



Designation: D3654/D3654M – 06

## Standard Test Methods for Shear Adhesion of Pressure-Sensitive Tapes<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D3654/D3654M; 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 Department of Defense.*

### 1. Scope

1.1 This test method covers procedures for determining the ability of pressure-sensitive tapes and labels to remain adhered under constant load applied parallel to the surface of the tape and substrate.

1.1.1 Procedure A measures the shear adhesion when applied to a vertical standard steel panel.

1.1.2 Procedure B measures the shear adhesion when applied to vertical panel covered with NIST SRM 1810A standard fiberboard.

1.1.3 Procedure C measures the shear adhesion when applied to a vertical panel covered with a fiberboard as defined by Comite Europeen de Normalisation (CEN).

1.1.4 Procedure D measures shear adhesion when applied to a vertical panel covered with a fiberboard agreed upon by the buyer and seller.

1.1.5 Procedure E measures shear adhesion of filament reinforced tape when applied to a horizontal standard steel panel.

1.1.6 Procedure F measures shear adhesion of a filament reinforced tape when applied to a horizontal panel covered with NIST SRM 1810A standard fiberboard.

1.1.7 Procedure G measures the shear adhesion of a filament reinforced tape when applied to a horizontal panel covered with a standard fiberboard defined by CEN.

1.1.8 Procedure H measures the shear adhesion the same as Procedure A except the test is conducted at an elevated temperature and after a 10-min dwell time at the elevated temperature.

1.2 These procedures provide a means of assessing the uniformity of the adhesive of a given type of pressure-sensitive tape, usually tapes used for packaging applications. The assessment may be within a roll of tape, between rolls or production lots.

1.2.1 Variations in the tape backing and adhesive affect the response; therefore, these procedures cannot be used to pinpoint the specific cause(s) of nonuniformity.

<sup>1</sup> This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D10 on Packaging and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D 10.14 on Tapes and Labels.

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1.2.2 This test method is intended to replace AFERA 4012, CEN 1943, and PSTC (see 7.2).

1.3 The values stated in either SI units or inch-pound units are to be regarded separately as standard. The values stated in each system are not be exact equivalents; therefore, each system shall be used independently of the other. Combining values from the two systems will result in non-conformance with the standard.

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. Referenced Documents

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

A666 Specification for Annealed or Cold-Worked Austenitic Stainless Steel Sheet, Strip, Plate, and Flat Bar  
D3715/D3715M Practice for Quality Assurance of Pressure-Sensitive Tapes

D4332 Practice for Conditioning Containers, Packages, or Packaging Components for Testing

D5750/D5750M Guide for Width and Length of Pressure-Sensitive Tape

E122 Practice for Calculating Sample Size to Estimate, With Specified Precision, the Average for a Characteristic of a Lot or Process

#### 2.2 AFERA Standard:

AFERA 4012 Self-Adhesive Tapes—Measurement of Static Shear Adhesion<sup>3</sup>

#### 2.3 CEN Standard:

EN 1943 Self-Adhesive Tapes—Measurement of Static Shear Adhesion<sup>4</sup>

<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> AFERA (Association des Fabricants Europeen de Rubans Auto-Adhesifs), LAM, Iaan Copes van Cattenburch 79, NL-2858 EW., the Hague, the Netherlands.

<sup>4</sup> EN (European Norm), available from COMITE Europeen de Normalisation, CEN Rue de Stassart, 36, B-1050, Brussels, Belgium.



#### 2.4 PSTC Standard:

PSTC-7 Holding Power of Pressure-Sensitive Tapes<sup>5</sup>

### 3. Summary of Test Method

3.1 *Procedure A, Shear Adhesion to Standard Steel Panel*—A strip of tape is applied to a standard steel panel under controlled roll down. The panel is mounted vertically, a standard mass is attached to the free end of the tape and the time to failure is determined.

