



Designation: D1578 – 93(Reapproved 2011)

Standard Test Method for Breaking Strength of Yarn in Skein Form¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D1578; 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.

This standard has been approved for use by agencies of the Department of Defense.

1. Scope

1.1 This test method covers the determination of the breaking strength of yarn in skein form. The observed breaking strength is expressed in units of force, and equations are provided to convert breaking strength to skein breaking tenacity and to skein break factor.

NOTE 1—For the determination of the breaking strength and elongation of yarn by the single strand method, refer to Test Method [D2256](#).

1.2 This test method is applicable to spun yarns, either single or plied, composed of any fiber or blend of fibers, but is not suitable for yarns which stretch more than 5 % when the tension is increased from 2.5 to 7.5 mN/tex or 0.03 to 0.08 gf/denier.

1.3 This test method provides three options based on the perimeter of the reel, the number of wraps in the skein, and the machine speed or time-to-break.

1.3.1 *Option 1*—Eighty, forty, or twenty turns on a 1.50-m or 1.5-yd reel, broken at 300 mm/min or 12 in./min.

1.3.2 *Option 2*—Fifty turns on a 1.00-m or 1-yd reel, broken at 300 mm/min or 12 in./min.

1.3.3 *Option 3*—Fifty turns on a 1-m reel, broken in 20 s.

NOTE 2—Option 1 is in general use in the United States, Option 2 is used for woolen yarns, and Option 3 has been proposed in the International Standards Organization (ISO) for international use.

NOTE 3—Metric reels are available with 1 and 1.125-m circumferences. Data from the two reels will be about 1 % different (see [5.6](#)). ISO uses a 1-m circumference reel.

1.4 This test method is frequently combined with the determination of linear density carried out on the same skeins. Special precautions for reeling such skeins are noted.

1.5 Where appropriate, this test method states all requirements in SI units. The traditional units are inch-pound and are exact values.

1.6 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety problems, 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

[D76 Specification for Tensile Testing Machines for Textiles](#)

[D123 Terminology Relating to Textiles](#)

[D1776 Practice for Conditioning and Testing Textiles](#)

[D1907 Test Method for Linear Density of Yarn \(Yarn Number\) by the Skein Method](#)

[D2256 Test Method for Tensile Properties of Yarns by the Single-Strand Method](#)

[D2258 Practice for Sampling Yarn for Testing](#)

[D2904 Practice for Interlaboratory Testing of a Textile Test Method that Produces Normally Distributed Data \(Withdrawn 2008\)](#)³

[D4849 Terminology Related to Yarns and Fibers](#)

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions:*

3.1.1 For definitions of textile terms used in this test method: breaking force, force, skein break factor, skein, skein breaking tenacity, skein strength, strength, refer to Terminology [D4849](#).

3.1.2 For definitions of other textile terms used in this test method, refer to Terminology [D123](#).

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 A skein of yarn, prepared by winding the prescribed number of turns on a reel, is broken on a tensile testing machine.

NOTE 4—If the yarn number is also required for the determination of skein breaking tenacity or break factor, the broken skein may be weighed and the yarn number calculated as directed in Test Method [D1907](#).

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee [D13](#) on Textiles and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee [D13.58](#) on Yarns and Fibers.

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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.

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

5. Significance and Use

5.1 Test Method D1578 for testing any spun yarn for breaking strength is considered satisfactory for acceptance testing of commercial shipments since the method has been used extensively in the trade.

5.1.1 In case of a dispute arising from differences in reported test results when using Test Method D1578 for acceptance testing of commercial shipments, the purchaser and the supplier should conduct comparative tests to determine if there is a statistical bias between their laboratories. Competent statistical assistance is recommended for the investigation of bias. As a minimum, the two parties should take a group of test specimens which are as homogeneous as possible and which are from a lot of material of the type in question. The test specimens should then be randomly assigned in equal numbers to each laboratory for testing. The average results from the two laboratories should be compared using Student's *t*-test for unpaired data and an acceptable probability level chosen by the two parties before testing is begun. If a bias is found, either its cause must be found and corrected or the purchaser and the supplier must agree to interpret future test results in the light of the known bias.

5.2 This test method is not suitable for yarns that stretch more than 5 % when the force is increased from 2.5 to 7.5 mN/tex or 0.03 to 0.08 gf/denier, because (a) they require special precautions as to tension in reeling, and (b) users of such yarns are more interested in their elastic behavior at low forces than in their ultimate breaking strength.

5.3 For Option 1, it is advisable to use a tensile testing machine of the proper capacity to break skeins with 80 turns. If it is necessary to break skeins having only 40 or 20 turns, convert the observed results to an 80-turn basis by multiplying by factors of 2 or 4, respectively. (The available literature does not show that any significant error is introduced by the use of these factors.)

