Designation: D7029 – 17

Standard Test Method for Determination of Reactivity of Unsaturated Polyesters and Vinyl Esters at 180.0°F (82.2°C)[1]

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D7029; 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.

1. Scope*

1.1 This standard provides a standardized test method for determining the gelation and exotherm curve of unsaturated polyester and vinyl ester resins. This method provides guidance for measurement of the "Standard 180°F (82.2°C) Exotherm Curve" along with information on potential variances of the measurement for some special resins. This test method provides information concerning the reactivity of unsaturated polyester and vinyl ester resins as they go through polymerization after mixing with the initiator.

NOTE 1—There is no known ISO equivalent to this standard, although ISO 584 is similar.

1.2 The values stated in either SI units or inch-pound units are to be regarded separately as standard. The values stated in each system are not necessarily equivalents; therefore, each system shall be used independently of the other. Combining values from the two systems has the potential to result in nonconformance with the standard.

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.*

1.4 *This international standard was developed in accordance with internationally recognized principles on standardization established in the Decision on Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations issued by the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*[2]

D883 Terminology Relating to Plastics

2.2 *Society of Plastics Industry, Inc.:*

Handbook of Reinforced Plastics "Procedure for Running Exotherm Curves Using the Block Test Method"

2.3 *ISO Standard:*

ISO 584 Reinforced Plastics Based on Unsaturated Polyester Resins—Determination of Reactivity at 80°C[3]

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—For definitions of terms that appear in this practice relating to plastics, refer to Terminology D883.

3.2 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

3.2.1 *gel time*—the period of time in minutes and seconds required for the recording pyrometer to go from a temperature below (usually 10 to 30°F or 5.5 to 16°C) bath temperature to 10°F (5.55°C) above the bath temperature, typically 150°F (65.5°C) to 190°F (78.8°C) for a bath at 180°F (82.2°C).

3.2.2 *cure time*—the period of time in minutes and seconds required for the recording pyrometer to go from a temperature below (usually 10 to 30°F or 5.5 to 16°C) bath temperature to the maximum temperature reading, typically 150°F (65.5°C) to the maximum temperature for a bath at 180°F (82.2°C).

3.2.3 *interval time*—the period of time in minutes and seconds required for the recording pyrometer to go from 10°F (5.5°C) above the bath temperature to the maximum temperature reading, typically 190°F (78.8°C) to the maximum temperature. Thus, interval time is cure time minus gel time.

3.2.4 *peak exotherm*—the maximum temperature reached during the testing.

3.2.5 *recording pyrometer*—a broad class of temperature measuring devices including thermocouples with the ability for continuous temperature recording.

3.2.6 *initiator*—a compound that generates free radicals to start the free radical polymerization of the unsaturated polyester and vinyl ester resins.

3.2.6.1 *Discussion*—An initiator is typically a single peroxide, but there are instances in which a combination of initiators is used.

[1] This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D20 on Plastics and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D20.18 on Reinforced Thermosetting Plastics.

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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] Available from American National Standards Institute (ANSI), 25 W. 43rd St., 4th Floor, New York, NY 10036.

***A Summary of Changes section appears at the end of this standard**

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 Polyester or vinyl ester resin is mixed with the initiator(s) in a beaker causing a polymerization of the resin to occur. Heat will accelerate the polymerization reaction. The exotherm generated by the resin as it cures is measured using a thermocouple. The curve is plotted and the time to reach various temperatures along with the peak temperature obtained (peak exotherm) is determined. The initiator normally employed to generate the test results is benzoyl peroxide, although the method is valid with other initiator systems.

4.2 The test method is useful in providing information about the heat generated during cure of the resin and the length of time the resin remains in the liquid state prior to polymerization into solid form.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 This test method is used to measure the reactivity of different lots of unsaturated polyester and vinyl ester resins. The information provided by this test is often used for assessing the predicted performance of a resin when used in elevated temperature as part of the process used to convert the resin into a finished product.

5.2 The method is used in research and development by companies that manufacture resins and for incoming quality control companies using these polymers as raw materials for production. The method is based on the methods which were previously outlined in the *Handbook of Reinforced Plastics*, "Procedure for Running Exotherm Curves Using the Block Test Method" published by the Society of the Plastics Industry.