3.2 *Procedure B, Shear Adhesion to a Standard (NIST) Fiberboard*—A strip of tape is applied to a panel covered with NIST SRM 1810A fiberboard under controlled roll down. The panel is mounted vertically, a standard mass is attached to the free end of the tape and the time to failure determined.

3.3 *Procedure C, Shear Adhesion to a Standard CEN Fiberboard*—A strip of tape is applied to a panel covered with the CEN standard fiberboard under controlled roll down. The panel is mounted vertically, a standard mass is attached to the free end of the tape and the time to failure is determined.

3.4 *Procedure D, Shear Adhesion to a Fiberboard with Controlled Roll Down*—The panel is mounted vertically, a standard mass is attached to the free end of the tape and the time to failure is determined.

3.5 *Procedure E, Shear Adhesion to a Standard Steel Panel*—A strip of filament reinforced tape is applied to a standard steel panel with a 120° bend at one end with controlled roll down. The panel is mounted horizontally, tape side up, with the free end of the tape allowed to hang vertically over the rounded end. A standard mass is attached to the free end of the tape and allowed to act for the specified time.

3.6 *Procedure F, Shear Adhesion of Filament Reinforced Tape to a Standard (NIST) Fiberboard*—A strip of filament reinforced tape is applied to a panel with a 120° bend, covered with NIST SRM 1810A standard fiberboard under controlled roll down. The panel is mounted horizontally, tape side up, with the free end of the tape allowed to hang vertically over the round end of the panel. A standard mass is attached to the free end of the tape and allowed to act for a specified time.

3.7 *Procedure G, Shear Adhesion of a Filament Reinforced Tape to a CEN Standard Fiberboard*—A strip of filament reinforced tape is applied to a panel covered with CEN standard fiberboard under controlled roll down. The panel is mounted horizontally, tape side up, with the free end of the tape allowed to hang vertically over the round end of the panel. A standard mass is attached to the free end of the tape and allowed to act for the specified time.

3.8 *Procedure H*—This procedure is conducted as described in Procedure A except the test is conducted at an elevated temperature after a 10-min dwell time at the elevated temperature.

3.9 For Procedures A, B, C, D, and H the preferred specimen size is 12 by 12 mm [0.5 by 0.5 in.]. A specimen size of 24 by 24 mm [1 by 1 in.] may be specified.

3.10 For Procedures E, F and G the specimen width shall be 12 mm [0.5 in.]. For testing reinforced filament by Procedure H, the width shall be 12 mm [0.5 in.].

<sup>5</sup> PSTC (Pressure Sensitive Tape Council), 400 N. Michigan Ave., No. 2200, Chicago, IL 60611-4267.

### 4. Significance and Use

4.1 Procedure A measures the ability of a pressure-sensitive tape to adhere to a standard steel panel under constant stress. This may or may not relate to the ability of the tape to adhere to other surfaces.

4.2 Procedures B, C, and D may be used to determine the shear adhesion of the tapes generally used to close fiberboard boxes in packaging applications.

4.3 Procedure D measures the shear adhesion of a pressure-sensitive tape to a nonstandard fiberboard, liner board, corrugated board, or other surfaces which is agreed upon for testing. This may be used to compare the shear adhesion of a tape to a particular fiberboard surface or to compare the shear adhesion of a tape to a variety of fiberboard surfaces.

4.3.1 The surfaces of similar fiberboards may exhibit considerable variation between mills, between batches from one mill, and within batches. Take care in the choice of samples and when comparing results between fiberboard surfaces which may not be exactly the same.

4.3.2 The precision of tests conducted on nonstandard surfaces may be different than that described in Section 13.

4.4 Procedures E, F, and G may be used to determine the ability of a filament reinforced tape to hold when placed under constant stress.

4.5 Procedure H may be used to compare the shear adhesion of tape applied to a standard steel surface and tested at an elevated temperature. The use of an elevated temperature during test tends to reduce the duration of the test.

