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## Composites and reinforcements fibres — Mechanoluminescent visualization method of crack propagation for joint evaluation

*Composites et fibres de renforts — Méthode de visualisation mécanoluminescente de la propagation des fissures pour l'évaluation des assemblages*

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## Foreword

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This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 61, *Plastics*, Subcommittee SC 13, *Composites and reinforcement fibres*.

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## Introduction

This document specifies a method for mechanoluminescent visualization of position of crack tip and crack propagation for joint evaluation of the bonded plates of carbon fibre reinforced plastics (CFRPs) to metal assemblies, with a standard specimen and under specified conditions of preparation, conditioning and testing. This method is intended for testing only those bonded plates used in bonding carbon fibre reinforced plastics (CFRPs) to metal assemblies.

The potential benefits to the users of mechanoluminescent visualization method of crack propagation for joint evaluation of the bonded plates of carbon fibre reinforced plastics (CFRPs) to metal assemblies based on this document are:

- a) ~~a)~~ providing precise position and amount of crack propagation, required for quantitatively calculating evaluation of the fracture toughness energy through double cantilever beam (DCB) test for opening mode.
- b) ~~b)~~ providing precise position and amount of crack propagation for end notched flexure (ENF) test and end-loaded split (ELS) test, which evaluate the fracture toughness (mode II) of crack propagation without opening against shear stress.
- c) ~~c)~~ providing visual information of crack propagation behaviour that occurs around adhesive bond layer inside the joint during the adhesive evaluation test, such as tensile shear test, cross tension, etc;
- d) ~~d)~~ for reliable evaluation, providing visual information of asymmetric behaviour of deformation in both adherends, originated from asymmetric flexural rigidity of both adherends, which occurs especially when joining dissimilar materials;
- e) ~~e)~~ for reliable evaluation to confirm health of adherend, providing of visual information of minor damage and fracture in one or both adherends, which causes scattering in the evaluation value of adhesive strength and performance, originated from asymmetric flexural rigidity of both adherends, especially in joining dissimilar materials;
- f) ~~f)~~ expanding CFRP applications to the fields of the combinations with metallic components;
- g) ~~g)~~ the detection or the prevention of physical properties loss - such as ion migration and time-related degradation in sealant film, injected calking layer and glass fibre reinforced plastics (GFRPs) layer;
- h) ~~h)~~ demonstrating the conformity to specified conditions for type certification requirements in the engineering such as aircraft developments;
- i) ~~i)~~ evaluating the procedures for maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) in the engineering operations such of CFRP aircrafts.

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# Composites and reinforcements fibres — Mechanoluminescent visualization method of crack propagation for joint evaluation

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## 1 Scope

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This document applies to the measurement of crack tip position and crack propagation on the bonding surface of carbon fibre reinforced plastic (CFRPs) and metal assemblies bonded panels.

This document does not apply to the visualization measurement of strain distribution or defects during load application to specimens.

This document does not intend to:

- a) ~~a) omittingomit~~ relevant field tests for CFRP related engineering;
- b) ~~b) generally specifying~~specify the dimensions of test specimen to represent CFRPs related bonded or fastened structures;
- c) ~~c) superimposingsuperimpose~~ test results for specific applications of the parameters that exceed the range of this document.

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## 2 Normative references

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The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

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ISO 10365, Adhesives — Designation of main failure patterns

ISO/PRF 8065

ISO 22838:2020, Composites and reinforcements fibres — Determination of the fracture energy of bonded plates of carbon fibre reinforced plastics (CFRPs) and metal using double cantilever beam specimens

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ISO 22844:2021, Composites and reinforcements fibres — Carbon fibre reinforced plastics (CFRPs) and metal assemblies — Determination of the tensile lap-shear strength

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## 3 Terms and definitions

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For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 10365 and the following apply.

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— ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>

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— IEC Electropedia: available at <https://www.electropedia.org/>

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3.1  
mechanoluminescence

ML  
luminescence generated by mechanical stimulation

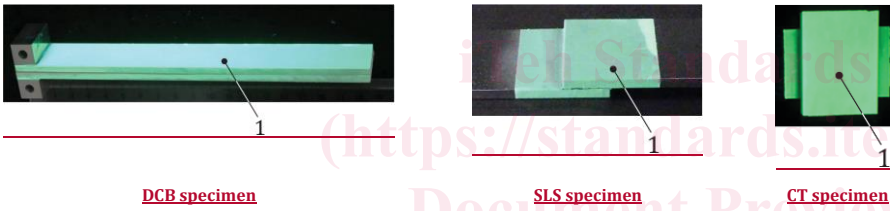
4 Principle

Mechanoluminescence (ML) intensity is proportional to the strain energy of measurement object. Therefore, at crack tip, strain is concentrated under loading, and intense mechanoluminescence can be generated reflecting the strain concentration at the crack tip to visualize the position of the crack tip.

