



Designation: E1820 – 23b

# Standard Test Method for Measurement of Fracture Toughness<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation E1820; 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 ( $\epsilon$ ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

## 1. Scope\*

1.1 This test method covers procedures and guidelines for the determination of fracture toughness of metallic materials using the following parameters:  $K$ ,  $J$ , and CTOD ( $\delta$ ). Toughness can be measured in the  $R$ -curve format or as a point value. The fracture toughness determined in accordance with this test method is for the opening mode (Mode I) of loading.

NOTE 1—Until this version,  $K_{Ic}$  could be evaluated using this test method as well as by using Test Method E399. To avoid duplication, the evaluation of  $K_{Ic}$  has been removed from this test method and the user is referred to Test Method E399.

1.2 The recommended specimens are single-edge bend, [SE(B)], compact, [C(T)], and disk-shaped compact, [DC(T)]. All specimens contain notches that are sharpened with fatigue cracks.

1.2.1 Specimen dimensional (size) requirements vary according to the fracture toughness analysis applied. The guidelines are established through consideration of material toughness, material flow strength, and the individual qualification requirements of the toughness value per values sought.

NOTE 2—Other standard methods for the determination of fracture toughness using the parameters  $K$ ,  $J$ , and CTOD are contained in Test Methods E399, E1290, and E1921. This test method was developed to provide a common method for determining all applicable toughness parameters from a single test.

1.3 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as standard. The values given in parentheses after SI units are provided for information only and are not considered standard.

1.4 *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 Recom-*

*mendations issued by the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.*

## 2. Referenced Documents

### 2.1 ASTM Standards:<sup>2</sup>

E4 Practices for Force Calibration and Verification of Testing Machines

E8/E8M Test Methods for Tension Testing of Metallic Materials

E21 Test Methods for Elevated Temperature Tension Tests of Metallic Materials

E23 Test Methods for Notched Bar Impact Testing of Metallic Materials

E399 Test Method for Linear-Elastic Plane-Strain Fracture Toughness of Metallic Materials

E1290 Test Method for Crack-Tip Opening Displacement (CTOD) Fracture Toughness Measurement (Withdrawn 2013)<sup>3</sup>

E1823 Terminology Relating to Fatigue and Fracture Testing

E1921 Test Method for Determination of Reference Temperature,  $T_0$ , for Ferritic Steels in the Transition Range

E1942 Guide for Evaluating Data Acquisition Systems Used in Cyclic Fatigue and Fracture Mechanics Testing

E2298 Test Method for Instrumented Impact Testing of Metallic Materials

### 2.2 ASTM Data Sets:<sup>4</sup>

E1820/1–DS1(2016) Standard data set 1 to evaluate computer algorithms for evaluation of  $J_{Ic}$  using Annex 9 of E1820

E1820/2–DS2(2020) Standard data set 2 to evaluate computer algorithms for evaluation of  $J_{Ic}$  using Annex 9 of E1820

E1820/3–DS3(2020) Standard data set 3 to evaluate computer algorithms for evaluation of  $J_{Ic}$  using Annex 9 of E1820

<sup>1</sup> This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee E08 on Fatigue and Fracture and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee E08.07 on Fracture Mechanics.

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<sup>2</sup> For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, [www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org), or contact ASTM Customer Service at [service@astm.org](mailto:service@astm.org). For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

<sup>3</sup> The last approved version of this historical standard is referenced on [www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org).

<sup>4</sup> These data sets are available for download from ASTM at <https://www.astm.org/get-involved/technical-committees/adhoc-e08.html>

E1820/4–DS4(2020) Standard data set 4 to evaluate computer algorithms for evaluation of  $J_{Ic}$  using Annex 9 of E1820

E1820/5–DS5(2020) Standard data set 5 to evaluate computer algorithms for evaluation of  $J_{Ic}$  using Annex 9 of E1820

E1820/6–DS6(2020) Standard data set 6 to evaluate computer algorithms for evaluation of  $J_{Ic}$  using Annex 9 of E1820

E1820/7–DS7(2020) Standard data set 7 to evaluate computer algorithms for evaluation of  $J_{Ic}$  using Annex 9 of E1820

E1820/8–DS8(2020) Standard data set 8 to evaluate computer algorithms for evaluation of  $J_{Ic}$  using Annex 9 of E1820

E1820/9–DS9(2020) Standard data set 9 to evaluate computer algorithms for evaluation of  $J_{Ic}$  using Annex 9 of E1820

### 3. Terminology

3.1 Terminology E1823 is applicable to this test method. Only items that are exclusive to Test Method E1820, or that have specific discussion items associated, are listed in this section.

