



Standard Test Methods for Evaluating Drying or Curing During Film Formation of Organic Coatings Using Mechanical Recorders¹

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1. Scope

1.1 These test methods describe the determination of several stages and the rate of dry-film formation of organic coatings using straight line and circular mechanical drying-time recording devices. The use of mechanical recorders is valuable in comparing the drying behavior of coatings of the same generic type, allowing that one coating may form a gel or resist tearing at a faster rate than another.

1.2 Drying time measured using the mechanical recorders may differ from those found using conventional methods, such as Test Method D1640 or ISO 9117-3 (formerly ISO 1517).

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

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

- D823 Practices for Producing Films of Uniform Thickness of Paint, Varnish, and Related Products on Test Panels
- D1005 Test Method for Measurement of Dry-Film Thickness of Organic Coatings Using Micrometers
- D1640 Test Methods for Drying, Curing, or Film Formation of Organic Coatings at Room Temperature
- D3924 Specification for Environment for Conditioning and Testing Paint, Varnish, Lacquer, and Related Materials
- D3925 Practice for Sampling Liquid Paints and Related

¹ These test methods are under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D01 on Paint and Related Coatings, Materials, and Applications and are the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D01.23 on Physical Properties of Applied Paint Films.

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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.

Pigmented Coatings

2.2 ISO Standard:

ISO 9117-3 Drying tests—Surface—drying test using ballotini³

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.1.1 *dry-hard time, n*—the dry-hard condition is reached using mechanical recorders when the drying and curing, or both, reactions have proceeded sufficiently that the film is not displaced nor is any noticeable mark left by pinching the panels between the thumb on the film and forefinger with a relatively strong force.

3.1.1.1 *Discussion*—In these test methods, the dry-hard time is reached where the stylus has risen out of the film and rides on the surface, leaving only a mark without disrupting the body of the film (see Fig. 1 and Fig. 2).

3.1.2 *dry-through time, n*—the dry-through condition is reached when the film has solidified so completely that a large, twisting force can be applied without distorting the film.

3.1.2.1 *Discussion*—In these test methods, the dry-through time is reached when the stylus no longer left any visible mark on the film (see Fig. 1 and Fig. 2).

3.1.3 *set-to-touch time, n*—The set-to-touch condition is reached when the film has solidified sufficiently, by solvent evaporation or chemical reaction, or both, that it not longer flows nor sticks to a finger that lightly touches it.

3.1.3.1 *Discussion*—In these test methods, the set-to-touch time is reached where a pear-shaped depression appears in the film when the film stops flowing over the path of the recorder's stylus and leaves a track in the film revealing the glass substrate (see Fig. 1 and Fig. 2).

3.1.4 *tack-free time, n*—the tack-free condition is reached using mechanical recorders when the film surface has dried or cured (see set-to-touch time) so that the film does not adhere to very light objects placed on it.

3.1.4.1 *Discussion*—In these test methods, the tack-free time is reached where the continuous track in the film ceases

³ Available from American National Standards Institute (ANSI), 25 W. 43rd St., 4th Floor, New York, NY 10036, <http://www.ansi.org>.