



Standard Test Methods of Detecting Susceptibility to Intergranular Corrosion in Wrought, Nickel-Rich, Chromium-Bearing Alloys¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation G 28; 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 Department of Defense.

1. Scope

1.1 These test methods cover two tests as follows:

1.1.1 *Method A, Ferric Sulfate-Sulfuric Acid Test* (3-10, inclusive)—This test method describes the procedure for conducting the boiling ferric sulfate—50 % sulfuric acid test which measures the susceptibility of certain nickel-rich, chromium-bearing alloys to intergranular corrosion (see Terminology G 15), which may be encountered in certain service environments. The uniform corrosion rate obtained by this test method, which is a function of minor variations in alloy composition, may easily mask the intergranular corrosion components of the overall corrosion rate on alloys N10276, N06022, N06059, and N06455.

1.1.2 *Method B, Mixed Acid-Oxidizing Salt Test* (Sections 11-18, inclusive)—This test method describes the procedure for conducting a boiling 23 % sulfuric + 1.2 % hydrochloric + 1 % ferric chloride + 1 % cupric chloride test which measures the susceptibility of certain nickel-rich, chromium-bearing alloys to display a step function increase in corrosion rate when there are high levels of grain boundary precipitation.

1.2 The purpose of these two test methods is to detect susceptibility to intergranular corrosion as influenced by variations in processing or composition, or both. Materials shown to be susceptible may or may not be intergranularly *corroded* in other environments. This must be established independently by specific tests or by service experience.

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.* Hazard advisory statements are given in 5.1.1, 5.1.3, 5.1.9, 13.1.1, and 13.1.11.

2. Referenced Document

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*

A 262 Practices for Detecting Susceptibility to Intergranular Attack in Austenitic Stainless Steels²

¹ These test methods are under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee G-1 on Corrosion of Metals and are the direct responsibility of Subcommittee G01.05 on Laboratory Corrosion Tests.

Current edition approved Apr. 10, 1997. Published November 1997. Originally published as G 28 – 71. Last previous edition G 28 – 95.

² *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 01.03.

D 1193 Specification for Reagent Water³

G 15 Terminology Relating to Corrosion and Corrosion Testing⁴

METHOD A—Ferric Sulfate—Sulfuric Acid Test

3. Significance and Use

3.1 The boiling ferric sulfate-sulfuric acid test may be applied to the following alloys in the wrought condition:

Alloy	Testing Time, h
N06007	120
N06022	24
N06030	120
N06059	24
N06200	24
N06455	24
N06600	24
N06625	120
N06686	24
N06985	120
N08020	120
N08367	24
N08800	120
N08825 ^A	120
N10276	24

^A While the ferric sulfate-sulfuric acid test does detect susceptibility to intergranular corrosion in Alloy N08825, the boiling 65 % nitric acid test, Practice A 262, Practice C, for detecting susceptibility to intergranular corrosion in stainless steels is more sensitive and should be used if the intended service is nitric acid.

3.2 This test method may be used to evaluate as-received material and to evaluate the effects of subsequent heat treatments. In the case of nickel-rich, chromium-bearing alloys, the test method may be applied to wrought and weldments of products. The test method is not applicable to cast products.

4. Apparatus

4.1 The apparatus (Note 1) is illustrated in Fig. 1.

4.1.1 *Allihn or Soxhlet Condenser*, 4-bulb,⁵ with a 45/50 ground-glass joint, overall length about 330 mm, condensing section about 240 mm.

4.1.2 *Erlenmeyer Flask*, 1-L, with a 45/50 ground-glass

³ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 11.01.

⁴ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 03.02.

⁵ To avoid frequent chipping of the drip-tip of the condenser during handling, the modified condenser described by Streicher, M. A., and Sweet, A. J., *Corrosion*, Vol 25, 1969, pp. 1, has been found suitable for this use.

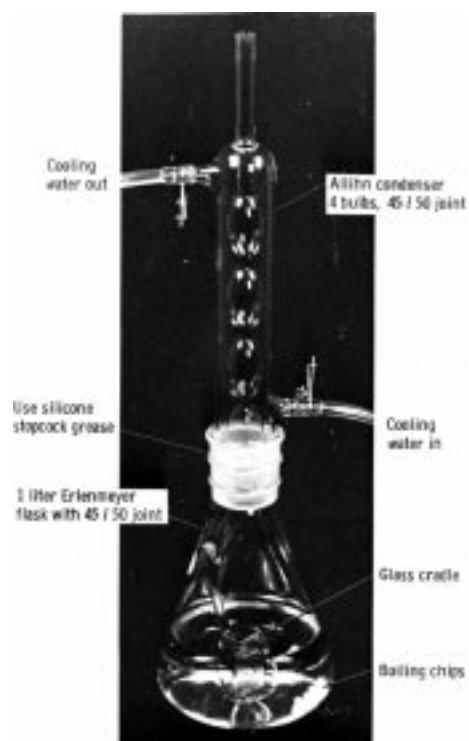


FIG. 1 Apparatus for Ferric Sulfate-Sulfuric Acid Test

should not exceed 40 mm and the front-to-back distance must be such that the cradle will fit the 40-mm diameter opening. It should have three or four holes to increase circulation of the test solution around the specimen (Note 2).

