Designation: G 102 – 89 (Reapproved 1999)

Standard Practice for Calculation of Corrosion Rates and Related Information from Electrochemical Measurements[1]

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1. Scope

1.1 This practice is intended to provide guidance in converting the results of electrochemical measurements to rates of uniform corrosion. Calculation methods for converting corrosion current density values to either mass loss rates or average penetration rates are given for most engineering alloys. In addition, some guidelines for converting polarization resistance values to corrosion rates are provided.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*

D 2776 Test Methods for Corrosivity of Water in the Absence of Heat Transfer (Electrical Methods)[2]

G 1 Practice for Preparing, Cleaning, and Evaluating Corrosion Test Specimens[3]

G 5 Reference Test Method for Making Potentiostatic and Potentiodynamic Anodic Polarization Measurements[3]

G 59 Practice for Conducting Potentiodynamic Polarization Resistance Measurements[3]

3. Significance and Use

3.1 Electrochemical corrosion rate measurements often provide results in terms of electrical current. Although the conversion of these current values into mass loss rates or penetration rates is based on Faraday's Law, the calculations can be complicated for alloys and metals with elements having multiple valence values. This practice is intended to provide guidance in calculating mass loss and penetration rates for such alloys. Some typical values of equivalent weights for a variety of metals and alloys are provided.

3.2 Electrochemical corrosion rate measurements may provide results in terms of electrical resistance. The conversion of these results to either mass loss or penetration rates requires additional electrochemical information. Some approaches for estimating this information are given.

3.3 Use of this practice will aid in producing more consistent corrosion rate data from electrochemical results. This will make results from different studies more comparable and minimize calculation errors that may occur in transforming electrochemical results to corrosion rate values.

4. Corrosion Current Density

4.1 Corrosion current values may be obtained from galvanic cells and polarization measurements, including Tafel extrapolations or polarization resistance measurements. (See Reference Test Method G 5 and Practice G 59 for examples.) The first step is to convert the measured or estimated current value to current density. This is accomplished by dividing the total current by the geometric area of the electrode exposed to the solution. It is assumed that the current distributes uniformly across the area used in this calculation. In the case of galvanic couples, the exposed area of the anodic specimen should be used. This calculation may be expressed as follows:

$$i_{cor} = \frac{I_{cor}}{A} \tag{1}$$

where:

i_{cor} = corrosion current density, μA/cm^2,
I_{cor} = total anodic current, μA, and
A = exposed specimen area, cm^2.

Other units may be used in this calculation. In some computerized polarization equipment, this calculation is made automatically after the specimen area is programmed into the computer. A sample calculation is given in Appendix X1.

4.2 *Equivalent Weight*—Equivalent weight, EW, may be thought of as the mass of metal in grams that will be oxidized by the passage of one Faraday (96 489 ± 2 C (amp-sec)) of electric charge.

NOTE 1—The value of EW is not dependent on the unit system chosen and so may be considered dimensionless.

For pure elements, the equivalent weight is given by:

$$EW = \frac{W}{n} \tag{2}$$

[1] This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee G01 on Corrosion of Metalsand is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee G01.11 on Electrochemical Measurements in Corrosion Testing.

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[2] *Discontinued*—See *1990 Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 03.02.

[3] *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 03.02.

where:
W = the atomic weight of the element, and
n = the number of electrons required to oxidize an atom of the element in the corrosion process, that is, the valence of the element.

4.3 For alloys, the equivalent weight is more complex. It is usually assumed that the process of oxidation is uniform and does not occur selectively to any component of the alloy. If this is not true, then the calculation approach will need to be adjusted to reflect the observed mechanism. In addition, some rationale must be adopted for assigning values of n to the elements in the alloy because many elements exhibit more than one valence value.

4.4 To calculate the alloy equivalent weight, the following approach may be used. Consider a unit mass of alloy oxidized. The electron equivalent for 1 g of an alloy, Q is then:

$$Q = \Sigma \frac{nifi}{Wi} \tag{3}$$

where:
fi = the mass fraction of the ith element in the alloy,
Wi = the atomic weight of the ith element in the alloy, and
ni = the valence of the ith element of the alloy.

Therefore, the alloy equivalent weight, EW, is the reciprocal of this quantity:

$$EW = \frac{1}{\Sigma \frac{nifi}{Wi}} \tag{4}$$

Normally only elements above 1 mass percent in the alloy are included in the calculation. In cases where the actual analysis of an alloy is not available, it is conventional to use the mid-range of the composition specification for each element, unless a better basis is available. A sample calculation is given in Appendix X2 **(1)**.[4]

4.5 Valence assignments for elements that exhibit multiple valences can create uncertainty. It is best if an independent technique can be used to establish the proper valence for each alloying element. Sometimes it is possible to analyze the corrosion products and use those results to establish the proper valence. Another approach is to measure or estimate the electrode potential of the corroding surface. Equilibrium diagrams showing regions of stability of various phases as a function of potential and pH may be created from thermodynamic data. These diagrams are known as Potential-pH (Pourbaix) diagrams and have been published by several authors **(2, 3)**. The appropriate diagrams for the various alloying elements can be consulted to estimate the stable valence of each element at the temperature, potential, and pH of the contacting electrolyte that existed during the test.

