



**Designation: D 3500 – 90 (Reapproved 1995)<sup>ε1</sup>**

## **Standard Test Methods for Structural Panels in Tension<sup>1</sup>**

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D 3500; 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.*

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<sup>ε1</sup> NOTE—Section 15 was added editorially in July 1995.

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### **1. Scope**

1.1 These test methods cover the determination of the tensile properties of structural panels.

1.2 Structural panels in use include plywood, waferboard, oriented strand board and composites of veneer, and other wood-based layers

1.3 *Test Method A, Tensile Test for Small Specimens:*

1.3.1 This test method employs small specimens that should have a reduced cross section at the center of their length to avoid failure in the grip area. The transition from full width of specimen to reduced section at the center should be gradual to minimize stress concentration.

1.3.2 When the measurements of elastic properties are to be made, the length of the reduced cross section at the center should be of sufficient length to accommodate an extensometer.

1.4 *Test Method B, Tensile Test for Large Specimens:*

1.4.1 This test method employs large specimens and responds well to manufacturing variables, plywood growth characteristics, and other defects influencing the tensile properties of structural panels.

1.4.2 The test specimens are large enough to contain the maximum sized defects found in plywood panels. The test specimens have a constant cross section since the size and location of defects control the location of failures and the effect of stress concentration at the grips is overshadowed.

1.4.3 This test method is recommended for the following:

1.4.3.1 Comparative tests of structural panels,

1.4.3.2 Determining the influence of any specific strength reducing defects on the tensile properties of structural panels,

1.4.3.3 Determination of tensile properties of plywood and composites containing veneer with growth and manufacturing characteristics.

1.5 *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 2395 Test Methods for Specific Gravity of Wood and Wood-Base Materials<sup>2</sup>

D 4442 Test Method for Direct Moisture Content Measurement of Wood and Wood-Base Materials<sup>2</sup>

### **3. Significance and Use**

3.1 These test methods determine the tensile properties of structural panels in response to stresses acting in the plane of the panel.

3.2 *Test Method A*—This test method is suited to material that is uniform with respect to tensile properties. It is normally applied to structural panels and plywood of clear, straight-grained veneers. It may also be used to evaluate the strength of scarf and finger joints and other manufacturing process variables that can be expected to influence the tensile properties of structural panels in a uniform manner across the width of the sheet.

3.3 *Test Method B*—This test method employs large test specimens and responds well to all manufacturing variables and growth characteristics that affect the tensile properties of structural panels.

3.4 It is recommended that where comparisons are to be made that the same test method and specimen size be used throughout. This is because the volume of material included in a test specimen can influence the tensile strength regardless of whether the material properties are uniform throughout the sheet or vary widely due to the presence of growth or manufacturing features.

### **4. Control of Moisture Content**

4.1 Structural panel specimens to be tested at specific moisture contents or after reaching equilibrium moisture content at specific temperature and relative humidity conditions shall be conditioned to approximate constant weight in controlled atmospheric conditions. For approximating moisture conditions of structural panels used under dry conditions, a relative humidity of  $65 \pm 2\%$  at a temperature of  $(68 \pm 6^\circ\text{F})$

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<sup>1</sup> These test methods are under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D-7 on Wood and are the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D07.03 on Panel Products.

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<sup>2</sup> *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 04.10.

(20 ± 3°C) is recommended.

**5. Variables Influencing Tensile Properties of Structural Panels**

5.1 *Moisture Content*—Moisture content shall be determined in accordance with Test Method D 4442.

5.2 *Specific Gravity*—Determine specific gravity in accordance with Test Methods D 2395. The specimen may be the same as that for moisture content determination but must have volume of at least 1 in.<sup>3</sup> (16 cm<sup>3</sup>) if from small specimens (Test Method A), and at least 3 in.<sup>3</sup> (49 cm<sup>3</sup>) if from large specimens (Test Method B). Specimens containing veneer shall be free of visible knots or voids in any ply.