NOTE 1—Substitution for this equipment may not be used. The cold-finger type of standard Erlenmeyer flask may not be used.

NOTE 2—Other equivalent means of specimen support, such as glass hooks or stirrups, may also be used.

4.1.4 *Boiling Chips*,⁶ or some other boiling aids must be used to prevent bumping.

4.1.5 *Silicone Grease*,⁷ is recommended for the ground-glass joint.

4.1.6 *Electrically Heated Hot Plate*, or equivalent to provide heat for continuous boiling of the solution.

4.1.7 *Analytical Balance*, capable of weighing to the nearest 0.001 g.

5. Test Solution

5.1 Prepare 600 mL of 50 % (49.4 to 50.9 %) solution as follows:

5.1.1 **Caution**—Protect the eyes and use rubber gloves for handling acid. Place the test flask under a hood.

5.1.2 First, measure 400 mL of Type IV reagent water (Specification D 1193) in a 500-mL graduate and pour into the flask.

5.1.3 Then measure 236 mL of reagent-grade sulfuric acid (H_2SO_4) of a concentration which must be in the range from 95.0 to 98.0 weight percent in a 250-mL graduate. Add the acid slowly to the water in the flask to avoid boiling by the heat evolved (Note 3). Externally cooling the flask with water during the mixing will also reduce overheating.

NOTE 3—Loss of vapor results in concentration of the acid.

5.1.4 Weigh 25 g of reagent grade ferric sulfate (contains about 75 % $Fe_2(SO_4)_3$ (Note 4)) and add to the H_2SO_4 solution. A trip balance may be used.

NOTE 4—Ferritic sulfate is a specific additive that establishes and controls the corrosion potential. Substitutions are not permitted.

5.1.5 Add boiling chips.

5.1.6 Lubricate the ground glass of the condenser joint with silicone grease.

5.1.7 Cover the flask with the condenser and circulate cooling water.

5.1.8 Boil the solution until all ferric sulfate is dissolved.

5.1.9 **Caution**—It has been reported that violent boiling can occur resulting in acid spills. It is important to ensure that the concentration of acid does not increase and that an adequate number of boiling chips (which are resistant to attack by the test solution) are present.⁶

6. Test Specimens

6.1 A specimen having a total surface area of 5 to 20 cm² is recommended.

⁶ Amphoteric alundun: granules, Hengar Granules, from the Hengar Co., Swedesboro, NJ have been found satisfactory for this purpose.

⁷ Stopcock grease has been found satisfactory for this purpose.

joint. The ground-glass opening shall be 40 mm wide.

4.1.3 *Glass Cradle* (Fig. 2)—To pass through the ground-glass joint on the Erlenmeyer flask, the width of the cradle

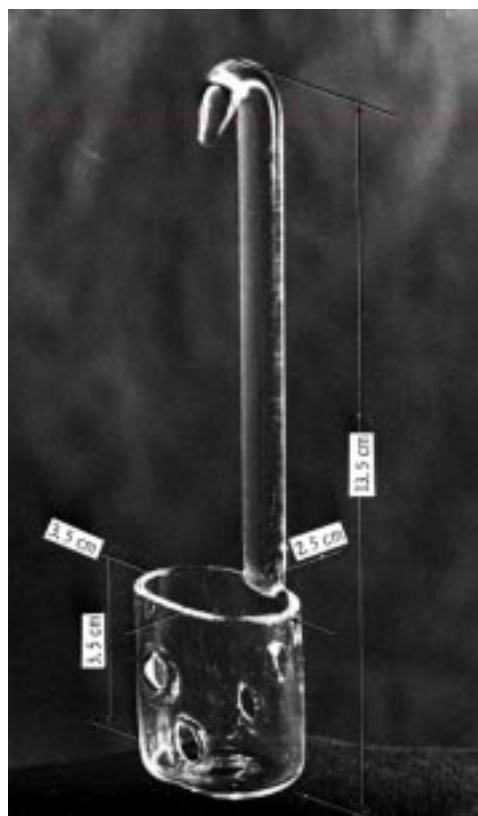


FIG. 2 Glass Cradle