NOTE 2—Some of the older publications used inaccurate thermodynamic data to construct the diagrams and consequently they are in error.

4.6 Some typical values of EW for a variety of metals and alloys are given in Table 1.

[4] The boldface numbers in parentheses refer to the list of references at the end of this standard.

TABLE 1 Equivalent Weight Values for a Variety of Metals and Alloys

Common Designation	UNS	Elements w/Constant Valence	Lowest		Second		Third		Fourth	
			Variable Valence	Equivalent Weight	Variable Valence	Equivalent Weight	Element/ Valence	Equivalent Weight	Element/ Valence	Equivalent Weight
Aluminum Alloys:										
AA1100[A]	A91100	Al/3		8.99						
AA2024	A92024	Al/3, Mg/2	Cu/1	9.38	Cu/2	9.32				
AA2219	A92219	Al/3	Cu/1	9.51	Cu/2	9.42				
AA3003	A93003	Al/3	Mn/2	9.07	Mn/4	9.03	Mn 7	8.98		
AA3004	A93004	Al/3, Mg/2	Mn/2	9.09	Mn/4	9.06	Mn 7	9.00		
AA5005	A95005	Al/3, Mg/2		9.01						
AA5050	A95050	Al/3, Mg/2		9.03						
AA5052	A95052	Al/3, Mg/2		9.05						
AA5083	A95083	Al/3, Mg/2		9.09						
AA5086	A95086	Al/3, Mg/2		9.09						
AA5154	A95154	Al/3, Mg/2		9.08						
AA5454	A95454	Al/3, Mg/2		9.06						
AA5456	A95456	Al/3, Mg/2		9.11						
AA6061	A96061	Al/3, Mg/2		9.01						
AA6070	A96070	Al/3, Mg/2, Si/4		8.98						
AA6101	A96161	Al/3		8.99						
AA7072	A97072	Al/3, Zn/2		9.06						
AA7075	A97075	Al/3, Zn/2, Mg/2	Cu/1	9.58	Cu/2	9.55				
AA7079	A97079	Al/3, Zn/2, Mg/2		9.37						
AA7178	A97178	Al/3, Zn/2, Mg/2	Cu/1	9.71	Cu/2	9.68				
Copper Alloys:										
CDA110	C11000		Cu/1	63.55	Cu/2	31.77				
CDA220	C22000	Zn/2	Cu/1	58.07	Cu/2	31.86				
CDA230	C23000	Zn/2	Cu/1	55.65	Cu/2	31.91				
CDA260	C26000	Zn/2	Cu/1	49.51	Cu/2	32.04				
CDA280	C28000	Zn/2	Cu/1	46.44	Cu/2	32.11				

