



BSI Standards Publication

Fibre-reinforced plastic composites — Determination of laminate of through-thickness properties

Part 1: Direct tension and compression tests

National foreword

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The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee PRI/42, Fibre reinforced thermosetting plastics and prepregs.

A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its committee manager.

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Published by BSI Standards Limited 2023

ISBN 978 0 539 16313 1

ICS 83.120

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This British Standard was published under the authority of the Standards Policy and Strategy Committee on 28 February 2023.

Amendments/corrigenda issued since publication

Date	Text affected
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INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

ISO
20975-1

First edition
2023-01-24

Fibre-reinforced plastic composites — Determination of laminate through- thickness properties —

Part 1: Direct tension and compression tests

*Composites plastiques renforcés de fibres — Détermination des
propriétés dans l'épaisseur d'un composite stratifié —*

Partie 1: Essais directs de traction et de compression



Reference number
ISO 20975-1:2023(E)
Documents
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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

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This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 61, *Plastics*, Subcommittee SC 13, *Composites and reinforcement fibres*.

A list of all parts in the ISO 20975 series can be found on the ISO website.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

Introduction

Through-thickness properties and the methods specified in this document for their measurement are of interest for engineering specifications and design use. The test geometries recommended are suitable for testing thermoset and thermoplastic-based fibre-reinforced composites, although some materials can be difficult to bond to the loading bars when loaded in tension. A through-thickness dimension of 40 mm is recommended.

For the tension method, consideration has been given to the possibility of out-of-plane bending and end effects influencing the measured tensile properties. Specimen geometries have therefore been specified on the basis of minimising these effects, promoting failure away from the specimen ends (i.e. type II and III) and ease of handling (i.e. machining and testing).

For the compression method, consideration has been given to the possibility of Euler buckling and end effects influencing the measured compressive properties. Specimen geometries have therefore been specified on the basis of minimising these effects, promoting failure away from the specimen ends (i.e. type III) and ease of handling (i.e. machining and testing).

Fibre-reinforced plastic composites — Determination of laminate of through-thickness properties —

Part 1: Direct tension and compression tests

1 Scope

This document specifies methods for determining the through-thickness properties (i.e. strength, modulus of elasticity, Poisson's ratio and strain-to-failure) of fibre-reinforced plastic composites using either rectangular prism and/or waisted block specimens. The methods are suitable for use with a variety of aligned and non-aligned, continuous, and discontinuous fibre formats, with both thermoset and thermoplastic matrices, ranging from 20 mm to 40 mm in thickness.

Three specimen types are described in this document. These are:

- Type I - fixed rectangular cross-section along length of specimen. It is the preferred specimen for determining elastic properties.
- Type II - waisted rectangular cross-section, variable cross-section along length of specimen. It is only suitable for determining tensile strength values and is the preferred specimen for highly anisotropic and thermoplastic materials.
- Type III - waisted rectangular cross-section, fixed cross-section along the gauge-length of specimen. It is used to provide both elastic and strength property data and is the preferred specimen for generating a full stress-strain response.

Specimen types I and II are also suitable for use with unreinforced plastics but are unsuitable for use with rigid cellular materials and sandwich structures containing cellular materials.

Two testing modes are covered:

- Method A – Tension
- Method B – Compression

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

[ISO 291](#), *Plastics — Standard atmospheres for conditioning and testing*

ISO 1268 (all parts), *Fibre-reinforced plastics — Methods of producing test plates*

[ISO 2602](#), *Statistical interpretation of test results — Estimation of the mean — Confidence interval*

[ISO 5893](#), *Rubber and plastics test equipment — Tensile, flexural and compression types (constant rate of traverse) — Specification*

[ISO 7500-1](#), *Metallic materials — Calibration and verification of static uniaxial testing machines — Part 1: Tension/compression testing machines — Calibration and verification of the force-measuring system*