6. Interferences

6.1 The results obtained are often influenced by the type of resin used, the age of the resin, the age of the initiator and the type of initiator used. Care shall be taken to ensure that the chemicals used are stored and used in accordance with the manufacturers' guidelines.

6.2 It is possible that the control of the bath temperature and the circulation within the bath will affect the results of the test. Care shall be taken to control the bath temperature and agitation to comply with the method instructions.

7. Apparatus

7.1 *Recording Pyrometer,* Iron Constantan, 60 in. (1.5 m) per hour charts speed or equivalent.

7.2 *Thermometer,* with divisions every 0.1°F (0.05°C) capable of reading a minimum of 180 ± 1°F (82.2 ± 0.5°C) or equivalent.

7.3 *Constant Temperature Water Bath,* or alternate media bath capable of being controlled to 180 ± 0.5°F (82.2 ± 0.2°C) with an agitation rate of 1 to 2 times the bath capacity per minute. The bath shall have a minimum capacity of 2.5 gal (8.8 L) an shall be fitted with a cover with access holes for the bath heater, thermometer, and test tubes in order to minimize evaporation of water.

7.4 *Borosilicate Glass Test Tubes,* of 19 mm diameter and 150 mm length with plain end and lip.

7.5 *"Type J" Thermocouple Needle,* made from 304 stainless steel, 6 in. (152 mm) in length, with an outside diameter of ⅛ in. (3.2 mm) connected to a "Type J" Jack Assembly or equivalent.

7.6 *"Type J" Double Conductor,* B&S Gauge wire with poly insulation and color coding (white for positive/red for negative) to connect "Type J" thermocouple needle to recording pyrometer or equivalent.

7.7 *Electronic Balance,* suitable for accurate weighing to 0.01 g and a minimum capacity of 200 g.

7.8 *Machined Centering Device,* for centering thermocouple needle within the resin sample. This device is made from reinforced plastics, micarta, or other suitable material. See Fig. 1 for the set up of the device.

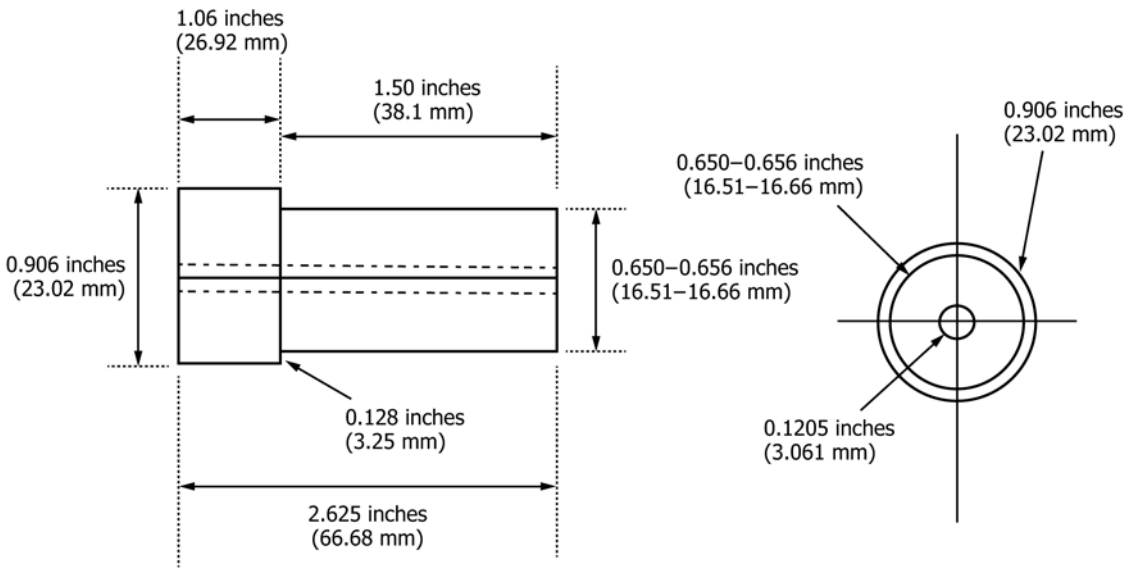

FIG. 1 Machine Centering Device for Thermocouple Assembly