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AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR TESTING AND MATERIALS
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Standard Test Methods for Holiday Detection in Pipeline Coatings¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation G 62; 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 These test methods cover the apparatus and procedure for detecting holidays in pipeline type coatings.

1.2 Method A is designed to detect holidays such as pinholes and voids in thin-film coatings from 0.0254 to 0.254 mm (1 to 10 mils) in thickness using ordinary tap water and an applied voltage of less than 100 V d-c. It is effective on films up to 0.508 mm (20 mils) thickness if a wetting agent is used with the water. It should be noted, however, that this method will not detect thin spots in the coating, even those as thin as 0.635 mm (0.025 mils). This may be considered to be a nondestructive test because of the relatively low voltage.

1.3 Method B is designed to detect holidays such as pinholes and voids in pipeline coatings; but because of the higher applied voltages, it can also be used to detect thin spots in the coating. This method can be used on any thickness of pipeline coating and utilizes applied voltages between 900 and 20 000 V d-c.² This method is considered destructive because the high voltages involved generally destroy the coating at thin spots.

1.4 The values stated in SI units to three significant decimals are to be regarded as the standard. The values given in parentheses are for information only.

1.5 *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:

A 742/A 742M Specification for Steel Sheet, Metallic Coated and Polymer Precoated for Corrugated Steel Pipe³

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions:

3.1.1 *holiday*—small faults or pinholes that permit current

drainage through protective coatings on steel pipe or polymeric precoated corrugated steel pipe.

3.1.2 *mil*—0.001 in.

3.2 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.2.1 *holiday detector*—A highly sensitive electrical device designed to locate holidays such as pinholes, voids, and thin spots in the coating, not easily seen by the naked eye. These are used on the coatings of relatively high-electrical resistance when such coatings are applied to the surface of materials of low-electrical resistance, such as steel pipe.

3.2.2 *pipeline type coating*—Coatings of relatively high-electrical resistance applied to surfaces of relatively low-electrical resistance, such as steel pipe.

4. Summary of Test Methods

4.1 Both methods rely on electrical contact being made through the pipeline coating because of a holiday or a low-resistance path created by metal particles, or thin spots in the coating. This electrical contact will activate an alarm alerting the operator of the incidence of a holiday.

4.2 In Method A, the applied voltage is 100 V d-c or less.

4.3 In Method B, the applied voltage is 900 to 20 000 V d-c.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 *Method A*—Method A describes a quick, safe method for determining if pinholes, voids, or metal particles are protruding through the coating. This method will not, however, find any thin spots in the coating. This method will determine the existence of any gross faults in thin-film pipeline coatings.

5.2 *Method B*—Method B describes a method for determining if pinholes, voids, or metal particles are protruding through the coating, and thin spots in pipeline coatings. This method can be used to verify minimum coating thicknesses as well as voids in quality-control applications.

6. Apparatus

6.1 *Low-Voltage Holiday Detector*—A holiday detector tester having an electrical energy source of less than 100 V d-c, such as a battery; an exploring electrode having a cellulose sponge dampened with an electrically conductive liquid such as tap water; and an audio indicator to signal a defect in a high-electrical resistance coating on a metal substrate. A ground wire connects the detector with the low-resistance metal surface.

6.2 *High-Voltage Holiday Detector*—A holiday detector

¹ These test methods are under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D-1 on Paint and Related Coatings, Materials, and Applications and are the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D01.48 on Deterioration of Pipeline Coatings and Linings.

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² This was taken from the pamphlet "Operating Instructions for Tinker and Rasor Model EP Holiday Detector." Other manufacturers' holiday detectors can be expected to have similar voltage specifications.

³ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 01.06.