



Designation: D5652 – 95(Reapproved 2013)

# Standard Test Methods for Bolted Connections in Wood and Wood-Based Products<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D5652; 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.

## 1. Scope

1.1 These test methods cover procedures for evaluating the strength and stiffness of single-bolted connections in wood or wood-based products when subjected to static loading. These test methods serve as a basis for determining the effects of various factors on the strength and stiffness of the connection.

1.2 The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as the standard. The SI units in parentheses are for information only.

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:*<sup>2</sup>

D2395 Test Methods for Density and Specific Gravity (Relative Density) of Wood and Wood-Based Materials

D2915 Practice for Sampling and Data-Analysis for Structural Wood and Wood-Based Products

D4442 Test Methods for Direct Moisture Content Measurement of Wood and Wood-Base Materials

E4 Practices for Force Verification of Testing Machines

F606 Test Methods for Determining the Mechanical Properties of Externally and Internally Threaded Fasteners, Washers, and Rivets (Metric) F0606\_F0606M

2.2 *Federal Specification:*<sup>3</sup>

Fed. Spec. FF-W-92 for Washers, Metal, Flat (Plain)

## 3. Summary of Test Methods

3.1 Specimens consisting of at least one wood or wood-based member fastened with one bolt to at least one other

<sup>1</sup> These test methods are under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D07 on Wood and are the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D07.05 on Wood Assemblies.

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<sup>2</sup> For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, [www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org), or contact ASTM Customer Service at [service@astm.org](mailto: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> Available from Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402.

member of any material are evaluated for capacity to resist compressive or tensile forces applied at a constant rate of deformation with a suitable testing machine. The deformation of the connection at various intervals of loading is measured. Supplementary physical properties of the wood or wood-based members are also determined.

## 4. Significance and Use

4.1 Connections are one of the weakest links in wood construction. While the strength of metal bolts and of wood or wood-based products are ascertainable, a full evaluation of the performance of the combination is only possible through the testing of a complete connection. Such variables as member thickness, member width, end and edge distances, type of bolt, fabrication tolerances, moisture content of the wood or wood-based product, preservative or fire-retardant treatment of the wood or wood-based product, and species of wood may affect connection behavior. In order to develop design criteria for established bolt types as well as those under development, the effect of these variables on connection strength and stiffness must be known. The tests described herein permit the observation of data on the strength and stiffness of wood or wood-based connections, or both, under the influence of any or all of these factors.

## 5. Apparatus

5.1 *Testing Machine*—Any suitable testing machine capable of operation at a constant rate of motion of its movable head and having an accuracy of  $\pm 1\%$  when calibrated in accordance with Practices E4.

5.2 *Spherical Bearing Block*, for compressive loading of specimens.

5.3 *Grips*—Gripping devices capable of attaching the specimen to the stationary and moving heads of the testing machine in such a way as to ensure true axial tensile loads.

5.4 *Deformation Gages*—At least two dial gages with a least reading of 0.001 in. (0.025 mm) or other suitable devices for measuring the slip between connection members during load application.

## 6. Sampling

6.1 Sampling shall provide for selection of representative test specimens that are appropriate to the objectives of the testing program.

6.2 Estimate sample size in accordance with the procedures of Method D2915.

NOTE 1—The precision required, and thus, the manner of sampling and the number of tests, depend upon the specific test objectives. No specific criteria can therefore be established. General experience indicates that the coefficients of variation from tests on connections range from approximately 15 to 30 %.

**7. Sampling: Test Specimens and Test Units**

7.1 Select wood members, and position the bolt in them in such a way that the results are not affected by knots, cross grain, or other natural or manufacturing characteristics unless the purpose of the test methods is to evaluate the effects of such growth characteristics. When the affects of growth characteristics are not being evaluated, wood members shall be essentially clear and straight-grained. For wood-based products, select specimens with regard to manufactured characteristics.

*7.2 Connections Containing One Bolt:*

7.2.1 Make tests on three-member connections as shown in Figs. 1-3 except where specific data on two- or multiple-member connections are being sought. Select the width, length, and thickness of the members with consideration of required edge and end distances. Member dimensions shall be representative of the intended use of the connection.

7.2.2 For connections involving metal or other side members (such as panel materials), the side member thickness shall be that anticipated in service. For all-wood joints, the thickness of each side member shall be at least one half of the thickness of the center member and width and length of all members shall be selected with consideration of required edge and end distances for a specific application. Minimum end distance shall be four bolt diameters for compression loading and seven bolt diameters for tension loading, unless the effect of various end distances is to be studied.

7.2.3 The excess of bolt-hole diameter over bolt diameter shall be 1/32 in. (0.8 mm) for bolts 1/2 in. (13 mm) or less in diameter, and 1/16 in. (1.6 mm) for bolts of larger diameter, unless other bolt-hole diameters are specified.

