



Standard Test Method for Evaluating Dowel-Bearing Strength of Wood and Wood- Based Products¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This test method provides the basic procedure for evaluating dowel-bearing strength of wood and wood-based products. The bearing test results are used to determine the static load resistance and deformation characteristics of connections in wood and wood-base products resulting from the application of a load transmitted by a fastener inserted into a predrilled hole, or driven without drilling. Methods are given for preparing specimens with predrilled holes larger than the fastener diameter and specimens with holes produced by inserting fasteners in holes smaller than the fastener diameter. The methods apply to fasteners such as dowels, bolts, nails, spikes, drift pins, screws, lag screws, and staples.

1.2 This test method also provides the basis for determining the compression behavior of wood products beneath a laterally loaded fastener where the thickness of the product and the diameter of the fastener are such that minimal bending of the fastener occurs during testing.

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:²

- D143 Test Methods for Small Clear Specimens of Timber
- D2395 Test Methods for Density and Specific Gravity (Relative Density) of Wood and Wood-Based Materials
- D2915 Practice for Sampling and Data-Analysis for Structural Wood and Wood-Based Products
- D4442 Test Methods for Direct Moisture Content Measurement of Wood and Wood-Base Materials

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D07 on Wood and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D07.05 on Wood Assemblies.

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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.

E4 Practices for Force Verification of Testing Machines

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions:

3.1.1 *dowel-bearing behavior*—the load-deformation behavior of wood or wood-base products laterally loaded by a fastener where the fastener does not bend during loading.

3.1.2 *dowel-bearing strength*—yield load obtained from the load-deformation curve of a dowel-bearing test divided by the dowel diameter and specimen thickness.

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 Specimens consisting of a single rectangular parallelepiped member with a fastener hole perpendicular to the faces of the member are evaluated for the resistance to embedding the fastener into the fastener hole, so as not to bend the fastener. Tests are conducted on a testing machine at a uniform deformation rate, while loads and deformation are measured at various intervals. Supplementary physical properties of the wood or wood-base member are also determined.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 The localized crushing behavior of wood or wood-base products beneath a fastener where the fastener does not bend provides a material property that is used in theoretical models for connections where crushing or fastener bending, or both, occur. These theoretical models are used to establish design values for wood and wood-base connections. The tests are appropriate when studying the effects of such variables as fastener diameter, fastener hole size, moisture content, specific gravity, and grain direction on the dowel-bearing strength.

6. Apparatus

6.1 *Testing Machine*—Any suitable testing machine capable of operation at a constant rate of motion of its movable head and having an accuracy of $\pm 1\%$ when calibrated in accordance with Practices E4.

6.2 *Deformation Gage*—A deformation-measuring device, with a least reading of 0.001 in. (0.025 mm) for measuring the movement of the fastener into the wood or wood-base specimen.