

~~ISO/DIS 15024:2022(E)~~

~~ISO TC 61/SC 13/WG 2~~

~~Secretariat: JISC~~

~~Date: 2022-03-07~~

Fibre-reinforced plastic composites — Determination of mode I interlaminar fracture toughness, G_{IC} , for unidirectionally reinforced materials

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents).

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For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

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

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 15024:2001), which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

- a new double cantilever beam (DCB) is added [Figure 1 c)].

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

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Fibre-reinforced plastic composites — Determination of mode I interlaminar fracture toughness, G_{IC} , for unidirectionally reinforced materials

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1 Scope

This document specifies a method for the determination of mode I interlaminar fracture toughness (critical energy release rate), G_{IC} , of unidirectional fibre-reinforced plastic composites using a double cantilever beam (DCB) specimen.

2 Normative references

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.

ISO 291, *Plastics — Standard atmospheres for conditioning and testing*

ISO 527-1, *Plastics — Determination of tensile properties — Part 1: General principles*

ISO 1268 (all parts), *Fibre-reinforced plastics — Methods of producing test plates*

ISO 4588, *Adhesives — Guidelines for the surface preparation of metals*

ISO 5893, *Rubber and plastics test equipment — Tensile, flexural and compression types (constant rate of traverse) — Specification*

ISO 7500-1, *Metallic materials — Calibration and verification of static uniaxial testing machines — Part 1: Tension/compression testing machines — Calibration and verification of the force-measuring system*

ISO 9513, *Metallic materials — Calibration of extensometer systems used in uniaxial testing*

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3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminology databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <https://www.electropedia.org/>

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3.1

mode I interlaminar fracture toughness critical energy release rate

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G_{IC}
resistance to the initiation and propagation of a delamination crack in unidirectional fibre-reinforced polymer matrix composite laminates under mode I opening load

Note 1 to entry: It is measured in joules per square metre.

3.2 mode I crack opening
crack-opening mode due to a load applied perpendicular to the plane of delamination using the double cantilever beam specimen

Note 1 to entry: The double cantilever beam specimen shown in Figure 1 is shown in Figure 1.

3.3 NL point
point of deviation from linearity on the load versus displacement trace

Note 1 to entry: As shown in Figure 2.

3.4 VIS point
point of the onset of delamination, as determined by visual observation, at the edge of the specimen, marked on the load-displacement trace

Note 1 to entry: As shown in Figure 2.

3.5 5 % / MAX point
point which occurs first on loading the specimen between:

- a) the point of 5 % increase in compliance (C_{5%}) from its initial value (C₀); and
- b) the maximum load point.

Note 1 to entry: See Figure 2.

3.6 PROP points
points of discrete delamination length increments beyond the tip of the insert or starter crack tip marked on the load-displacement trace, points where the crack has been arrested being excluded

Note 1 to entry: See Figure 2.

3.7 delamination-resistance curve
R curve
cross-plot of G_{IC} for initiation and subsequent propagation values for *mode I crack opening* (3.2) as a function of delamination length

Note 1 to entry: See Clause 10.

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4 Principle

A mode I double cantilever beam (DCB) specimen, as shown in Figure 1, is used to determine G_{IC} , the critical energy release rate, or interlaminar fracture toughness, of fibre-reinforced plastic composites. Figure 1 represents three different loading arrangements for the specimen as follows: a) Specimen loading using load blocks, b) Specimen loading using piano hinges, c) Specimen loading using insert hinges (see Annex-D). The test method is limited to zero-degree unidirectional lay-ups only (see Annex-B.1). Data reduction yields initiation and subsequent propagation values of G_{IC} for mode I opening fracture toughness. A delamination-resistance curve, or R curve, is generated by plotting G_{IC} on the ordinate as a function of delamination length plotted on the abscissa.

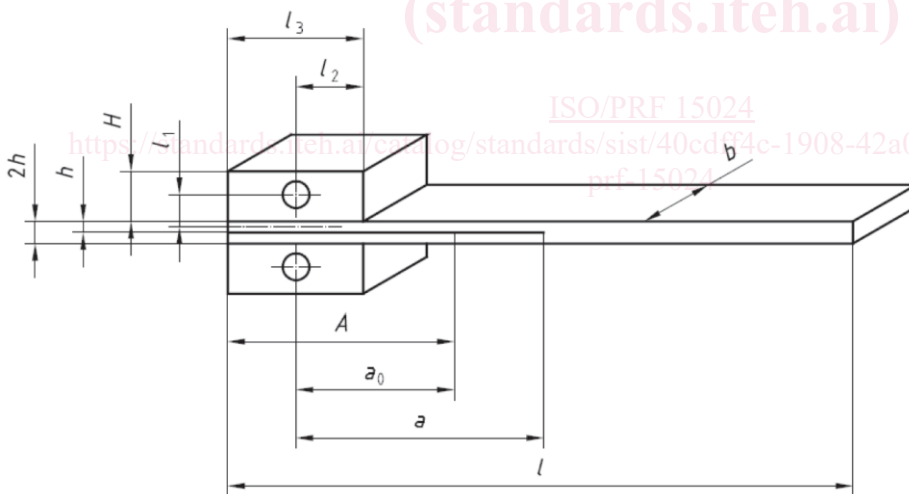
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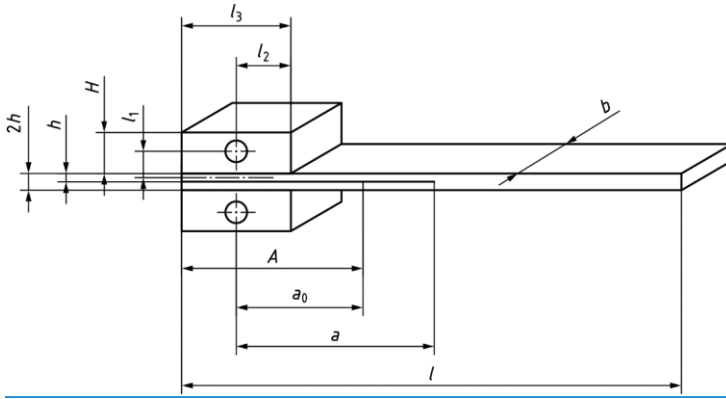
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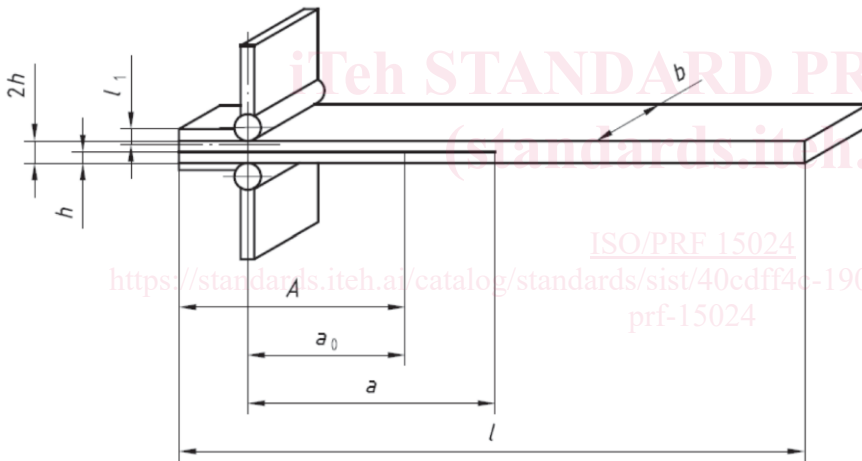
The aim of the test method is to determine initiation values for the composite material tested. Fibre bridging is observed in a DCB test and it might not be representative of the composite material tested. Fibre bridging is considered to be the main cause for the observed shape of the R curve, which typically rises before reaching a roughly constant value of G_{IC} for long delamination lengths. A crack-opening load is applied to the DCB specimen, perpendicular to the plane of delamination, through load blocks or piano hinges under displacement control at a constant rate. The DCB specimen contains a thin, non-adhesive starter film embedded at the midplane as shown in Figure 3, which is used to simulate an initial delamination. The specimen is precracked by unloading the DCB specimen immediately after the first increment of delamination growth from the insert, followed by re-loading. The onset of stable delamination growth is monitored, and the delamination initiation and propagation readings are recorded. The R curve is plotted with the initiation values from both the insert and the mode I precrack, and with the propagation from the precrack. Under certain prescribed circumstances (see 9.2.7), an alternative wedge precracking procedure can be used but is not recommended.