TABLE 1 *Continued*

Common Designation	UNS	Elements w/Constant Valence	Lowest		Second		Third		Fourth	
			Variable Valence	Equivalent Weight	Variable Valence	Equivalent Weight	Element/ Valence	Equivalent Weight	Element/ Valence	Equivalent Weight
CDA444	C44300	Zn/2	Cu/1, Sn/2	50.42	Cu/1, Sn/4	50.00	Cu/2, Sn/4	32.00		
CDA687	C68700	Zn/2, Al/3	Cu/1	48.03	Cu/2	30.29				
CDA608	C60800	Al/3	Cu/1	47.114	Cu/2	27.76				
CDA510	C51000		Cu/1, Sn/2	63.32	Cu/1, Sn/4	60.11	Cu/2, Sn/4	31.66		
CDA524	C52400		Cu/1, Sn/2	63.10	Cu/1, Sn/4	57.04	Cu/2, Sn/4	31.55		
CDA655	C65500	Si/4	Cu/1	50.21	Cu/2	28.51				
CDA706	C70600	Ni/2	Cu/1	56.92	Cu/2	31.51				
CDA715	C71500	Ni/2	Cu/1	46.69	Cu/2	30.98				
CDA752	C75200	Ni/2, Zn/2	Cu/1	46.38	Cu/2	31.46				
Stainless Steels:										
304	S30400	Ni/2	Fe/2, Cr/3	25.12	Fe/3, Cr/3	18.99	Fe/3, Cr/6	15.72		
321	S32100	Ni/2	Fe/2, Cr/3	25.13	Fe/3, Cr/3	19.08	Fe/3, Cr/6	15.78		
309	S30900	Ni/2	Fe/2, Cr/3	24.62	Fe/3, Cr/3	19.24	Fe/3, Cr/6	15.33		
310	S31000	Ni/2	Fe/2, Cr/3	24.44	Fe/3, Cr/3	19.73	Fe/3, Cr/6	15.36		
316	S31600	Ni/2	Fe/2, Cr/3, Mo/3	25.50	Fe/2, Cr/3, Mo/4	25.33	Fe/3, Cr/6, Mo/6	19.14	Fe/3, Cr/6, Mo/6	16.111
317	S31700	Ni/2	Fe/2, Cr/3, Mo/3	25.26	Fe/2, Cr/3, Mo/4	25.03	Fe/3, Cr/3, Mo/6	19.15	Fe/3, Cr/6, Mo/6	15.82
410	S41000		Fe/2, Cr/3	25.94	Fe/3, Cr/3	18.45	Fe/3, Cr/6	16.28		
430	S43000		Fe/2, Cr/3	25.30	Fe/3, Cr/3	18.38	Fe/3, Cr/6	15.58		
446	S44600		Fe/2, Cr/3	24.22	Fe/3, Cr/3	18.28	Fe/3, Cr/6	14.46		
20CB3[A]	N08020	Ni/2	Fe/2, Cr/3, Mo/3, Cu/1	23.98	Fe/2, Cr/3, Mo/ 4, Cu/1	23.83	Fe/3, Cr/3, Mo/ 6, Cu/2	18.88	Fe/3, Cr/6, Mo/6, Cu/2	15.50
Nickel Alloys:										
200	N02200		NI/2	29.36	Ni/3	19.57				
400	N04400	Ni/2	Cu/1	35.82	Cu/2	30.12				
600	N06600	Ni/2	Fe/2, Cr/3	26.41	Fe/3, Cr/3	25.44	Fe/3, Cr/6	20.73		
800	N08800	Ni/2	Fe/2, Cr/3	25.10	Fe/3, Cr/3	20.76	Fe/3, Cr/6	16.59		
825	N08825	Ni/2	Fe/2, Cr/3, Mo/3, Cu/1	25.52	Fe/2, Cr/3, Mo/ 4, Cu/1	25.32	Fe/3, Cr/3, Mo/ 6, Cu/2	21.70	Fe/3, Cr/6, Mo/6, Cu/2	17.10
B	N10001	Ni/2	Mo/3, Fe/2	30.05	Mo/4, Fe/2	27.50	Mo/6, Fe/2	23.52	Mo/6, Fe/3	23.23
C-22[B]	N06022	Ni/2	Fe/2, Cr/3, Mo/3, W/4	26.04	Fe/2, Cr/3, Mo/ 4, W/4	25.12	Fe/2, Cr/3, Mo/ 6, W/6	23.28	Fe/3, Cr/6, Mo/6, W/6	17.88
C-276	N10276	Ni/2	Fe/2, Cr/3, Mo/3, W/4	27.09	Cr/3, Mo/4	25.90	Fe/2, Cr/3, Mo/ 6, W/6	23.63	Fe/3, Cr/6, Mo/6, W/6	19.14
G	N06007	Ni/2	(1)	25.46	(2)	22.22	(3)	22.04	(4)	17.03
Carbon Steel:			Fe/2	27.92	Fe/3	18.62				
(1) = Fe/2, Cr/3, Mo/3, Cu/1, Nb/4, Mn/2			(3) = Fe/3, Cr/3, Mo/6, Cu/2, Nb/5, Mn/2							
(2) = Fe/2, Cr/3, Mo/4, Cu/2, Nb/5, Mn/2			(4) = Fe/3, Cr/6, Mo/6, Cu/2, Nb/5, Mn/4							
Other Metals:										
Mg	M14142	Mg/2		12.15						
Mo	R03600		Mo/3	31.98	Mo/4	23.98	Mo/6	15.99		
Ag	P07016		Ag/1	107.87	Ag/2	53.93				
Ta	R05210	Ta/5		36.19						
Sn	L13002		Sn/2	59.34	Sn/4	29.67				
Ti	R50400		Ti/2	23.95	Ti/3	15.97	Ti/4	11.98		
Zn	Z19001	Zn/2		32.68						
Zr	R60701	Zr/4		22.80						
Pb	L50045		Pb/2	103.59	Pb/4	51.80				

[A]Registered trademark Carpenter Technology.

[B]Registered trademark Haynes International.

NOTE 1—Alloying elements at concentrations below 1 % by mass were not included in the calculation, for example, they were considered part of the basis metal.

NOTE 2—Mid-range values were assumed for concentrations of alloying elements.

NOTE 3—Only consistent valence groupings were used.

NOTE 4—(Eq 4) was used to make these calculations.

4.7 *Calculation of Corrosion Rate*—Faraday's Law can be used to calculate the corrosion rate, either in terms of penetration rate (CR) or mass loss rate (MR) **(4)**:

$$CR = K_1 \frac{i_{cor}}{\rho} EW \quad (5)$$

$$MR = K_2 \, i_{cor} \, EW \quad (6)$$

where:

CR is given in mm/yr, i_{cor} in µA/cm^2,

K_1 = 3.27×10^{-3}, mm g/µA cm yr (Note 3),

ρ = density in g/cm^3, (see Practice G 1 for density values for many metals and alloys used in corrosion testing),

MR = g/m^{2}d, and

K_2 = 8.954×10^{-3}, g cm^2/µA m^2 d (Note 3).

NOTE 3—*EW* is considered dimensionless in these calculations.