**TEST METHOD A—TENSILE PROPERTIES OF SMALL SPECIMENS**

**6. Test Specimens**

6.1 Specimens may be of Types A, B, or C in Fig. 1.

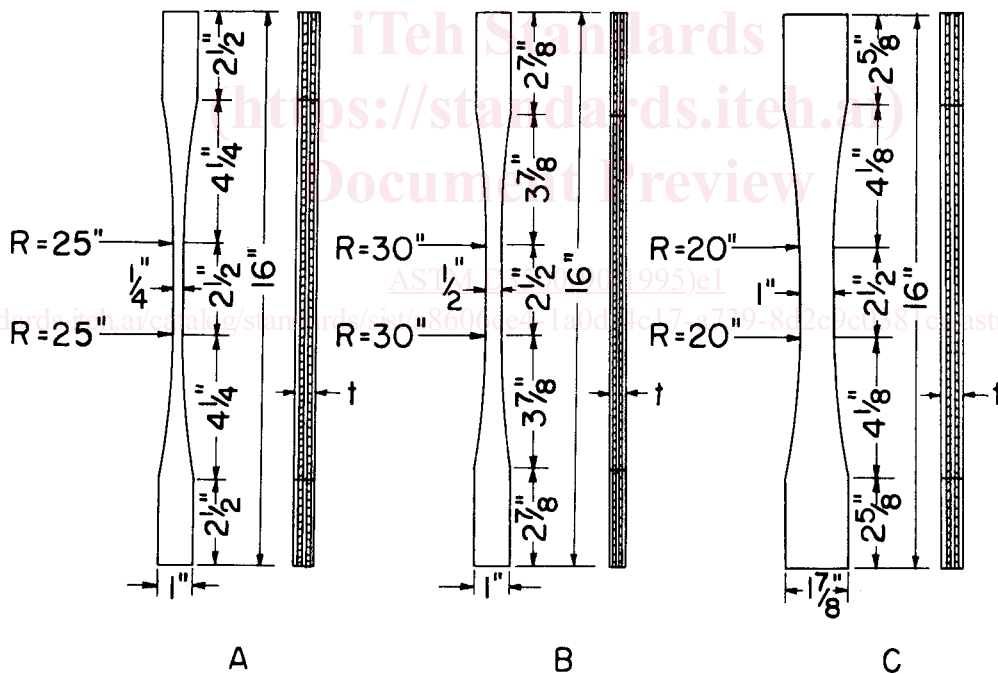
6.1.1 When the evaluation of elastic properties as well as ultimate tensile strength is required, the size and shape of the test specimen shall be selected on the basis of the construction and thickness of the material. For other structural panels, and

plywood or composites with the grain of the individual veneer plies or laminations making grain angles of individual veneer lamina of 0 or 90°, Type A shall be used for material over ¼ in. (6 mm) in thickness and Type B for material ¼ in. (6 mm) or less in thickness. For plywood with an angle other than 0 or 90° between the length of the specimens and the grain orientation, Type C shall be used regardless of the thickness of the material. The specimens shall have a thickness equal to that of the material. The thickness and the width of each specimen at the critical section shall be measured to an accuracy of not less than ±0.3 % or 0.001 in. (0.02 mm) whichever is larger.

6.1.2 The test specimens shall be properly shaped, using a template in conjunction with a vertical-spindle wood-working shaper or any other method that will give equally satisfactory results.

**7. Loading Procedure**

7.1 Hold the specimen in wedge-type self-tightening and self-aligning grips. Rate of crosshead motion shall be constant throughout the test such that the specimen breaks within 3 to 10 min after initiation of loading. A crosshead motion rate of 0.035 in./min (0.9 mm/min) is usually satisfactory. If failure



U.S. Customary Units, in.	Metric Equivalents mm	U.S. Customary Units, in.	Metric Equivalents mm
¼	6	¾	98
½	13	4 ½	105
1	25	4 ¼	108
1 ⅙	48	16	406
2 ½	64	20	503
2 ⅝	67	25	635
2 ⅞	73	30	762

NOTE 1—A generous radius of curvature at the minimum section as provided in this specimen is highly desirable.

**FIG. 1 Dimensions and Details of Tension Test Specimens**