### 5. Apparatus

5.1 *Specimen Cutter*<sup>5,6,7</sup>—The specimen cutter shall hold two single-edge razor blades in parallel planes, a precise distance apart, to form a cutter of exact specimen width. Two cutters, 12 mm [0.5 in.] and 24 mm [1 in.] cutting width, shall be available or appropriate alternates, which will not cause edge damage.

NOTE 1—The 12-mm [0.5-in.] cutter shall consist of a 12-mm [0.5-in.] thick by 200-mm [8-in.] length of aluminum bar stock 12-mm [0.5-in.] wide. The edges for about 125 mm [5 in.] from one end shall be rounded slightly to form a handle. The width of the bar for 75 mm [3 in.] shall be narrowed to exactly 12 mm [0.5 in.] minus the thickness of a single-edge razor (one of two used as cutting edges). The razor shall be held in position using side plates. The end of the cutter shall be cut away at a 45° angle to expose the cutting edges at one end of the blades. The edges shall be separated by 12 ± 0.10 mm [0.5 ± 0.005 in.]. The 24 mm [1 in.] cutter shall follow the same description except the bar stock shall be 24-mm [1-in.] wide and shall be narrowed to exactly 24 mm [1 in.] minus the thickness of a single edge razor.

5.2 *Dispensing System*, for solvents, such as a wash bottle.

<sup>6</sup> These widths correspond to the primary metric (SI) units described in Guide D5750/D5750M. These so-called “modular metric” units generally are used throughout the world. If it is desirable to test slightly different widths (for example, 25 of 50 mm) of specimens per 8.4, this should be noted per 12.1.6 and calculations per 11.1 must account for the difference.

<sup>7</sup> The sole source of supply of the apparatus known to the committee at this time is Chemsultants International, 9349 Hamilton Drive, Mentor, OH 44061-1118. If you are aware of alternative suppliers, please provide this information to ASTM International Headquarters. Your comments will receive careful consideration at a meeting of the responsible technical committee,<sup>1</sup> which you may attend.

### 5.3 Panel<sup>5,7</sup>:

5.3.1 For Procedures A, B, C, D, and H, a 50 by 125 mm [2 by 5 in.] not less than 1.1 mm [0.043 in.] thickness 302 or 304 stainless steel sheet with bright annealed finish in accordance with Specification A666. The surface roughness height shall be  $50 \pm 25$  nm [ $2.0 \pm 1.0$   $\mu$ m.] arithmetical average deviation from a mean line. One or both of the panel ends shall be ground to form a 90° angle with the panel surface. Panels showing stains, discolorations, or numerous scratches are not acceptable. New panels should be cleaned before use as described in 10.1, except with ten washes of the final solvent. Between uses, the panels test surface shall be protected from scratches and contamination, and the panels stored at conditions described in 8.1.

5.3.2 For Procedures E, F, and G, a panel as described in 5.3.1 shall have a 12 mm [0.5 in.] length at one end of the panel bent through an arc of 120° away from the test surface. The radius of the curvature of the finished surface at the bend shall be 1.5 to 3 mm [ $\frac{1}{16}$  to  $\frac{1}{8}$  in.].

### 5.4 Roller, mechanically or hand-operated.<sup>5,7</sup>

5.4.1 A steel roller  $85 \pm 2.5$  mm [ $3.25 \pm 0.1$  in.] in diameter and  $45 \pm 1.5$  mm [1.75 by 0.5 in.] in width, covered with rubber approximately 6 mm [0.25 in.] in thickness, having a Shore scale A durometer hardness of  $80 \pm 5$ . The surface shall be a true cylinder void of any convex or concave deviations. The mass of the roller shall be  $2040 \pm 45$  g [ $4.5 \pm 0.1$  lb].

5.4.2 No part of the apparatus shall increase the mass of the roller during use. The roller shall move either mechanically or by hand at the rate of  $10 \pm 0.4$  mm/s [ $24 \pm 0.5$  in./min].

