



Standard Test Method for Tensile Properties of Pultruded Glass-Fiber-Reinforced Plastic Rod¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D3916; 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 describes a procedure for determining the tensile properties of pultruded, glass-fiber-reinforced thermosetting plastic rod of diameters ranging from 3.2 mm ($\frac{1}{8}$ in.) to 25.4 mm (1 in.). Little test specimen preparation is required; however, reusable aluminum tab grip adapters ([Fig. 1](#)) of appropriate size are required to prevent premature failure of the specimens at the grips.

1.2 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as the standard. The values given in parentheses are for information only.

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.* Specific hazards statements are given in [Note 3](#) and [Note 4](#).

NOTE 1—There is no known ISO equivalent to this standard.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*²

[D618 Practice for Conditioning Plastics for Testing](#)

[D638 Test Method for Tensile Properties of Plastics](#)

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

[E83 Practice for Verification and Classification of Extensometer Systems](#)

3. Significance and Use

3.1 The high axial-tensile strength and the low transverse-compressive strength of pultruded rod combine to present some

unique problems in determining the tensile strength of this material with conventional test grips. The high transverse-compressive forces generated in the conventional method of gripping tend to crush the rod, thereby causing premature failure. In this test method, aluminum-alloy tabs contoured to the shape of the rod reduce the compressive forces imparted to the rod, thus overcoming the deleterious influence of conventional test grips.

3.2 Tensile properties are influenced by specimen preparation, strain rate, thermal history, and the environmental conditions at the time of testing. Consequently, where precise comparative results are desired, these factors must be carefully controlled.

3.3 Tensile properties provide useful data for many engineering design purposes. However, due to the high sensitivity of these properties to strain rate, temperature, and other environmental conditions, data obtained by this test method should not, by themselves, be considered for applications involving load-time scales or environmental conditions that differ widely from the test conditions. In cases where such dissimilarities are apparent, the sensitivities to strain rate, including impact and creep, as well as to environment, should be determined over a wide range of conditions as dictated by the anticipated service requirements.

4. Apparatus

4.1 *Water-Cooled Diamond or Tungsten-Carbide Saw*, for cutting rod to size.

4.2 *Micrometer*, reading to at least 0.025 ± 0.000 mm (0.001 ± 0.000 in.), for measuring the width and thickness of the test specimens. The thickness of nonrigid plastics (reinforced pultruded products are rigid) should be measured with a dial micrometer that exerts a pressure of $25 \pm$ kPa (3.6 ± 0.7 psi) on the specimen and measures the thickness to within 0.025 mm (0.001 in.). The anvil of the micrometer shall be at least 30 mm (1.4 in.) in diameter and parallel to the face of the contact foot.

4.3 *Universal Testing Machine*, verified in accordance with Practices [E4](#), having a capacity of at least 530 kN (120 000 lbf) to permit the testing of 25.4 mm (1 in.) diameter rod.

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D20 on Plastics and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D20.18 on Reinforced Thermosetting Plastics.

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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.