5.4 The circumference of the skeins used to determine the breaking load is not critical, and as a consequence, close control of the tension at which the skeins are wound is not necessary. If, however, the same skeins are to be used to determine yarn number for any purpose, the skeins must be reeled under controlled tension on a reel meeting the requirements given in Test Method D1907.

5.5 For some purposes it may be advisable to convert the skein breaking strength observed for yarn of one number to the estimated skein breaking strength of a different yarn number. Factors for making such a conversion for cotton yarns are given in 11.2. No corresponding factors have been developed for yarns spun from other fibers.

5.6 The results obtained from different options are not fully comparable because the breaking force per wrap increases slightly as the perimeter of the skein is reduced. The skein breaking tenacity observed for 1-m skeins may be as much as 4 % higher, and from 1-yd skeins 5 % higher, than that observed for 1.5-yd skeins. These relationships may vary with the type of yarn or with yarn unevenness and should not be used as conversion factors. With a reasonable number of

specimens, this method provides a useful index that combines the effects of unevenness and single strand strength.

5.7 This method is rarely, if ever, used for filament yarns because their uniformity makes it possible to obtain reliable results economically by the single-strand method.

6. Apparatus

6.1 *Reel*—A hand or motor-driven reel having a perimeter of 1.50 m or 1.5 yd for Option 1, 1.0 m or 1 yd for Option 2 (see Note 3), or 1 m for Option 3. The reel shall be fitted with a traversing mechanism that will minimize bunching the yarn on the reel and with an indicator of the length wound. A warning bell or an automatic cutoff that will operate at a specified number of turns is advisable. It is also recommended that the reel have a collapsible arm for relaxing the tension on the skeins to facilitate their removal from the reel. If yarn number is to be determined from the same skeins, refer to Test Method D1907 for additional reel specifications.

6.2 *Package Holders*—Vertical spindles for bobbins or cones if not provided as an integral part of the reel, shafts on which tubes or flanged spools can turn freely.

6.3 *Tensile Testing Machine*—A constant-rate-of-traverse (CRT type) or constant-rate-of-extension (CRE type) tensile testing machine of suitable capacity as prescribed in Specification D76, capable of operating the moving clamp (spool) at a uniform speed of 300 ± 10 mm/min or 12 ± 0.5 in./min (for Options 1 and 2) or capable of operating at a rate that will break the skein broken in an average time of 20 ± 3 s from the start of application of tension to the skein (for Option 3). The machine shall be equipped with spools not less than 25 mm or 1 in. nor more than 30 mm or 1.25 in. in both diameter and length, and supported with at least one spool free to turn on its axis. The distance between the spools shall be sufficient to permit placing the skeins on the spools in a wide, flat band.

6.4 *Skein Holder or Rack*, having parallel pegs or bars placed a sufficient distance apart to hold the skeins extended to nearly their full length without either stretching, kinking, or entangling the yarn.

7. Sampling

7.1 *Lot Sample*—Take a lot sample as directed in an applicable specification, or as agreed upon between the purchaser and the supplier. In the absence of an applicable specification or agreement, take a lot sample as directed in Practice D2258.

NOTE 5—An adequate specification or other agreement between the purchaser and the supplier requires taking into account variability between shipping units, between packages or ends within a shipping unit, and between specimens from a single package so as to provide a sampling plan with a meaningful producer's risk, consumer's risk, acceptable quality level, and limited quality level.

7.2 *Laboratory Sample*—As a laboratory sample for acceptance testing, take a total of ten packages for yarn spun on the cotton or worsted systems and a total of 20 packages for yarns spun on the woolen system. Select the packages randomly from all the packages in the lot sampling units.

7.3 *Number of Specimens*—Test one skein from each package in the laboratory sample.

8. Conditioning

8.1 *Preconditioning*—Yarns for testing should be wound into skeins for preconditioning and conditioning (see Section 9). Reel one or more extra skeins for use in determining when moisture equilibrium has been reached (see 8.2.1).

8.1.1 Precondition the skeins at a temperature no higher than 50°C or 120°F in an atmosphere having a relative humidity between 5 and 25 %. Skeins will usually reach approximate moisture equilibrium in 4 h especially in moving air. Crowding skeins too close together on the rack, or anything that obstructs the circulation of air, may lengthen the time appreciably.

8.2 *Conditioning*—Condition the skeins in the standard atmosphere for testing textiles, which is $21 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$ or $70 \pm 2^\circ\text{F}$ and $65 \pm 2\%$ relative humidity, until moisture equilibrium has been reached.

8.2.1 For cotton yarns, a minimum conditioning time of 4 h is specified. Yarns made from other fibers or blends may require other lengths of time. When testing additional samples of the same type of yarn, it may be assumed that moisture equilibrium has been reached after exposure for a time 25 % longer than that found by test to be sufficient.

