



Designation: G180 – 23

Standard Test Method for Corrosion Inhibiting Admixtures for Steel in Concrete by Polarization Resistance in Cementitious Slurries¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation G180; 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 test method covers a procedure for determining the effects of chemical admixtures on the corrosion of metals in concrete. This test method can be used to evaluate materials intended to inhibit chloride-induced corrosion of steel in concrete. It can also be used to evaluate the corrosivity of admixtures by themselves or in a chloride environment. This test is not applicable for emulsions.

1.2 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as standard. No other units of measurement are included in this standard.

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, health, and environmental practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

1.4 *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

C150/C150M Specification for Portland Cement
C595/C595M Specification for Blended Hydraulic Cements
C670 Practice for Preparing Precision and Bias Statements for Test Methods for Construction Materials
D632 Specification for Sodium Chloride
E691 Practice for Conducting an Interlaboratory Study to Determine the Precision of a Test Method

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee G01 on Corrosion of Metals and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee G01.14 on Corrosion of Metals in Construction Materials.

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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.

G3 Practice for Conventions Applicable to Electrochemical Measurements in Corrosion Testing
G5 Reference Test Method for Making Potentiodynamic Anodic Polarization Measurements
G59 Test Method for Conducting Potentiodynamic Polarization Resistance Measurements
G193 Terminology and Acronyms Relating to Corrosion

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—For definitions of terms used in this practice see Terminology G193.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 This test method provides a means for assessing corrosion-inhibiting concrete admixtures.

4.2 This test method is useful for development of admixtures intended to reduce corrosion of reinforcing steel in concrete.

4.3 This test method is useful in determining the corrosivity of admixtures toward steel reinforcing if the admixture sample is compared to a control without admixtures.

4.4 Good performance, a reduction in corrosion rate versus chloride alone by at least one order of magnitude in this test, is a strong indication that an admixture is a corrosion inhibitor. However, poor performance requires additional testing to determine if the admixture improves corrosion resistance.

4.5 This test method shall not be used to predict performance in the field.

4.6 The filtering process makes this test not suitable for the evaluation of emulsions.

5. Apparatus

5.1 The test cell as described in Reference Test Method G5.

5.2 Potentiostat, as described in Reference Test Method G5, capable of varying potential at a constant scan rate and measuring the resulting current.

5.3 A method of recording the varying potential and resulting current is needed.

5.4 Electrode holder such as described in Fig. 3 of Reference Test Method G5.

5.5 Electrodes:

5.5.1 Working electrode, prepared from a 12.7 mm length of 9.5 mm diameter rod stock. Carbon steel C1215 should be used.

NOTE 1—If specimen forms are used other than those called for by this test method, for example flat sheet specimens, care should be taken not to introduce crevices which can lead to erroneous results.

5.6 Auxiliary Electrodes—Two graphite rods or platinized-niobium or platinum mesh.

5.7 Reference Electrodes—A saturated calomel electrode with a controlled rate of leakage (about 3 $\mu\text{L/h}$) is recommended.

6. Reagents and Materials

6.1 Type I/II cement (C3A content between 6 % and 10 %), according to Specification **C150/C150M**, or a Type 1L cement (portland-limestone cement) according to Specification **C595/C595M**.

6.2 Filter paper with 1.1 μm retention.

6.3 PTFE stir bars.

6.4 Carbon steel C1215 samples, cylindrical in shape, with 5.1 cm^2 exposed area.³

6.5 Sodium chloride, reagent grade, according to Specification **D632**.

6.6 Calcium hydroxide, reagent grade.

6.7 Admixtures to be tested.

6.8 Carbon-dioxide-free compressed air.⁴

7. Experimental Procedure

7.1 Prepare a cement slurry consisting of 1000 g of water and 200 g cement. Mix thoroughly, stir for 60 min, and filter.

NOTE 2—An admixture should be added at a quantity consistent with its addition rate in concrete. Water measured at 35 mL to 965 mL is equivalent to 5 L/m^3 in concrete. If other dosages are desired, proportion them based on this ratio.

