



Test Method for Compression-Displacement of Baseballs and Softballs¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This test method describes a comparative measurement method for baseballs and softballs as defined by a static compression displacement test.

1.2 This test method is based on a slow rate force-displacement measurement.

1.3 This procedure is for baseballs and softballs meeting standards established by the sports' governing bodies.

NOTE 1—Since the compression-displacement of baseballs and softballs can influence the performance characteristics, this test provides a simple method to compare and categorize such balls based on force levels in a standardized compression-displacement test.

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. Terminology

2.1 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

2.1.1 *baseballs and softballs, n*—any such ball defined by the rules of the game as published by the sports' governing bodies.

2.1.2 *compression-displacement, n*—the reduction in ball diameter under a specified compressive load between two flat plates. Synonymous with *compression-deflection*.

2.1.3 *force, n*—the resistance to displacement. The interaction between test machine and ball during compression.

3. Summary of Test Method

3.1 The baseball or softball is placed between two flat-plate surfaces of a compression machine and then compressed to a standard displacement of 6.35-mm (0.25-in.). The compression load (force) applied at the standard displacement is recorded.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 The static compression-displacement of a baseball or softball is a mechanical property which can correlate to dynamic properties.

4.2 This test method is suitable for obtaining data in research and development, quality control, and classifying balls by the compression-displacement.

4.3 Sports associations can use compression-displacement standards in specifications for official baseballs and softballs standards in specifications for official baseballs and softballs for purposes of consistency of performance.

4.4 This same test procedure can be utilized with other compressive forces and the specified force is not necessarily the same as experienced in actual use.

5. Apparatus

5.1 *Compression Device*, to compress the test ball between two flat plates to 6.35 mm (0.25 in.) displacement. Compressive force to 3560 N (800 lb) is sufficient. A means of centering the test ball so that the vertical axis of the ball aligns with the vertical axis of the compression device piston.

5.2 *Compression Force Gage*, to measure the compressive load in newtons or pounds. Device must be able to measure at least 4448 N (1000 lb).

5.3 *Compression-Displacement Gage*, to measure the displacement at the prescribed level of 6.35 mm (0.25 in.).

5.4 *Motor, Drive, and Speed Control*, to drive the compression device to 6.35 mm (0.25 in.) displacement in a time of 12 to 18 s at a constant rate.

6. Conditioning

6.1 *Ball Conditioning:*

6.1.1 Store test balls at the test environmental conditions for at least 24 h prior to testing.

6.1.2 Maintain test environment temperature at $22 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ ($72 \pm 4^\circ\text{F}$).

6.1.3 Maintain test environment relative humidity at $50 \pm 10\%$.

6.2 *Test Room Conditions:*

6.2.1 Maintain test room temperature at $22 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ ($72 \pm 4^\circ\text{F}$).

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F08 on Sports Equipment and Facilities and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F08.26 on Baseball and Softball Equipment and Facilities.

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