#### 3.2 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.2.1 *compliance* [ $LF^{-1}$ ],  $n$ —the ratio of displacement increment to force increment.

3.2.2 *crack opening displacement (COD)* [ $L$ ],  $n$ —force-induced separation vector between two points at a specific gage length. The direction of the vector is normal to the crack plane.

3.2.2.1 *Discussion*—In this practice, displacement,  $v$ , is the total displacement measured by clip gages or other devices spanning the crack faces.

3.2.3 *crack extension*,  $\Delta a$  [ $L$ ],  $n$ —an increase in crack size.

3.2.4 *crack-extension force*,  $G$  [ $FL^{-1}$  or  $FLL^{-2}$ ],  $n$ —the elastic energy per unit of new separation area that is made

available at the front of an ideal crack in an elastic solid during a virtual increment of forward crack extension.

3.2.5 *crack-tip opening displacement (CTOD)*,  $\delta$  [ $L$ ],  $n$ —crack displacement resulting from the total deformation (elastic plus plastic) at variously defined locations near the original (prior to force application) crack tip.

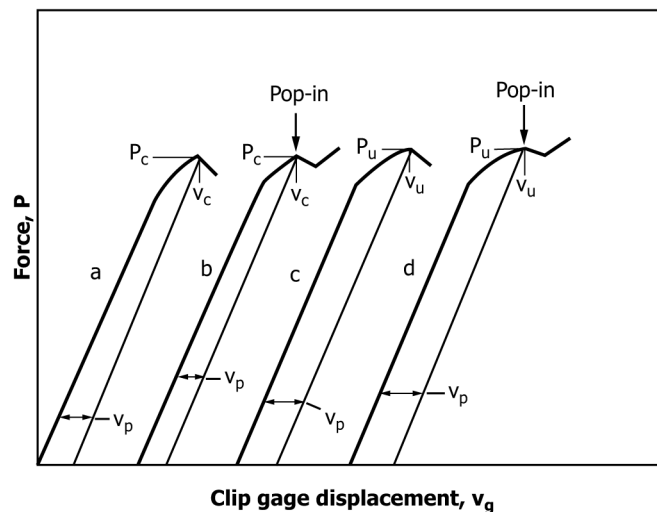
3.2.5.1 *Discussion*—In this test method, CTOD is the displacement of the crack surfaces normal to the original (unloaded) crack plane at the tip of the fatigue precrack,  $a_o$ . In this test method, CTOD is calculated at the original crack size,  $a_o$ , from measurements made from the force versus displacement record.

3.2.5.2 *Discussion*—In CTOD testing,  $\delta_{Ic}$  [ $L$ ] is a value of CTOD near the onset of slow stable crack extension, here defined as occurring at  $\Delta a_p = 0.2$  mm (0.008 in.) +  $0.7\delta_{Ic}$ .

3.2.5.3 *Discussion*—In CTOD testing,  $\delta_c$  [ $L$ ] is the value of CTOD at the onset of unstable crack extension (see 3.2.36) or pop-in (see 3.2.22) when  $\Delta a_p < 0.2$  mm (0.008 in.) +  $0.7\delta_c$ .  $\delta_c$  corresponds to the force  $P_c$  and clip-gage displacement  $v_c$  (see Fig. 1). It may be size-dependent and a function of test specimen geometry.

3.2.5.4 *Discussion*—In CTOD testing,  $\delta_u$  [ $L$ ] is the value of CTOD at the onset of unstable crack extension (see 3.2.36) or pop-in (see 3.2.22) when the event is preceded by  $\Delta a_p > 0.2$  mm (0.008 in.) +  $0.7\delta_u$ . The  $\delta_u$  corresponds to the force  $P_u$  and the clip gage displacement  $v_u$  (see Fig. 1). It may be size-dependent and a function of test specimen geometry. It can be useful to define limits on ductile fracture behavior.

3.2.5.5 *Discussion*—In CTOD testing,  $\delta_c^*$  [ $L$ ] characterizes the CTOD fracture toughness of materials at fracture instability prior to the onset of significant stable tearing crack extension. The value of  $\delta_c^*$  determined by this test method represents a measure of fracture toughness at instability without significant stable crack extension that is independent of in-plane dimensions. However, there may be a dependence of toughness on thickness (length of crack front).



NOTE 1—Construction lines drawn parallel to the elastic loading slope to give  $v_p$ , the plastic component of total displacement,  $v_g$ .

NOTE 2—In curves b and d, the behavior after pop-in is a function of machine/specimen compliance, instrument response, and so forth.

FIG. 1 Types of Force versus Clip gage Displacement Records