



Designation: F2516–06 Designation: F 2516 – 07^{ε2}

Standard Test Method for Tension Testing of Nickel-Titanium Superelastic Materials¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation F 2516; 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 (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

^{ε1} NOTE—Referenced Documents were updated editorially in April 2008.

^{ε2} NOTE—A heading in Table 1 was editorially corrected in September 2008.

1. Scope

1.1 This test method covers the tension testing of superelastic nickel-titanium (nitinol) materials, specifically the methods of determination of upper plateau strength, lower plateau strength, residual elongation, tensile strength, and elongation.

1.2 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as standard. No other units of measurement are included in this 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:*²

E 6 Terminology Relating to Methods of Mechanical Testing

E 8 Test Methods for Tension Testing of Metallic Materials

E 83 Practice for Verification and Classification of Extensometer Systems

E 111 Test Method for Young's Modulus, Tangent Modulus, and Chord Modulus

E 177 Practice for Use of the Terms Precision and Bias in ASTM Test Methods

E 691 Practice for Conducting an Interlaboratory Study to Determine the Precision of a Test Method

E4875 1876 Test Method for Dynamic Young's Modulus, Shear Modulus, and Poisson's Ratio by ~~Sonic Resonance~~ Impulse Excitation of Vibration

F 2005 Terminology for Nickel-Titanium Shape Memory Alloys

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—The definitions of terms relating to tension testing appearing in Terminology E 6 and the terms relating to nickel-titanium shape memory alloys appearing in Terminology F 2005 shall be considered as applying to the terms used in this test method. Additional terms being defined are as follows (see Fig. 1):

3.1.1 *lower plateau strength (LPS)*—the stress at 2.5 % strain during unloading of the sample, after loading to 6 % strain.

3.1.2 *residual elongation, El_r [%]*—the difference between the strain at a stress of 7.0 MPa during unloading and the strain at a stress of 7.0 MPa during loading.

3.1.3 *uniform elongation, El_u [%]*—the elongation determined at the maximum force sustained by the test piece just prior to necking, or fracture, or both.

3.1.4 *upper plateau strength (UPS)*—the stress at 3 % strain during loading of the sample.

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 Using conventional tensile testing apparatus, the material is pulled to 6 % strain, then unloaded to less than 7 MPa, then pulled to failure.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 Tension tests provide information ~~on~~ the strength and ductility of materials under uniaxial tensile stresses.

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F04 on Medical and Surgical Materials and Devices and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F04.15 on Material Test Methods.

Current edition approved ~~June Dec.~~ 1, 2006-2007. Published ~~June 2006~~ January 2008. Originally approved in 2005. Last previous edition approved in 2005-2006 as F 2516 – 05~~6~~.

² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

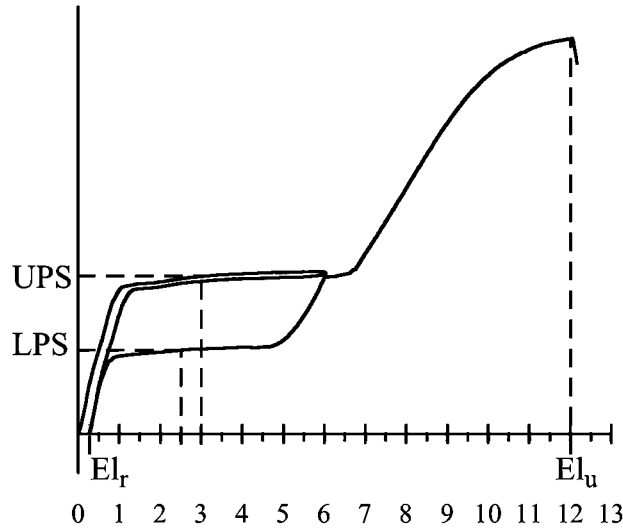


FIG. 1 Terms Illustrated on Typical Stress-Strain Diagram of Superelastic Nitinol

5.2 Tension tests, as described in this test method, also provide information on the superelasticity, as defined in Terminology F 2005, of the material at the test temperature.

6. Apparatus

6.1 Apparatus is as described in Test Methods E 8.

7. Test Specimen

7.1 Test specimens are as described in Test Methods E 8.

8. Procedure

8.1 Procedure shall be per Test Methods E 8 with the following additions:

8.1.1 Unless otherwise specified, the temperature of the test shall be 22.0°C. Tolerance shall be $\pm 2.0^\circ\text{C}$.