8.2.1.1 If necessary use the extra skein(s) to determine that moisture equilibrium has been reached when successive weighings at intervals of not less than 15 min do not differ by more than 0.1 %. Do not use the skeins that are to be tested for strength for determining moisture equilibrium.

9. Preparation of Specimens

9.1 *Mounting of Packages:*

9.1.1 For yarns on bobbins, cops, cones, or similar packages, draw the yarn off over the end of the package at a speed between 100 and 300 rpm of the reel.

9.1.2 For yarns on flanged spools or other packages normally unwound from the side, mount the packages to turn freely and draw the yarn from the side of the package at a speed of 20 to 30 rpm of the reel.

9.1.3 When several ends are wound parallel on a single package, draw each end through a separate guide and reel a skein from each end, unwinding from the side of the package.

9.1.4 If the yarn is received in skein form, mount it on an umbrella reel or swift and reel at a speed of 20 to 30 rpm.

9.2 *Reeling*—Draw each end of yarn through a separate guide and attach the yarn to the reel. Turn the reel at a uniform speed and maintain sufficient tension to lay the yarn smoothly on the reel. When the required number of turns have been reeled, tie the ends of the yarn together loosely but securely with a nonslipping knot. For easier separation of skeins on the rack, a loose loop may be made about the skein cross section, and the yarns once again knotted. If skein breaking tenacity or skein break factor is to be calculated, the method of reeling must comply with the additional requirements in Test Method [D1907](#).

9.2.1 For Option 1, reel 80 turns on a 1.50-m (1.5-yd) reel. If the breaking strength of such a skein is greater than the capacity of the available testing machine, try 40 or 20 turns.

9.2.2 For Option 2, reel 50 turns on a 1-m or a 1-yd reel.

9.2.3 For Option 3, reel 50 turns on a 1-m (1.09-yd) reel. Include extra skeins for adjustment of the tester for time to break.

9.3 *Conditioning*—Transfer the skeins to the rack carefully with as little disturbance of the yarn as possible. Keep the yarns parallel and the skein flat, with no bunching or twisting. Do not stretch or jerk the yarn and do not allow it to kink. If more than one skein is to be stored on each pair of pegs, the skeins may be transferred one at a time to the rack, with rings or washers placed between them for easier separation. Precondition (if not done before reeling) and condition as prescribed in Section 8. Do not remove the skeins from the rack until time of test.

10. Procedure

10.1 Perform all tests in the standard atmosphere for testing textiles, which is $21 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$ or $70 \pm 2^\circ\text{F}$ and $65 \pm 2\%$ relative humidity.

10.2 Select the appropriate capacity range of the testing machine as follows:

10.2.1 For Options 1 and 2, a range within which (1) the calibration of the tensile testing machine is accurate within $\pm 1.0\%$ and (2) the breaking force can be read with a precision of $\pm 2.0\%$.

10.2.2 For Option 3, select the capacity and speed of the testing machine to reach the breaking force in an average time of 20 ± 3 s or a testing speed agreed upon by purchaser and supplier. Break one or more preliminary skeins, and adjust the speed as necessary until the time-to-break conforms to the specified limits. If the time-to-break for the preliminary skeins is within the specified limits and no adjustment is required, the observed values for the preliminary skeins may be included in the test report data.

10.3 Handle each skein carefully as directed in 9.3 and transfer it to the testing machine as directed as follows:

10.3.1 Place the skein over the top spool with the yarns lying flat and parallel over the spool.

10.3.2 Then place the lower part of the skein under the lower spool.

10.3.3 Move the skein around the spools, maintaining a gentle tension, to ensure that the yarns are lying flat and parallel with no bunching or twisting.

10.4 Start the machine and maintain the tension on the skein by gentle pressure of the hand (not by gripping or pinching the yarn) until the machine takes up the slack. Keep hands well away from the spools.

10.5 Stop the machine when the scale indicator reaches the maximum force.

10.6 Record the breaking force to the nearest 2 N or 0.5 lbf if under 450 N or 100 lbf, or to the nearest 5 N or 1.0 lbf if 450 N or 100 lbf or more.

10.7 Continue as directed in [10.3-10.6](#) until the required number of skeins have been tested.

10.8 If the skein breaking tenacity or break factor is to be calculated, or if skein breaking strength is to be corrected for yarn number, weigh the broken skeins and determine the average yarn number as directed in Test Method **D1907**.

11. Calculation of Results

11.1 Skein Breaking Strength:

11.1.1 Calculate the average breaking force from the values observed for all specimens in a laboratory sample, and record this as the breaking strength for that sample.

