



Standard Test Method for Flatwise Compressive Properties of Sandwich Cores¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation C365/C365M; 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.

This standard has been approved for use by agencies of the U.S. Department of Defense.

1. Scope

1.1 This test method covers the determination of compressive strength and modulus of sandwich cores. These properties are usually determined for design purposes in a direction normal to the plane of facings as the core would be placed in a structural sandwich construction. The test procedures pertain to compression in this direction in particular, but also can be applied with possible minor variations to determining compressive properties in other directions. Permissible core material forms include those with continuous bonding surfaces (such as balsa wood and foams) as well as those with discontinuous bonding surfaces (such as honeycomb).

1.2 This test method does not cover the determination of compressive core crush properties. Reference Test Method [D7336/D7336M](#) for determination of static energy absorption properties of honeycomb sandwich core materials.

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 may not be exact equivalents; therefore, each system shall be used independently of the other. Combining values from the two systems may result in non-conformance with the standard.

1.3.1 Within the text the inch-pound units are shown in brackets.

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

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee [D30](#) on Composite Materials and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee [D30.09](#) on Sandwich Construction.

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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.

[C271/C271M](#) Test Method for Density of Sandwich Core Materials

[D883](#) Terminology Relating to Plastics

[D3878](#) Terminology for Composite Materials

[D5229/D5229M](#) Test Method for Moisture Absorption Properties and Equilibrium Conditioning of Polymer Matrix Composite Materials

[D7336/D7336M](#) Test Method for Static Energy Absorption Properties of Honeycomb Sandwich Core Materials

[E4](#) Practices for Force Verification of Testing Machines

[E6](#) Terminology Relating to Methods of Mechanical Testing

[E122](#) Practice for Calculating Sample Size to Estimate, With Specified Precision, the Average for a Characteristic of a Lot or Process

[E177](#) Practice for Use of the Terms Precision and Bias in ASTM Test Methods

[E456](#) Terminology Relating to Quality and Statistics

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—Terminology [D3878](#) defines terms relating to high-modulus fibers and their composites, as well as terms relating to sandwich constructions. Terminology [D883](#) defines terms relating to plastics. Terminology [E6](#) defines terms relating to mechanical testing. Terminology [E456](#) and Practice [E177](#) define terms relating to statistics. In the event of a conflict between terms, Terminology [D3878](#) shall have precedence over the other terminologies.

3.2 Symbols:

3.2.1 A —cross-sectional area of a test specimen

3.2.2 CV —coefficient of variation statistic of a sample population for a given property (in percent)

3.2.3 E_z^{fc} —flatwise compressive modulus

3.2.4 F_z^{fcu} —ultimate flatwise compressive strength

3.2.5 $F_z^{fc 0.02}$ —flatwise compressive strength at 2 % LVDT/compressometer deflection

3.2.6 P_{max} —maximum force carried by test specimen before failure

3.2.7 $P_{0.02}$ —force carried by test specimen at 2 % LVDT/compressometer deflection

3.2.8 S_{n-1} —standard deviation statistic of a sample population for a given property