8.1.2 Free-running crosshead speed shall be limited per Table 1.

8.1.3 The test shall consist of zeroing the force transducer, gripping the specimen, pulling the specimen to 6 % strain, reversing the motion to unload the specimen to less than 7 MPa, and then pulling the specimen to failure.

8.1.4 For materials with diameter greater than 0.2 mm, strain shall be determined by use of a calibrated extensometer of class C or better (see Practice E 83). For materials with diameter less than or equal to 0.2 mm, strain may be determined by use of an extensometer or by crosshead motion. When using crosshead motion to calculate strain, the length between the grips must be 150 mm.

8.1.4.1 When using a clip-on extensometer with small diameter wire, care must be taken not to bend or distort the wire when attaching the extensometer.

8.1.5 Upper plateau strength shall be determined by the value of the stress at a strain of 3.0 % during the initial loading of the specimen.

TABLE 1 Crosshead Speed Limits

<i>d</i> , diameter or thickness (mm) ^A	Maximum crosshead speed in mm/min- per mm [†] of initial length of reduced section (or initial distance between grips for specimens not having reduced sections)	
	First Cycle (load to 6 % strain and unload)	Second Cycle (load to failure)
$d \leq 0.2$	0.08	0.8
$0.2 < d \leq 0.5$	0.04	0.4
$0.5 < d \leq 2.5$	0.02	0.2
$d > 2.5$	0.01	0.1

^A For tubing, use *d* that gives equivalent surface area to diameter ratio; for round tubing, $d = (\text{outer diameter}) - (\text{inner diameter})$.

[†] Editorially corrected.

8.1.6 Lower plateau strength shall be determined by the value of the stress at a strain of 2.5 % during the unloading of the specimen.

8.1.7 Residual elongation shall be determined by the difference between the strain at a stress of 7.0 MPa during unloading and the strain at a stress of 7.0 MPa during loading.

8.1.8 The uniform elongation shall be determined by elongation when the maximum load force is reached just prior to necking or fracture, or both.

9. Report

9.1 The report shall include the following information, unless otherwise specified:

9.1.1 Material and sample identification,

9.1.2 Specimen type,

9.1.3 Upper plateau strength,

9.1.4 Lower plateau strength,

9.1.5 Residual elongation,

9.1.6 Tensile strength,

9.1.7 Uniform elongation,

9.1.8 Test temperature,

9.1.9 Strain determination method (extensometer or crosshead),

9.1.10 Crosshead speed, and

9.1.11 Gage length (length of reduced section or distance between grips for specimens not having reduced sections).

10. Precision and Bias

~~10.1 The precision and bias of this test method is to be established.³~~

10.1 An interlaboratory study was conducted in accordance with Practice E 691 using three different diameters of superelastic wire. For wire diameters of 0.2 and 0.5 mm, eleven laboratories participated in the study with each laboratory obtaining three results for each diameter. For the 2.5 mm diameter wire, eight laboratories participated in the study with each laboratory obtaining three results. The details are given in ASTM Research Report RR: F04–1010.³

10.2 The results are summarized in Tables 2-6 for each tensile parameter. The terms repeatability limit and reproducibility limit are used as specified in Practice E 177.

10.3 No measurement of bias is possible with this test method since there is presently no accepted reference material.

11. Keywords

11.1 lower plateau strength; nickel titanium; nitinol; residual elongation; shape memory; superelasticity; upper plateau strength

³ Shaw, J. A. and Kyriakides, S., "On the Nucleation and Propagation of Phase Transformation Fronts in a NiTi Alloy", *Acta Mater*, Vol 45, No. 2, 1997, pp. 683–700.

³ Supporting data have been filed at ASTM International Headquarters and may be obtained by requesting Research Report RR: F04–1010.

TABLE 2 Precision of Upper Plateau Strength (MPa)

Diameter (mm)	Grand Mean	Repeatability Standard Deviation	Reproducibility Standard Deviation	Repeatability Limit	Reproducibility Limit
0.2	499	13	55	36	154
0.5	492	11	35	30	98
2.5	500	13	25	35	71