11.1.2 Calculate the average breaking strength for the lot.

11.2 Breaking Strength Adjusted to Specified Yarn Number:

11.2.1 If the average observed yarn number does not differ from the specified yarn number by more than 10 %, an approximate adjusted breaking strength can be calculated using **Eq 1** or **Eq 2**:

$$S_2 = (T_2/T_1)S_1 \quad (1)$$

or

$$S_2 = (N_1/N_2)S_1 \quad (2)$$

where:

- S_1 = observed average breaking strength,
- S_2 = adjusted breaking strength,
- T_1 = observed yarn number in a direct system,
- T_2 = specified yarn number in a direct system,
- N_1 = observed yarn number in an indirect system, and
- N_2 = specified yarn number in an indirect system.

NOTE 6—For plied yarns, the yarn numbers used throughout these calculations are the resultant yarn numbers, that is, the yarn number of the plied yarn, calculated from the mass of a given length, in the same manner as for single yarns.

11.2.2 For cotton yarns a more accurate adjustment can be made over a wide range of yarn numbers by use of **Eq 3** or **Eq 4**:

$$S_2 = (T_2/T_1)S_1 + K[(T_2/T_1) - 1] \quad (3)$$

or

$$S_2 = (N_1/N_2)S_1 + K[(N_1/N_2) - 1] \quad (4)$$

where:

K = a constant, to be selected from experience with the particular type of cotton, usually 18 for strength expressed in lbf.⁴

NOTE 7—In publications of the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture,⁵**Eq 3** above is given in the form shown in **Eq 5**.

$$S_2 = [N_1S_1 - K(N_2 - N_1)]/N_2 \quad (5)$$

There are indications that K varies with staple length and possibly with other fiber properties. Since N_1S_1 is usually between 1800 and 2400, the use of a value of K between 18 and 24 results in an additional adjustment of breaking strength of approximately 1 % per unit difference between N_1 and N_2 , beyond that obtained by the simple proportional conversion given in **11.2.1**. Hence, an error of 10 % in selecting a value for K will make a difference of about 0.1 % in the resulting adjusted skein breaking strength per unit difference between N_1 and N_2 . For breaking strengths in kilograms-force, K is 0.454 times the K for breaking strengths in pounds-force. This may be rounded to the nearest whole number. No

information is available on values of K for yarns of other fibers than cotton.

11.3 Skein Breaking Tenacity:

11.3.1 Calculate the average skein breaking tenacity using **Eq 6** or **Eq 7**:

$$\text{Skein breaking tenacity, mN/tex} = L/(2 \times W \times T) \quad (6)$$

or

$$= 4448S/(2 \times W \times T) = 2224S/(W \times T) \quad (7)$$

where:

- L = breaking strength, mN,
- S = breaking strength, lbf,
- W = number of wraps in skein, and
- T = average yarn number, tex.

NOTE 8—Breaking tenacity in grams-force per denier is equal to breaking tenacity in millinewtons per tex divided by 88.3.

Example 1—Breaking strength = 55 lbf, average yarn number = 40.2 cotton count (14.7 tex), and number of wraps = 80.

Skein breaking tenacity = $(2224 \times 55)/(80 \times 14.7) = 104$ mN/tex

11.3.2 Calculate the average for the lot.

11.4 Skein Break Factor (Count-Strength Product):

11.4.1 Calculate the break factor using **Eq 8**:

$$\text{Skein break factor} = (80 \times S \times N)/W \quad (8)$$

where:

- S = average breaking load, lbf,
- N = average yarn number in an indirect system, and
- W = number of wraps in skein.

11.4.1.1 For skeins of 80 wraps the equation becomes:

$$\text{Break factor} = S \times N \quad (9)$$

Example 2—Skein breaking strength = 55 lbf, average yarn number = 40.2 cotton count, and number of wraps = 80.

Break factor = $55 \times 40.2 = 2211$

NOTE 9—The skein break factor equals the breaking tenacity in grams-force per denier multiplied by 1877 or the breaking tenacity in millinewtons per tex multiplied by 21.26.

11.4.2 Calculate the average for the lot.

11.5 Calculate the coefficient of variation if requested.

12. Report

12.1 State that the specimens were tested as directed in Test Method D1578. Describe the product or material being sampled and the method of sampling used.

12.2 Report the following information:

- 12.2.1 Skein breaking strength and the average for the lot.
- 12.2.2 Coefficient of variation, if determined.
- 12.2.3 Average yarn number, and the numbering systems, if determined.

12.2.4 Any derived values, such as skein breaking strength adjusted to specified yarn number (including method of calculation), skein breaking tenacity, or skein break factor.

12.2.5 Number of packages or ends tested,

12.2.6 Circumference of reel and number of wraps per skein,

12.2.7 Type of testing machine, and

12.2.8 Capacity and rate of operation of testing machine (Option 1 or 2) or average time-to-break (Option 3).

⁴ Webb and Richardson, "An Evaluation of the Significance and Use of the K Factor of Yarn Strength," U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, June 1953.

⁵ Circular 413, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture.