Designation: D3482 − 07a (Reapproved 2014)

Standard Practice for Determining Electrolytic Corrosion of Copper by Adhesives[1]

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D3482; 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 U.S. Department of Defense.

1. Scope

1.1 This practice covers the determination of whether an adhesive has any corrosive effect on copper. It is ordinarily intended to distinguish materials that might cause corrosion in electrical and electronic equipment. This procedure is a subjective test for which precision and accuracy have not been established. It is not recommended for adhesives on backing.

1.2 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as the standard. The values given 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:*[2]

D907 Terminology of Adhesives
D996 Terminology of Packaging and Distribution Environments
E104 Practice for Maintaining Constant Relative Humidity by Means of Aqueous Solutions
G15 Terminology Relating to Corrosion and Corrosion Testing (Withdrawn 2010)[3]

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—Definitions of terms in this test method may be found in Terminologies D907, D996, and G15.

3.1.1 *electrolytic corrosion, n*—the corrosion of metal resulting from current flow under an electrical potential in the presence of moisture.

4. Summary of Practice

4.1 Two parallel helices of fine copper wire are laid in etched grooves on a glass tube. The adhesive material is coated over the wires and the tube and then allowed to set or cure. The wired tube is exposed to high humidity with a d-c potential applied between the wires. Corrosion products are observed visually.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 Adhesives can be exposed to both electrical potential and humidity in many electrical and electronic applications. It is therefore desirable to provide a means of examining the corrosive tendencies of certain adhesives towards metals.

5.2 Although electrolytic corrosion is a direct result of ionic conduction in the adhesive, the nature of the exposed metals will have a bearing on both the severity of metal attack and the visibility of corrosion products. Because it gives a visual indication of corrosion and because of its widespread use in electrical circuits, copper is used in this practice. However, this would not preclude the use of other metals for specific interests.

5.3 This procedure is a subjective test in that determinations of the presence of corrosion is based on a visual inspection for a green discoloration or other evidence of corrosion.

6. Apparatus and Material

6.1 *Motor (Optional),* low-speed, approximately 10 r/min for winding wire helices.

6.2 *Oven (or Temperature-Controlled Chamber),* circulating-air, or chamber controlled at 39.5 ± 1°C (95 ± 2°F), unless otherwise specified.

6.3 *Battery, 45-V,* or equivalent source of d-c power.

6.4 *Corrosion Test Apparatus*—See Fig. 1.

6.4.1 *Helically Etched Glass Tubing*—See Fig. 2.

6.4.2 *Wire,* No. 36 Awg, 0.13 mm (0.005 in.) in diameter, OFHC (Oxygen-Free High-Conductivity) bare copper wire.

[1] This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D14 on Adhesives and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D14.80 on Metal Bonding Adhesives.

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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.