7.2.3.1 Bolt-holes shall be precisely bored perpendicular to the surface, so that the surface of the hole is smooth and uniform to ensure good bearing of the bolt. Holes shall be drilled after members are conditioned unless the purpose of the test is to study the effect of shrinkage on the performance of bolted connections.

7.2.4 Bolts shall be of sufficient length to penetrate all members without having any member bear on the bolt threads.

7.2.5 Place heavy round washers conforming to Fed. Spec. FF-W-92 for washers, metal, flat (plain), and hereafter referred to as a standard washer, between wood or wood-based side members and bolt head and nut. Bring abutting faces of connection members into normally installed contact; then back off the nut and retighten to “finger tightness.”

7.2.6 Primary tests shall be made on connections loaded parallel to the grain of wood members and perpendicular to the grain of wood members. Perpendicular to the grain tests shall be conducted with the grain of the center member parallel and the side members perpendicular to the direction of the load or with the grain of the center member perpendicular and the side

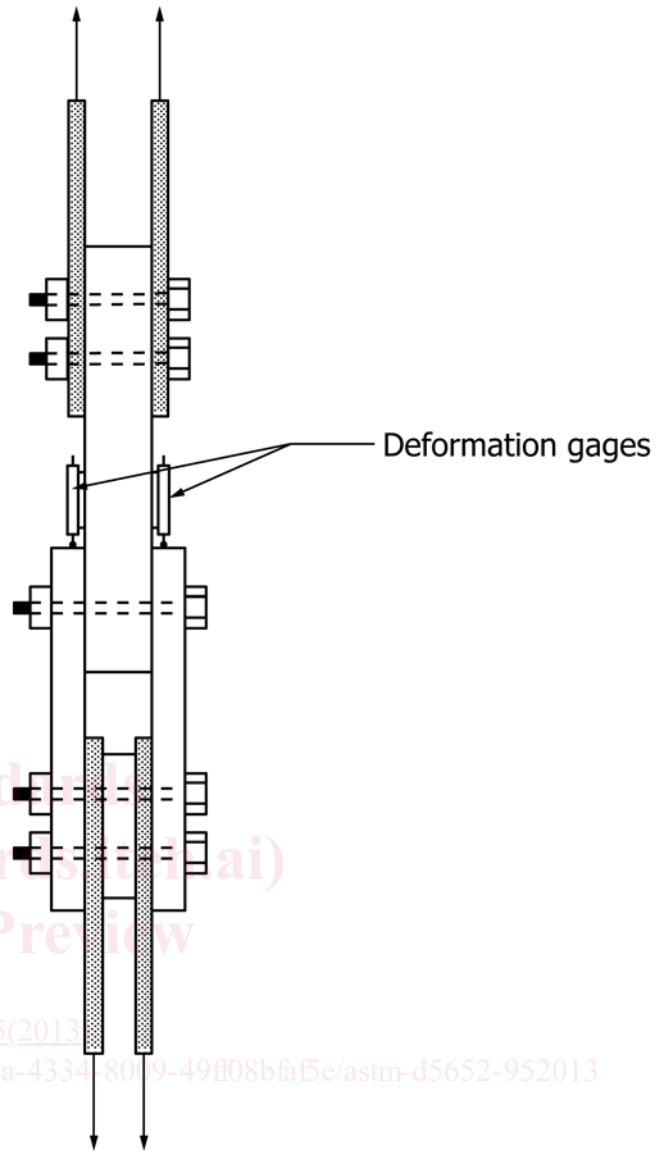


FIG. 1 Assembly for Testing Bolted Connections Parallel to Grain in Tension

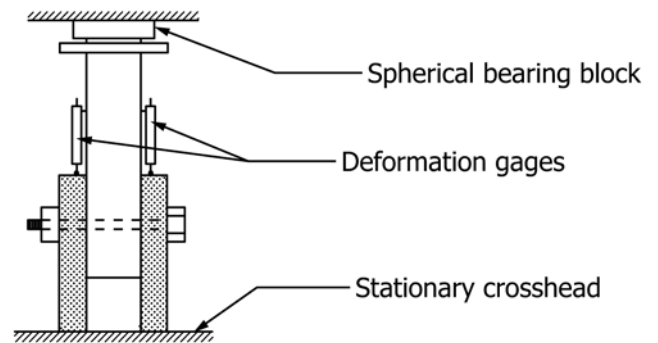


FIG. 2 Assembly for Testing Bolted Connections Parallel to Grain in Compression

members parallel to the direction of the load. These tests shall be made by applying compressive or tensile loads as required; however, application of tensile load is preferred.