



Standard Test Method for Shear Fatigue of Sandwich Core Materials¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This test method covers determination of the effect of repeated shear loads on sandwich core materials.

1.2 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as the standard. The inch-pound units given may be approximate.

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

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*

C 273 Test Method for Shear Properties of Sandwich Core Materials²

E 4 Practices for Force Verification of Testing Machines³

3. Significance and Use

3.1 Usually the most critical stress to which a sandwich panel core is subjected is shear. The effect of repeated shear stresses on the core material can be very important.

3.2 These test methods provide a standard method of obtaining the sandwich core shear fatigue properties.

4. Apparatus

4.1 *Fatigue Testing Machine*, any standard constant load fatigue testing machine capable of applying a direct stress to the specimen and equipped with a counter. The load measuring system used shall have an accuracy of $\pm 1\%$ of the indicated value. The accuracy of the test machine shall be verified in accordance with Practices E 4.

4.2 *Testing Machine*, any standard universal testing machine capable of operation at a constant rate of motion of the cross-head. The load measuring system used shall have an accuracy of $\pm 1\%$ of the indicated value. The accuracy of the test machine shall be verified in accordance with Practices E 4.

4.3 *Test Fixtures*, test fixtures similar to those described in Test Method C 273.

4.4 *Micrometer, Gage, or Caliper*, capable of measuring accurately to 0.025 mm (0.001 in.).

5. Test Specimens

5.1 The test specimens shall be similar to those described in Test Method C 273, except that the core material shall be bonded directly to the fixture plates. The dimensions of the specimen shall be such that the line of load action passes through the diagonally opposite corners of the core material.

5.2 The number of test specimens and the method of their selection depend on the purpose of the particular test under consideration. It is recommended that at least five specimens are used for static control tests, and three specimens for each stress level to be tested. For establishment of an S-N curve of stress versus number of cycles to failure, test at least three stress levels.

6. Conditioning

6.1 When the physical properties of the component materials are affected by moisture, bring the test specimens to constant weight ($\pm 1\%$) before testing, preferably in a conditioning room having temperature and humidity control. Conduct the tests under the same temperature and humidity conditions. A temperature of $23 \pm 3^\circ\text{C}$ ($73 \pm 5^\circ\text{F}$) and a relative humidity of $50 \pm 5\%$ are recommended as standard conditions.

7. Procedure

7.1 The length and width dimensions of the specimen shall be measured to the nearest 0.25 mm (0.01 in.) and the thickness dimension to the nearest 0.025 mm (0.001 in.). Weight the specimen to the nearest 0.1 g and calculate the specimen density.

7.2 Before the fatigue tests, test a minimum of five control specimens statically in a standard test machine in accordance with Test Method C 273. Use the average of the five specimens as the 100 % level for the fatigue tests.

7.3 The stress levels to be tested shall be agreed upon by the purchaser and the seller, or other parties involved. The stress level is defined as the maximum repeated stress to which the specimen is subjected.

7.4 For standard tests, use a stress ratio of minimum to maximum load of 0.10, unless agreed upon previously by the parties involved. Apply the mean load (50 % of difference between maximum and minimum) through the preloading

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² *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 15.03.

³ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 03.01.

