



Designation: G121 – 98(Reapproved 2010)<sup>ε1</sup>

# Standard Practice for Preparation of Contaminated Test Coupons for the Evaluation of Cleaning Agents<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation G121; 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.

<sup>ε1</sup> NOTE—Warning notes were editorially moved into text in May 2010.

## 1. Scope

1.1 This practice describes the procedure for the preparation of single- and double-sided contaminated metallic test coupons for the evaluation of cleaning agents. It is applicable for the evaluation of cleaning agents proposed for the cleaning of oxygen-enriched systems and components. It also is applicable to other systems where contamination is a concern.

1.2 Several classes of contaminants most likely to be found in oxygen-enriched systems and components are identified. However, if the user of this practice has identified contaminants not included in these classes, such identified contaminants may be substituted for the preparation of the test coupons.

1.3 Preparation of nonmetallic substrates is not addressed, although similar methodology may be used. Solvent and cleaning agent compatibility with the nonmetallic substrate should be verified prior to the preparation of the test coupons. Typical nonmetallic materials utilized in oxygen systems are contained in Guide G63.

1.4 *This practice may involve hazardous materials, operations, and equipment. This practice does not purport to address all of the safety concerns associated with its use. It is the responsibility of whomever uses this practice to consult and 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>

D1193 Specification for Reagent Water

E1235 Test Method for Gravimetric Determination of Non-

volatile Residue (NVR) in Environmentally Controlled Areas for Spacecraft

F303 Practices for Sampling for Particles in Aerospace Fluids and Components

F312 Test Methods for Microscopical Sizing and Counting Particles from Aerospace Fluids on Membrane Filters

F324 Test Method for Nonvolatile Residue of Volatile Cleaning Solvents Using the Solvent Purity Meter (Withdrawn 1987)<sup>3</sup>

F331 Test Method for Nonvolatile Residue of Solvent Extract from Aerospace Components (Using Flash Evaporator)

G63 Guide for Evaluating Nonmetallic Materials for Oxygen Service

G94 Guide for Evaluating Metals for Oxygen Service

2.2 *ANSI:*

B 46.1 Surface Texture (Surface Roughness, Waviness, and Lay)

## 3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions:*

3.1.1 *contaminant, n*—unwanted molecular and particulate matter that could affect or degrade the performance of the components upon which they reside.

3.1.2 *contamination, n*—a process of contaminating.

3.1.3 *surface roughness, R<sub>a</sub>, n*—the arithmetic average deviation of the surface profile from the centerline, normally reported in micrometres.

3.1.4 *nonvolatile residue (NVR), n*—residual molecular and particulate matter remaining following the filtration of a solvent containing contaminants and evaporation of the solvent at a specified temperature.

3.1.5 *particle (particulate contaminant), n*—a piece of matter in a solid state with observable length, width, and thickness.

3.1.5.1 *Discussion*—The size of a particle is usually defined by its great dimension and is specified in micrometres.

<sup>1</sup> This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee G04 on Compatibility and Sensitivity of Materials in Oxygen Enriched Atmospheres and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee G04.02 on Recommended Practices.

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<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> The last approved version of this historical standard is referenced on www.astm.org.

3.1.6 *molecular contaminant (nonparticulate contamination)*, *n*—the molecular contaminant may be in a gaseous, liquid, or solid state.

3.1.6.1 *Discussion*—It may be uniformly or nonuniformly distributed, or be in the form of droplets. Molecular contaminants account for most of the NVR.

3.1.7 *blank, n*—the contamination level of the fluid when the test coupon is omitted.

3.1.7.1 *Discussion*—Sometimes referred to as “background” level.

3.1.8 *control coupon (witness coupon), n*—a coupon made from the same material as the test coupons, but in this test method is not coated with the contaminant.

#### 4. Summary of Practice

4.1 A solution of the contaminant is applied to either one side or both sides of the precleaned test coupons and dried under standard conditions. The amount of contaminant on the test coupons is determined. Nonmetallic material test coupons used as inserts, seats, seals, etc. may also be prepared by this procedure and are evaluated in the as-used condition.

