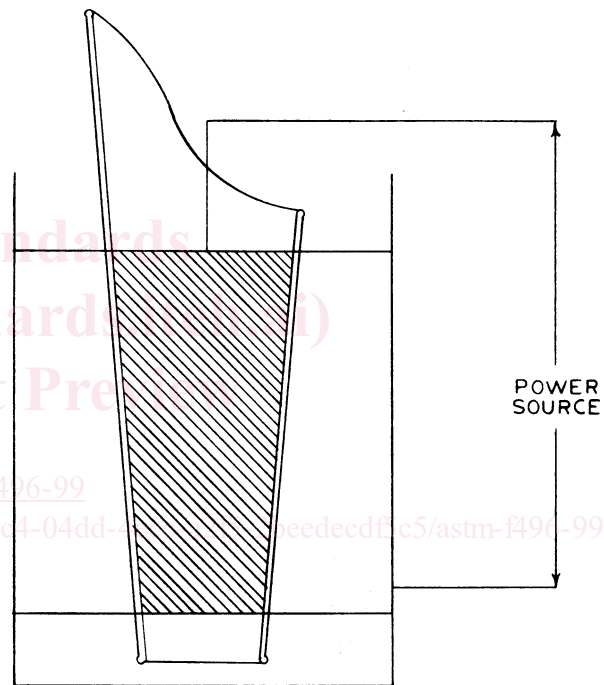


FIG. 5 Water Electrodes, Straight Mounting

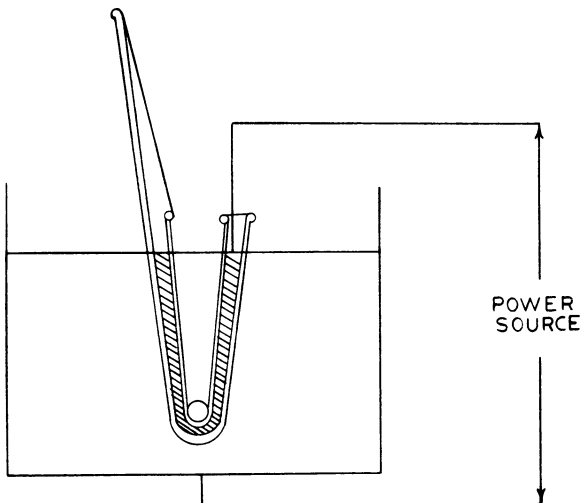


FIG. 3 Water Electrodes, Sling Mounting

into the water until the cuff end is below the interface between the two liquids, to a depth required to provide the flashover clearance shown in Table 2. The dielectric liquid separates and electrically insulates the inside water electrode from the outside water electrode. This mounting may be used for all voltages, both ac and dc.

NOTE 7—**Caution:** Some dielectric liquids are toxic in nature and therefore proper precautionary measures shall be followed. One satisfactory dielectric liquid is trichlorotrifluoroethane (Dielectric Grade). The rubber sleeve should be exposed to the trichlorotrifluoroethane for only the time needed to complete the test, as extended exposure time will cause temporary distortion of the rubber.

(2) *Straight Mounting Mechanical Cuff Seal*—In this method, a mechanical seal is placed on the cuff of the sleeve to be tested. This device shall provide a tight, leakproof seal at the cuff and a high dielectric medium to separate and electrically isolate the inside water electrode from the outside water