### 5.5 Test Stands and Ancillary Apparatus.<sup>5,7</sup>

5.5.1 Procedures A, B, C, D, and H—A test stand that shall hold the test panel, with tape applied, at an angle of 0 to 2° with the vertical, so that when the mass is acting on the test specimen, no peel forces will be exerted on the tape.

5.5.2 Procedures E, G, and F—A test stand that will support the test panel in a horizontal plane, approximately 300 mm [12 in.] above the work surface.

5.5.3 Clamp or Hook, that will allow attachment of the mass to the specimen, distributing the load equally across the tape specimen width.

### 5.5.4 Test Masses:

5.5.4.1 Procedures A, B, C, D, and H—The test mass shall be  $1000 \pm 5$  g or other mass as specified. The mass of the clamp or hook described in 5.5.3 shall be included as part of the total mass.

5.5.4.2 Procedures E, F, and G—The test mass shall be  $4.5 \pm 0.2$  kg [ $10 \pm 0.5$  lb] or other mass as specified. The mass of the clamp or hook as described in 5.5.3 shall be included in the total mass.

### 5.5.5 Timing Systems:

5.5.5.1 Procedure A, B, C, D, and H to measure the interval in minutes, between the application of the load to the specimen and its separation from the panel.

5.5.5.2 Procedures E, F, and G, a suitable means of measuring the amount of slippage of the tape to 1 mm [ $\frac{1}{64}$  in.] on the panel after the mass has acted for 48 h.

## 6. Reagent Materials

6.1 Purity of Reagents—Reagent grade chemicals shall be used in all tests. Other grades may be used, provided it is first ascertained the reagent is of sufficiently high purity to permit its use without lessening the accuracy of the determination.

### 6.2 Solvents:

6.2.1 Any of the following solvents may be used for cleaning.

NOTE 2—Before selecting or using these solvents for cleaning test panels be sure to read and follow all precautions on the chemical Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) and consult with Environmental, Health and Safety (EHS) Professionals.

6.2.1.1 Diacetone alcohol nonresidual, technical grade or better.

6.2.1.2 Methanol (95 %).

6.2.1.3 Methyl Ethyl Ketone (MEK).

6.2.1.4 *n*-Heptane.

6.2.1.5 Acetone.

6.2.2 For referee testing, the final cleaning shall be with MEK or acetone.

6.3 Cleaning Material, absorbent, surgical gauze, cotton wool, or tissue. To be suitable, materials must be lint free during use, absorbent, contain no additives that are soluble in the solvents listed in 6.2, and made exclusively from virgin materials.

## 7. Sampling

7.1 Acceptance Sampling—Sampling shall be in accordance with Practice D3715/D3715M. For Procedures A, E, and H three replicate specimens shall be averaged in accordance with Section 11 for each test result. For Procedures B, C, D, and G five replicate specimens shall be averaged. No single value shall be considered as representative of the roll under test.

7.2 Sampling for Other Purposes—The sampling and the number of test specimens depends on the purpose of the testing. Practice E122 is recommended. It is common to test at least five specimens of a particular tape. Test specimens should be taken from several rolls of a tape and, whenever possible, among several production runs of a tape. Strong conclusions about a specific property of a tape cannot be based on test results of a single unit (roll) of product.

## 8. Test Specimen

### 8.1 Removal from Roll:

8.1.1 Unwind and discard at least three but no more than six outer wraps of tape from the roll before taking specimens for testing.

8.1.2 For Procedures A, E, and H, remove three specimens per sample roll for each test to be performed. For procedures B, C, D, and G remove five specimens per roll for each test to be performed. Remove specimens from freely rotating roll at the rate of 500 to 750 mm/s [20 to 30 in./min]. Where width or other factors causing high adherence to backing make it impossible to remove the specimen at the prescribed rate, remove it at a rate as close to 500 mm [30 in./min] as possible.