



Designation: B 886 – 03

Standard Test Method for Determination of Magnetic Saturation (Ms) of Cemented Carbides¹

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1. Scope *

1.1 This test method covers the determination of magnetic saturation (Ms) of cemented carbide powder materials and sintered products using magnetic saturation induction test instrumentation.

1.2 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as the standard.

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. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:

A 340 Terminology of Symbols and Definitions Relating to Magnetic Testing²

B 243 Terminology of Powder Metallurgy³

E 1316 Terminology for Nondestructive Examinations⁴

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions:

3.1.1 For definition of terms used in this procedure refer to Terminology A 340, Terminology B 243, and Terminology E 1316.

3.1.2 *dc*—direct current.

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 A test specimen is statically positioned in the magnetic field generated by d-c coils or a permanent magnet and sensing coils of the test apparatus. The specimen is magnetized to induction saturation by the field and translated linearly that the intrinsic magnetic moment of the specimen's binder phase

induces a d-c current to flow in the sensing coils of the test apparatus. The induced current is proportional to the amount of magnetic binder phase present in the test specimen. Measurement of the induced current permits calculation of the intrinsic magnetic saturation of the test sample.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 This test method allows the non-destructive measurement of the magnetic fraction of the binder phase in cemented carbide powder materials and sintered product, and may be used as an indirect measure of the carbon level in the material or product.

5.2 Measurement of magnetic saturation provides a comparison of the relative fraction of magnetic binder phase that is, cobalt, nickel, or iron, present in the material and can be used for acceptance of product to specification.

5.3 Measurement of magnetic saturation can be used as a measure of the quality of powder material.

6. Interferences

6.1 No direct absolute measurement of magnetic saturation can be made. The measurement is a relative comparison of standard reference materials.

6.2 Measurement of magnetic saturation is a non-destructive "bulk" measurement which is averaged over the test specimen volume. The technique cannot be used to infer anything regarding the relative distribution of the binder phase within the test sample.

6.3 Measurement of magnetic saturation is affected by test sample size and shape, especially aspect ratio, and the composition of the binder phase, that is, a mixture of ferromagnetic elements of varying intrinsic magnetic moments

6.4 Small test samples or test samples containing relatively low concentrations of the binder phase may be immeasurable in that the low concentration prohibits detection by the field sensing coils of the specific apparatus employed.

7. Apparatus

7.1 Instrumentation capable of inducing magnetic saturation and then sensing the inherent intrinsic magnetic moment of the magnetic fraction of the binder phase.

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee B09 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 *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 03.03.

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