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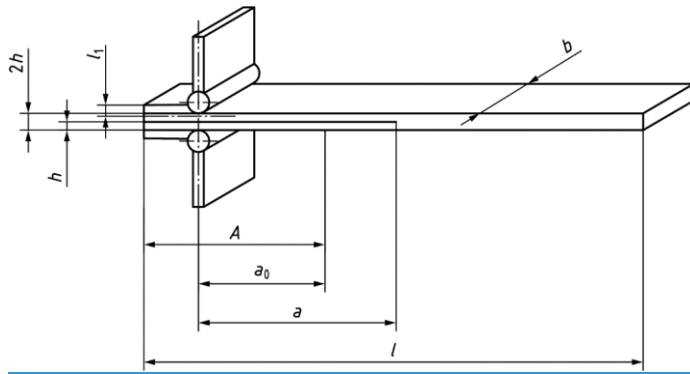
a) Specimen loading using load blocks



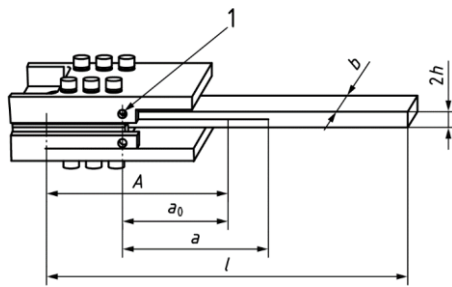
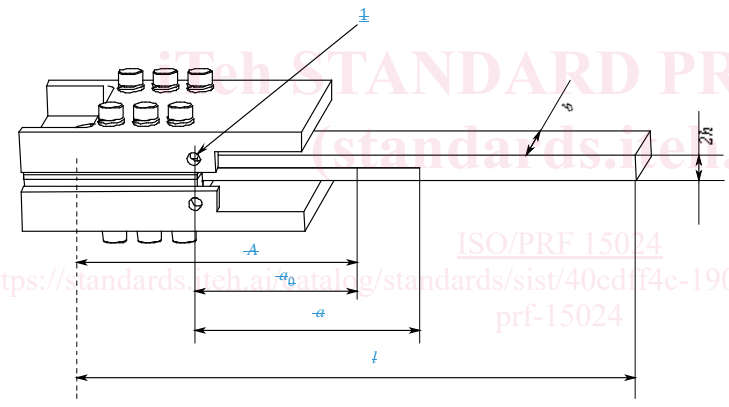
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b) Specimen loading using piano hinges



c) Specimen loading using insert hinges

Key		
b	specimen width	l_1 distance from centre of loading pin (or piano hinge axis) to midplane of the half-beam to which the load block (or piano hinge) is attached
$2h$	specimen thickness	l_2 distance from centre of loading pin (or piano hinge axis) to edge of load block (or piano hinge)
a_p	initial delamination length	l_3 block length
a	total delamination length	H block thickness
A	insert length	1 centres of hinge axis
l	specimen length	

NOTE 1 Alternative loading arrangements are (a) load blocks and (b) piano hinges.

NOTE 2 The fibre orientation is parallel to the length l .

NOTE 3 Details of DCB test with insert hinges is described in Annex D.

Figure 1 — Geometry for the double cantilever beam (DCB) specimen with a starter delamination

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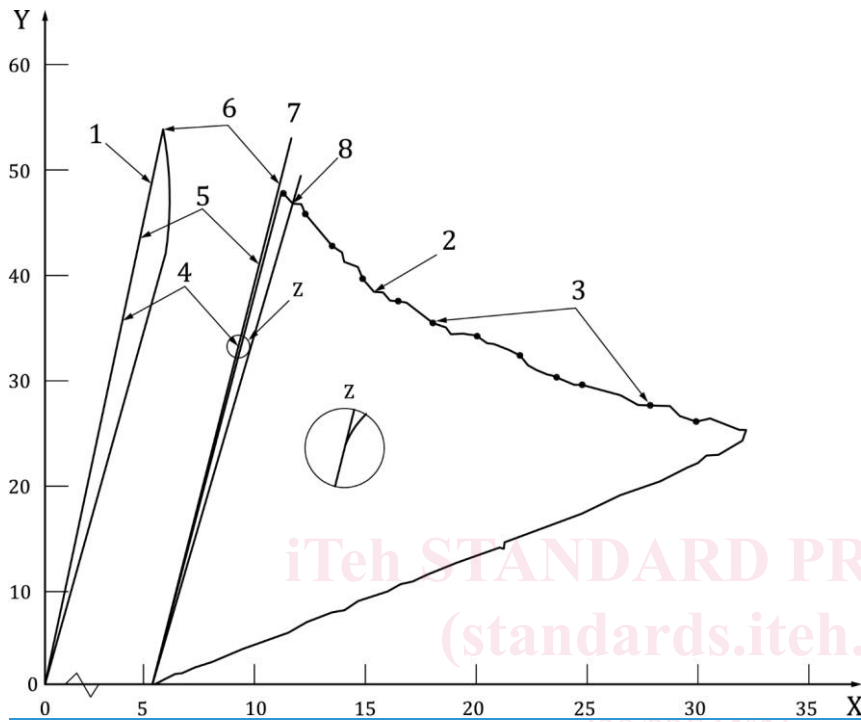
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Key

