



# Standard Test Method for Determining Strength of Gap-Filling Adhesive Bonds in Shear by Compression Loading<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D3931; 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 the determination of comparative shear properties of gap-filling adhesives in wood-to-wood joints at specified thicknesses of bondline in the dry condition, when tested on standard specimens under specified conditions of preparation, conditioning, and loading in compression. This test method is intended as an evaluation of gap-filling adhesives such as those used to bond plywood to lumber, lumber to lumber, and other similar materials in building constructions.

1.2 This test method also may be used to determine shear properties of gap-filling adhesives in species of wood and in thicknesses of bondline other than those specified for the comparative tests of shear properties within this test method. All procedures specified herein are applicable, excepting requirements for wood species and specific gravity, and thicknesses of bondlines.

1.3 The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as standard. The values given in parentheses are mathematical conversions to SI units that 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 and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

## 2. Referenced Documents

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

[D143 Test Methods for Small Clear Specimens of Timber](#)  
[D905 Test Method for Strength Properties of Adhesive Bonds in Shear by Compression Loading](#)

<sup>1</sup> This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D14 on Adhesives and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D14.70 on Construction Adhesives.

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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.

[D1151 Practice for Effect of Moisture and Temperature on Adhesive Bonds](#)

[E171 Practice for Conditioning and Testing Flexible Barrier Packaging](#)

## 3. Terminology

### 3.1 Definitions:

3.1.1 *gap-filling adhesive, n*—an adhesive capable of forming and maintaining a bond between surfaces that are not close-fitting.

3.1.1.1 *Discussion*—Close-fitting is relative to a given material and industry; for example, standards in construction differ from standards in electronics. Some adhesives will bond by bridging without completely filling the gap; others by filling the gap completely.

## 4. Significance and Use

4.1 Structural design based on strength-of-materials principles requires knowledge of the mechanical properties of the structural components, including adhesives. By nature of their use, the most important property of adhesive is shear strength.

4.2 Shear strength measured by this test method is suitable for use in adhesive development, manufacturing quality control, and in materials performance specifications, as well as structural design.

## 5. Apparatus

5.1 *Testing Machine*, having a capacity of about 15 000 lb (6818 kg) in compression or of sufficient capacity to test the adhesive in use. The machine shall be fitted with a shearing tool containing a self-aligning seat to ensure uniform lateral distribution of the load. The machine shall be capable of maintaining a uniform rate of loading such that the load may be applied with a continuous motion of the movable head to maximum load at a rate of 9.20 in. (5.0 mm)/min with a permissible variation of  $\pm 25\%$ . The shearing tool shown in Fig. 1 of Test Method [D905](#) has been found satisfactory. Locate the testing machine in an atmosphere such that the moisture content of the specimens, developed under the conditions prescribed in [7.3](#), is not noticeably altered during testing.