



Standard Test Method for Electrochemical Measurement of Diffusible Hydrogen in Steels (Barnacle Electrode)¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation F1113; 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.

1. Scope

1.1 This test method covers the procedure for measuring diffusible hydrogen in steels by an electrochemical method.

1.2 This test method is limited to carbon or alloy steels, excluding austenitic stainless steels.

1.3 This test method is limited to flat specimens to which the cell can be attached (see 4.6 and 4.8).

1.4 This test method describes testing on bare or plated steel after the plate has been removed (see 4.4).

1.5 This test method is limited to measurements at room temperature, 20 to 25°C (68 to 77°F).

1.6 *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

B183 Practice for Preparation of Low-Carbon Steel for Electroplating

B242 Guide for Preparation of High-Carbon Steel for Electroplating

B766 Specification for Electrodeposited Coatings of Cadmium

D1193 Specification for Reagent Water

F519 Test Method for Mechanical Hydrogen Embrittlement Evaluation of Plating/Coating Processes and Service Environments

G3 Practice for Conventions Applicable to Electrochemical Measurements in Corrosion Testing

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F07 on Aerospace and Aircraft and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F07.04 on Hydrogen Embrittlement.

Current edition approved Dec. 1, 2011. Published August 2012. Originally approved in 1987. Last previous edition approved in 2005 as F1113 – 87 (2005). DOI: 10.1520/F1113-87R11.

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.

3. Summary of Test Method

3.1 A hydrogen-containing part is made the anode in an electrochemical cell. The diffusible (atomic) hydrogen, which comes to the metal-electrolyte interface, is oxidized to protons (H^+); H^+ combines with hydroxyl ions (OH^-) in the electrolyte to form water. The oxidation current is measured and related to the hydrogen concentration.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 The critical level of hydrogen in steels is that hydrogen which can build up to high concentrations at points of high triaxial stress causing embrittlement of the steel which can lead to catastrophic damage. This hydrogen can enter by various means, such as during pickling and electroplating. Means of reducing this hydrogen during processing are given in Specification **B766** and Practices **B183** and **B242**. It is still necessary, however, to know how effective these methods are. Though the ultimate reason for measuring this hydrogen is to relate it to embrittlement, this is not within the scope of this test method. As susceptibility to hydrogen embrittlement is a function of alloy type, heat treatment, intended use, and so forth, the tolerance for hydrogen must be determined by the user according to Method **F519**.

4.2 Though the actual hydrogen concentration is not determined in this test method, the current densities have been shown to be useful as an indication of relative hydrogen concentrations (**1-3**),³ and therefore the degree of hydrogen embrittlement (**1,2**). Thus, measurements can be compared to one another (see 4.1 and 7.1).

4.3 This test method is applicable as a quality control tool for processing (such as to monitor plating and baking) or to measure hydrogen uptake caused by corrosion.

4.4 This test method is nondestructive; however, if there is a coating, it must be removed by a method which has been demonstrated to neither damage the steel nor introduce hydrogen to make the measurement.

4.5 This test method is also applicable to situations producing continuous hydrogen permeation, such as high pressure

³ Boldface numbers in parentheses refer to the list of references at the end of this standard.