Y load, in newtons

X displacement, in millimetres

Y load, in newtons

1 crack initiation followed by unloading

2 crack propagation by re-initiation from the resulting mode I precrack

3 crack propagation markers

4 NL point

5 VIS point

6 MAX point

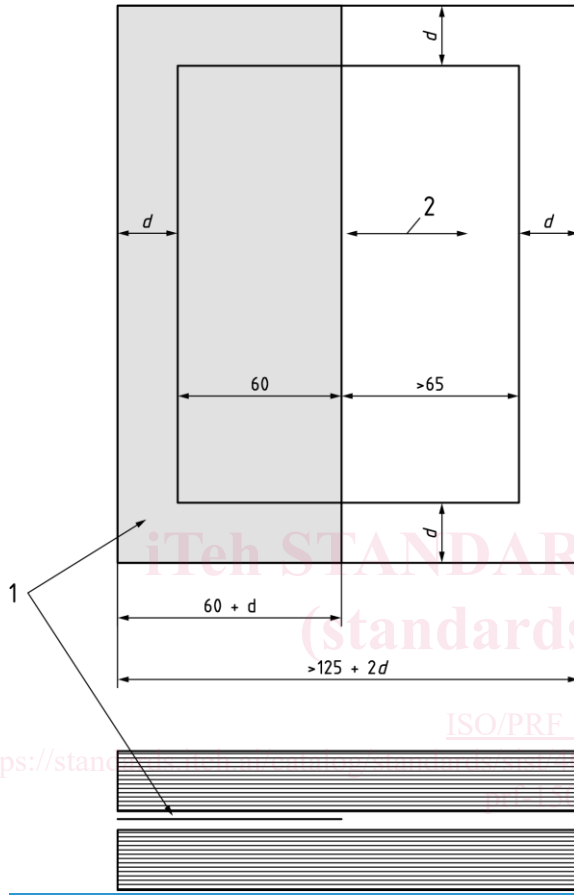
7 C_0

8 $C_{5\%}$

NOTE Figure shows case where 5 % values follow maximum load, and reload curve has been offset 5 mm for clarity

Figure 2 — Load-displacement curve for a DCB test

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- Key**
- 1 film insert
 - 2 fibre direction
 - d margin to allow for initial trimming

Figure 3 — Example of test plate preparation showing the laminate structure, the dimensions and the position of the film insert

5 Apparatus

5.1 Test machine

5.1.1 General

The testing machine shall be in accordance with the following requirements.

5.1.2 Speed of testing

The testing machine shall be capable of maintaining the constant displacement rate required in 9.2.1 and 9.3.1 within a tolerance of $\pm 20\%$, as specified in ISO 527-1.

5.1.3 Fixture

The test machine shall be equipped with a fixture to introduce the load to the pins inserted into the load blocks or with grips to hold the piano hinges. In each case, rotation of the specimen end shall be allowed. The axis of the load-introduction fixtures shall be aligned with the loading axis of the test machine.

5.1.4 Load and displacement measurements

The force measurement system shall be in accordance with class 1 as defined in ISO 7500-1. The displacement measurement shall be in accordance with class 2 of ISO 9513 within the relevant range used for results determination. Apply machine compliance compensation if the crosshead monitor is used, to ensure that the required accuracy level is as well achieved under loading conditions.

5.1.5 Recorder

The test machine shall allow the displacement and corresponding load to be measured and recorded, preferably on a continuous basis.

5.2 Load blocks or piano hinges

Load blocks or piano hinges, as shown in Figure 1, may be used for introducing the load into the specimen. They shall be at least as wide as the specimen. For the load blocks in Figure 1 a), the maximum value of l_3 shall be 15 mm. The hole to inset the loading pin shall be at the centre of l_3 .

5.3 Measuring apparatus

5.3.1 Micrometer, or equivalent, capable of reading to 0,02 mm or less, suitable for measuring the thickness of the specimen. The micrometer shall have contact faces appropriate to the surface being measured (i.e. flat faces for flat, polished surfaces and hemispherical faces for irregular surfaces).

5.3.2 Vernier calipers, or equivalent, capable of reading to 0,05 mm or less, for measuring the width of the specimen.

5.3.3 Linear scale (ruler), with 1 mm divisions, for measuring the specimen length and marking the edges of the specimen to monitor the delamination crack growth.

5.4 Travelling microscope (optional)

A travelling microscope may be used to measure the delamination length. If used, it shall have a travel range of 0 mm to 200 mm, have a magnification no greater than $\times 70$ and be readable to 0,05 mm.