5 Specimen preparation

5.1 Specimen

Various type of bonded plates can be used, such as double-cantilever beam (DCB) specimen, end-notch flexure (ENF) specimen, single lap shear (SLS), end-load split,(ELS), double lap shear (DLS), cross tension (CT), etc. (see Figure 1).Figure 1).



Key



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1 ML paint

Figure 1.— Examples of test specimens for mechanoluminescence visualization of crack tip and crack propagation such as DCB, SLS and CT test. Green area shows ML paint.

5.2 Surface pre-treatment

Surface pre-treatment can be used to make fine adhesion between mechanoluminescence (ML) paint and surface of specimen, but it is not mandatory. As the method of surface pre-treatment, solvent degreasing, sanding, atmospheric pressure plasma treatment, etc. can be used. However, a method that does not affect the adhesive bonding performance and the strength of the adherend should be selected.

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### 5.3 Preparation for mechanoluminescence paint

Mechanoluminescence (ML) paint is prepared by mixing ML material and polymer resin. It is possible to use any ML materials and polymer materials. Candidate ML material is shown in [Annex A](#).

### 5.4 Method of applying mechanoluminescence paint

Mechanoluminescence (ML) paint can be apply on the surface of specimen by spraying, dipping, or brushing, etc. It is ~~desirable~~ preferable that the film thickness is uniform, ~~but~~ however, even if it is not uniform, it does not affect the crack tip monitoring mechanoluminescence.

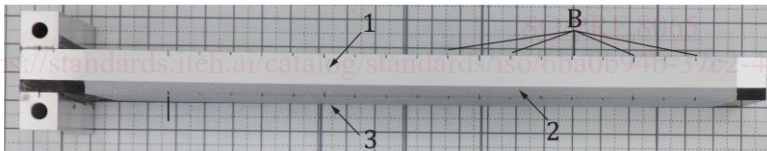
NOTE ~~conditions~~ Conditions for applying mechanoluminescence paint are shown in [Annex B](#) (~~B.1~~ Annex B (B.1 for DCB test, B.2B.2 for SLS test, B.3B.3 for CT test)). Effect on quality of mechanoluminescent paint coating is described for monitoring performance of crack tip in [Annex C](#).

### 5.5 Post-treatment

As a post-treatment, in order to cure the mechanoluminescent (ML) paint, thermosetting, photocuring, room temperature curing, etc. can be performed depending on the polymer material of the ML paint. However, condition of the post-treatment should be selected within a range of conditions that does not affect the test piece and bonding performance.

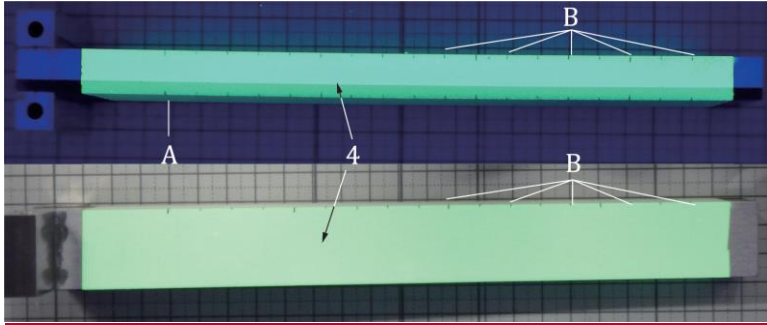
### 5.6 Scale labelling on specimen

In case it is necessary to determine the length of crack propagation from initial, for example for calculating fracture energy and toughness in DCB test, ENF and c-ELS test, scale labelling from initial crack should be marked with black pen at least every 10 mm (see [Figure 2](#)). The scale labelling should be beneficial not only at only one side but also other surface. For example, the scale inside surface can be used to determine crack length and the ones on top and bottom surface should be beneficial to identify the position of mechanoluminescent (ML) line reflecting fracture front in bond line.

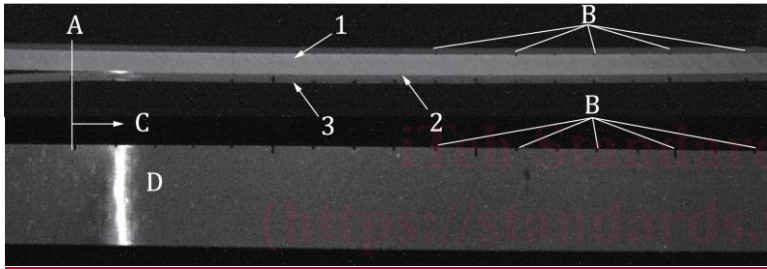


a) Photo in sideview

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b) Side and top views under UV light



