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Standard Specification for Tensile Testing Machines for Textiles[1]

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D76/D76M; 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 specification covers the operating characteristics of three types of tensile testing machines used for the determination of the force-elongation properties of textile materials. These types of tensile testing machines are:

1.1.1 Constant-rate-of-extension, CRE.

1.1.2 Constant-rate-of-traverse, CRT.

1.1.3 Constant-rate-of-loading (force), CRL.

1.2 Specifications for tensile testing machines to measure other tensile-related properties of textile materials not covered by this standard are given in the ASTM standards using those machines.

1.3 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 exact equivalents; therefore, to ensure conformance with the standard, each system shall be used independently of the other, and values from the two systems shall not be combined.

1.4 The following safety hazards caveat pertains only to the test methods described in this specification: *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, health, and environmental practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

1.5 *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]

D123 Terminology Relating to Textiles

D2256 Test Method for Tensile Properties of Yarns by the Single-Strand Method

D4849 Terminology Related to Yarns and Fibers

E4 Practices for Force Verification of Testing Machines

E74 Practices for Calibration and Verification for Force-Measuring Instruments

3. Terminology

3.1 For terminology related to tensile testing, see Terminology D4849.

3.1.1 The following terms are relevant for this standard: bench marks, calibrate, capacity, clamp, constant-rate-of extension type tensile testing machine (CRE), constant-rate-of-load tensile testing machine (CRL), constant-rate-of-traverse tensile testing machine (CRT), effective carriage mass, effective gauge length, grip, jaw face, jaw liner, jaws, least count, nominal gauge length, response time, sensitivity, *in electronic systems*, sensitivity, stress, tensile testing machine, test skein, time-to-break, true gauge length.

3.1.2 For all other terminology related to textiles, see Terminology D123.

4. Performance Requirements

4.1 Individual ASTM methods for tensile testing of textile materials that prescribe apparatus which conforms to this specification shall also include such other detailed specifications as may be necessary to describe the testing machine and its operation completely.

4.1.1 This specification shall not be construed as being intended to preclude the evolution of improved methods of testing or testing apparatus, which is recognized as being vital in an advancing technology.

[1] This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D13 on Textiles and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D13.58 on Yarns and Fibers.

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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.

4.2 Comparison of results from tensile testing machines operating on different principles is not recommended. When these machines are used for comparison testing however, constant time-to-break at 20 ± 3 s is the established way of producing data, but even then the data may differ significantly.

4.2.1 Comparison of test data from machines of the same type, especially two or more CRT-type or two or more CRL-type machines, requires consideration of the effect of individual machine characteristics; for example, inertia effects, capacity, sensitivity, type of loadcell, etc., which may cause significant differences in results even though uniform procedures are employed. Data from different CRE-type testing machines, however, should not be significantly different.

4.2.2 In any case, all types of tensile testing machines must satisfy the accuracy requirements as given in Section 7.

4.3 While changes in humidity affect the tensile properties of many textile materials, changes in humidity normally do not affect the testing machines themselves.

4.4 When machines are moved to different locations, their calibration shall be verified to make sure that they still meet the specified tolerances.

4.5 When each of the sub-systems (force, extension, clamping) has been individually calibrated, verified, or checked, it is recommended that the total system be verified using a standard material appropriate for the type testing to be carried out.[3] This testing of the total system is the established way of ensuring that the clamping system is operating properly.

5. Apparatus

5.1 *Tensile Testing Machines*—Tensile testing machines for textile materials are classified according to their operating principle as follows:

Type	Principle of Operation
CRE	Constant rate-of-extension
CRT	Constant rate-of-traverse (pendulum type)
CRL	Constant rate-of-load (inclined plane type)

5.1.1 *CRE-Type*—A testing machine in which the pulling clamp moves at a uniform rate, and when loaded at the maximum allowable force, the force-measuring mechanism (load cell) moves a negligible distance of less than 0.2 mm [0.008 in.].

5.1.2 *CRT-Type*—A testing machine in which the pulling clamp moves at a uniform rate and the force is applied through the other clamp, which moves appreciably to actuate a force-measuring mechanism, producing a rate of increase of force or extension which is usually not constant and is dependent on the extension characteristics of the specimen.

5.1.3 *CRL-Type*—A testing machine in which the rate of increase of the force is uniform with time after the first 3 s and the specimen is free to elongate, this elongation being dependent upon the extension characteristics of the specimen at any applied force.

5.1.4 *Multiple-Purpose Type*—Machines capable of being operated as both a CRE-type and a CRL-type may be used.

[3] Two styles of standard break fabrics obtained from Testfabrics, Inc., P.O. Drawer O, Middlesex, NJ 08846 have been found satisfactory for this purpose. See also A1.3 of this specification.

5.2 *Measuring Devices*—Machines shall be equipped with a suitable device for measuring the force and, when needed, a device to measure extension. Preferably, the data must be electronically stored using a data-acquisition system, or at least the curve shall be recorded graphically, or the force and extension data may be indicated on appropriate scales or displays.

5.2.1 Most testing machines record only force-extension data. When the capacity of a testing machine is adjusted to fit the predetermined linear density or cross-sectional area of the specimen, instead of force the stress will be recorded. When the machine is adjusted to record extension in terms of unit specimen length, the chart can be read directly in percent elongation or strain. When these conditions do not exist, the force-extension curve must be converted to obtain stress-strain characteristics.

5.2.2 The force-indicating and force-recording devices shall be in conformance with the requirements of this specification as to accuracy, sensitivity, and response time, and shall permit calibration or verification by appropriate methods described or referenced herein.

5.3 *Clamping or Holding Devices*—Specimen clamping or holding devices shall be prescribed in the individual test methods in sufficient detail for all users to employ the same or comparable devices.

5.3.1 The prescribed specimen clamping or holding devices shall be designed to ensure that the pulling axis of the testing machine and the central axis of a properly mounted specimen coincide.

5.3.2 The clamping or holding device may be designed for manual or automatic mounting of specimens.

5.3.3 The required clamping force can be obtained with the clamping or holding devices by any suitable mechanism; for example, screw, cam action, pneumatic, or toggle.

5.3.4 Clamping surfaces in contact with a test specimen shall be of any suitable material and configuration which provides the required restraint, preclude slippage, and minimize specimen failure in the clamped areas. Clamp liners may be used, provided the above conditions are met.

5.3.5 When the flat-faced type clamp proves unsatisfactory because of slippage or excessive breakage in the clamp, snubbing type devices (capstan, drum, split-drum, etc.) may be used.

5.4 *Calibrating Devices*—Calibrating weights or other calibrating devices conforming to Practice E74 are required for verification of calibration. Calipers, a steel rule that can be read to 0.25 mm [0.01 in.], or a suitable cathetometer, and a stop watch are required for verification of recorded elongation, and crosshead and chart speed.

6. Machine Operational Design

6.1 The use of motor-driven machines is preferred over manually driven machines because of improved control of testing.

6.2 Testing machines of the CRT-type shall not be used for measuring forces below fifty times their resolution. For example, if the minimum force that can be read is 0.5 cN [0.5