7.2 Filter, and add 4 g/L calcium hydroxide and stir a further 30 min.

7.3 Set up a standard electrochemical cell according to Reference Test Method **G5** and fill it with 900 mL of filtered slurry solution. Purge the cell with carbon-dioxide-free air. Airflow rate should be at least 300 cc/min.

7.4 Specimen Preparation before Testing:

7.4.1 Degrease the metal sample by cleaning ultrasonically in hexane for 2 min. If an ultrasonic bath is not available, soak the samples in hexane and wipe dry.

7.4.2 Wet abrade the specimen with 600 grit paper and rinse with deionized water.

7.4.3 Repeat 7.4.1. Make sure the sample is thoroughly dried before mounting it on the electrode holder.

³ The sole source of supply of the apparatus known to the committee at this time is Metal Samples, AL, sample type P/N410. If you are aware of alternative suppliers, please provide this information to ASTM International Headquarters. Your comments will receive careful consideration at a meeting of the responsible technical committee,¹ which you may attend.

⁴ A CO_2 free air gas generator (typically used for FT-IR equipment) can be used.

NOTE 3—This process removes machine oils and inhibitors that might be on the surface due to packaging.

7.5 While purging the cell with carbon dioxide free air, precondition the electrode in the solution for 24 h.

7.5.1 Add NaCl to the solution obtained in 7.3 (having been purged for 24 h with CO_2 -free air), to obtain a 0.5M or a 1M solution, and continue to stir and purge for a further 4 h. After 4 h, stop stirring and continue purging for another 20 h.

NOTE 4—The multi-laboratory test was run at the two different chloride levels to develop the precision statement. The higher chloride level would be representative of a more severe exposure.

7.5.2 Measure the open circuit potential.

7.5.3 Measure the polarization resistance (R_p) by recording the potentiodynamic polarization curve at a scan rate of 0.167 mV/s, from -20 mV to $+20$ mV versus open circuit potential.

7.5.4 Plot the polarization resistance curve as a linear potential-current density plot as shown in Practice **G3**.

7.5.5 Determine the polarization resistance R_p , as the tangent of the curve at $i = 0$, as described in Test Method **G59**. The corrosion rate is expressed as $1/R_p$ in $\mu\text{S/cm}^2$.

NOTE 5—An example of a polarization resistance curve is given in Fig. X1.4.

8. Interpretation of Results

8.1 An admixture is behaving as a corrosion inhibitor in this test method if the average $\log_{10}(1/R_p)$ value is 1.0 or less than that of the chloride only average.

8.2 If the admixture does not reduce average $1/R_p$ by an order of magnitude another test method is needed to determine if it is an inhibitor.

8.3 An admixture that increases average $1/R_p$ by an order of magnitude over a slurry without chloride or inhibitor is corrosive.

NOTE 6—The change in $\log_{10}(1/R_p)$ by 1.0 is an order of magnitude change in $1/R_p$. Log values are useful in comparing corrosion rates since rates from different specimens or conditions can differ by orders of magnitude making a linear scale less useful.

9. Report

9.1 Report the following information:

9.1.1 Value of the open circuit potential (OCP) versus SCE, and

9.1.2 Corrosion rate given by $1/R_p$ in $\mu\text{S/cm}^2$.

10. Precision and Bias⁵

10.1 Based on the pooled estimates of precision, the following statement of precision and bias can be made:

10.1.1 *Interlaboratory Test Program*—An interlaboratory study of a pore solution test for corrosion inhibiting admixtures for steel reinforcement in concrete was conducted in 2001. Each of six laboratories tested two randomly drawn samples of each of four materials (two sodium chloride solutions, 0.5M and 1.0M, each with and without 35 mL/L of a solution

⁵ Supporting data have been filed at ASTM International Headquarters and may be obtained by requesting Research Report RR:G01-1021.