c) ML image

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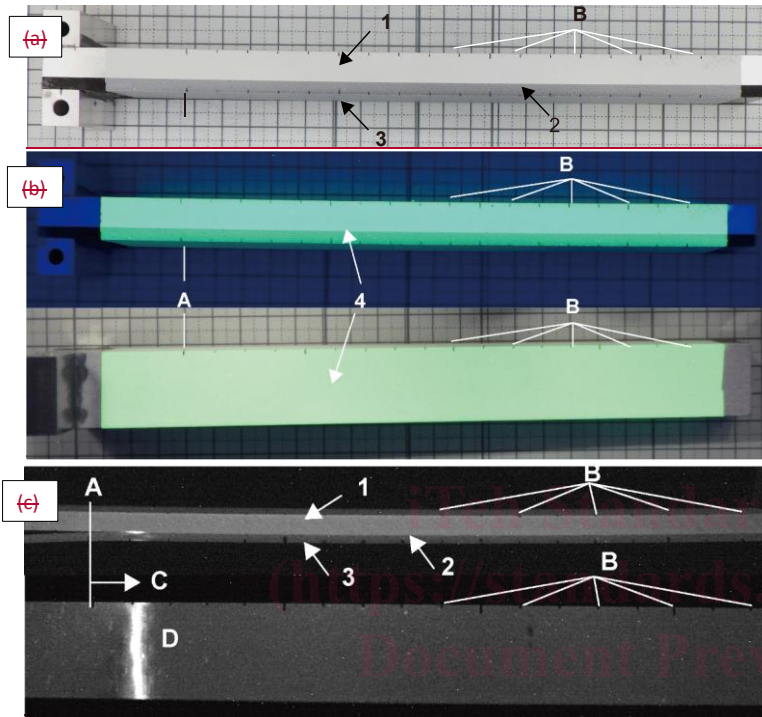
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- |                  |                                  |
|------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 metal plate    | A position of initial crack      |
| 2 adhesive layer | B scale labelling                |
| 3 CFRTP plate    | C direction of crack propagation |
| 4 ML paint       | D ML line                        |

**Key**

- |                  |                                  |
|------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 Metal-plate    | A Position-of initial crack      |
| 2 Adhesive-layer | B Scale-labelling                |
| 3 CFRTP-plate    | C Direction-of crack-propagation |
| 4 ML-paint       | D ML-line                        |

Figure 2.— Example of scale labelling for DCB testing. (a) Photo in sideview, (b) Side and top views under UV light, (c) ML image

## 6 Test equipment and testing procedure

### 6.1 Measurement equipment for mechanoluminescence

A four-way camera setup of the test piece is recommended (see [Figure 3](#)), but at least the tip of the crack to be monitored should be set up with the camera facing the position where it can be recorded.

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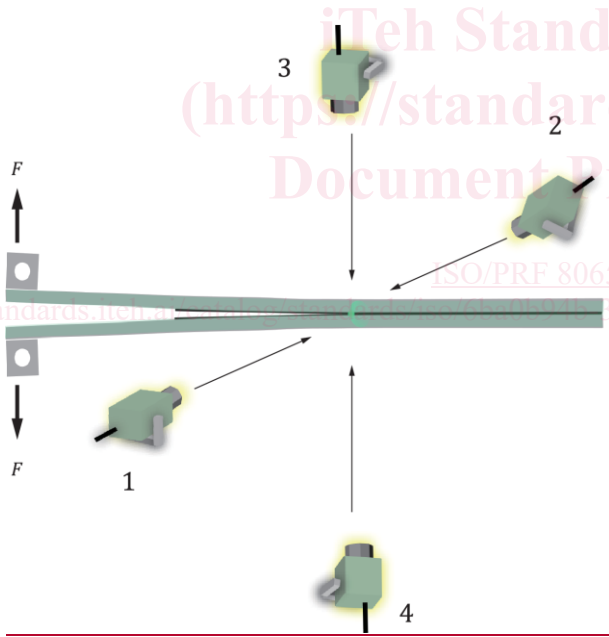
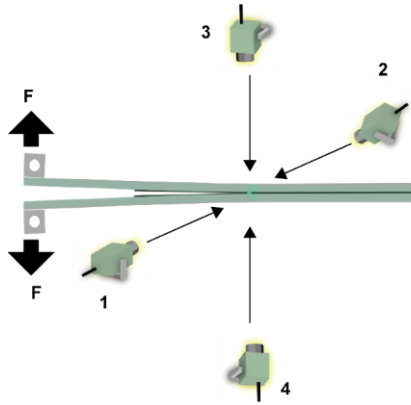
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NOTE 4-way camera system is not mandatory. Number of cameras depends on which face of specimen you want to focus and record.



Key

- 1 camera 1
- 2 camera 2
- 3 camera 3
- 4 camera 4

F Load

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