4.2 Three methods of coupon preparation are provided:

- Method A, NVR sample, single side
- Method B, NVR sample, double side
- Method C, NVR and particulate sample

#### 5. Significance and Use

5.1 This practice will be suitable to direct the preparation of test coupons with a known amount of contaminant on the surface. A standard test coupon is described and a list of contaminants that have typically been found in oxygen-enriched systems and components is provided.

5.2 These coupons shall be used in the evaluation of cleaning agents for oxygen-enriched systems and components. This will permit direct comparison within and between test facilities.

5.3 Materials used in other fluid handling systems such as nitrogen, helium, hydrogen, gasoline, etc. may also be prepared for evaluation by this practice.

#### 6. Apparatus

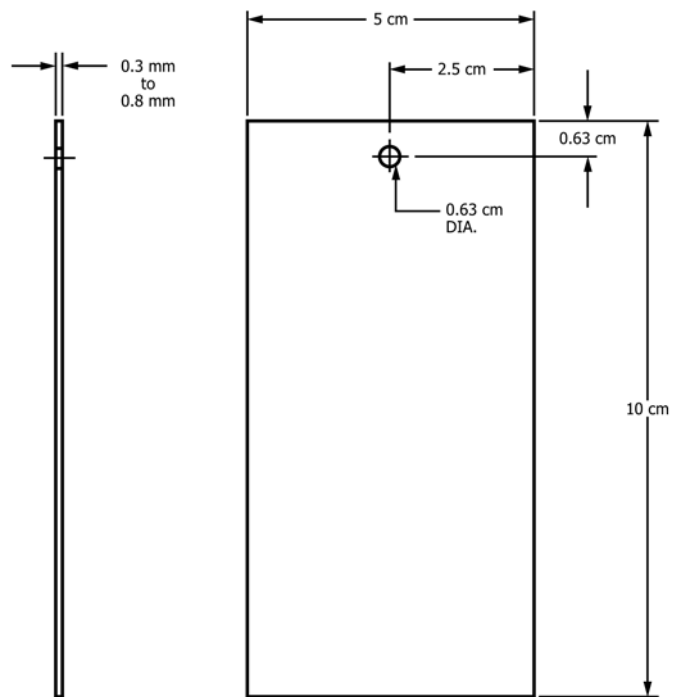
6.1 *Test Coupon*—Metal panels of the same material as the component part to be cleaned. Other alloys that may be used if the specific alloy is unknown are included in Guide G94. The coupon configuration is shown in Fig. 1.

NOTE 1—The surface finish of the test coupon should be the same as the part to be cleaned.

6.2 *Balance-Range* to a minimum of 50 g with an 0.1-mg accuracy capable of weighing to  $\pm 0.1$  mg.

6.3 *Oven-Convection*, capable of maintaining  $50^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 5^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

6.4 *Spray Applicator*—Capable to apply an even coat of contaminant; that is, an artist’s airbrush, perfume atomizer, or a spray device such as that used with window or tile cleaners has been found to apply an even coating of the contaminant in a controlled manner.



NOTE: ALL SHARP EDGES SHOULD BE BROKEN AND DEBURRED.

FIG. 1 Standard Test Coupon

6.5 Other standard equipment such as a vacuum filtration system, solvent resistant filters, gloves, laboratory glassware, syringes, pipettes, desiccator, laboratory tongs, tweezers, and wire.

#### 7. Reagents

7.1 Contaminant materials-general classes of materials that have typically been found in oxygen-enriched systems and components as a result of the manufacturing, assembly, fabrication, and construction processes include:

- silicone oils and greases,
- fluorinated aerospace fluids and greases,
- petroleum based oils and greases,
- ester based oils and greases,
- phosphate esters,
- waxes,
- chlorotrifluoroethylene based oils and greases,
- inks,
- cutting oils, and
- dye penetrants.

7.2 Solvent-reagent grade used to prepare standard solutions of contaminants which may include the following: 2-propanol, 2-butanone, hexane, Type II reagent water, or better, in accordance with Specification D1193, and perfluorinated carbon fluids. (**Warning**—Solvents such as 2-propanol hexane and 2-butanone are highly flammable. The reader should refer to appropriate safe handling procedures.)

7.3 Desiccant—for example, silica gel.