



Standard Test Method for Compressibility of Leather¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This test method covers the determination of the compressibility of sole leather. This test method does not apply to wet blue.

1.2 The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as the standard. The values given in parentheses are provided for information only.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:

D 1610 Practice for Conditioning Leather and Leather Products for Testing²

D 1813 Test Method for Measuring Thickness of Leather Test Specimens²

3. Terminology

3.1 Definition:

3.1.1 *compressibility*—the percentage change in thickness of a specimen on being subjected to a specified pressure for a period of time.

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 A load of 12 000 lbf (53 kN) or 3000 psi (21 MPa) is applied to a leather specimen 2 by 2-in.² (51 by 51-mm²). The percentage change in initial thickness, determined by measuring thicknesses before and after compression, represents the compressibility of the sample.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 Compressibility is considered an important factor that influences wear resistance of sole leather.^{3,4}

6. Apparatus

6.1 *Press*,⁵ either hand- or power-driven, having a capacity of at least 15 000 lbf (67 kN) permitting a pressure of 3000 ± 100 psi (21 ± 1 MPa). The rate of increase shall not exceed 200 psi/s (1.4 MPa/s). The press shall contain two flat steel plates and an indicator for reading the applied force. A suitable testing machine may also be used.

6.2 *Stop Watch*, or other suitable timing device.

7. Test Specimen

7.1 The specimen shall be a square of leather 2 by 2 ± 1/32 in. (51 by 51 ± 0.8 mm) cut by a die.

8. Procedure

8.1 Condition the specimens in accordance with Practice D 1610.

8.2 Measure the initial thickness of the specimen at the middle of each side approximately 0.5 in. (12.7 mm) from the edge in accordance with Method D 1813 averaged and recorded as T_1 .

8.3 Place the specimen between the flat steel plates and apply pressure at a rate not greater than 200 psi/s (1.4 MPa/s) until the required 3000 ± 100 psi (21 ± 1 MPa) is reached.

NOTE 1—The operator shall take care to apply the force uniformly and perpendicular to the leather surfaces.

8.4 Maintain the load for 3 min, continuously correcting for relaxation or loss in force, and then release.

8.5 Remove the specimen from the apparatus and immediately remeasure in accordance with 8.2. Record the final thickness as T_2 .

9. Calculation

9.1 Calculate the percentage compressibility as follows:

$$\text{Compressibility, \%} = [(T_1 - T_2)/T_1] \times 100 \quad (1)$$

where:

T_1 = initial thickness of the uncompressed sample, and
 T_2 = thickness of the sample after compression.

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D31 on Leather and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D31.01 on Vegetable Leather. This test method was developed in cooperation with the American Leather Chemists Assn. (Standard Method E 45 – 1953).

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² *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 15.04.

³ Hobbs, R. B., and Kronstadt, R. A., *Journal*, Am. Leather Chemists' Assn., Vol 40, 1945, p. 12.

⁴ Booth, W. E., *Journal*, Society of Leather Trades' Chemists, Vol 43, 1959, p. 349.

⁵ The sole source of supply of the hand press known to the committee at this time is Fred S. Carver Co., Summit, NJ. If you are aware of alternative suppliers, please provide this information to ASTM Headquarters. Your comments will receive careful consideration at a meeting of the responsible technical committee,¹ which you may attend.

10. Report

10.1 The report shall include the following:

10.1.1 Compressibility of each specimen from each test unit, and

10.1.2 Compressibility based on the average of all specimens tested, recorded to the nearest 0.1 %.

11. Precision

11.1 The mean difference between two laboratories using seven pairs of matched samples is 1.40 and confidence limits at 95 % are 0.23 to 2.67.

12. Keywords

12.1 compressibility; sole leather; wear resistance

APPENDIX

(Nonmandatory Information)

X1. COMPRESSIBILITY OF FINISHED SOLE LEATHERS

TABLE X1.1 Interlaboratory Data National Bureau of Standards and U.S. Naval Supply Research and Development Facility

NBS	USNSR & DF	Difference	$(x - \bar{x})$	$(x - \bar{x})^2$
11.0	10.4	0.6	-0.8	0.64
12.4	9.0	3.4	2.0	4.00
10.1	10.1	0	-1.4	1.96
6.5	3.6	2.9	1.5	2.25
8.7	8.5	0.2	-1.2	1.44
8.1	6.3	1.8	0.4	0.16
7.3	6.4	0.9	-0.5	0.25
		9.8		10.70

Mean difference = 1.40

Standard deviation = 1.24

Standard error = 0.52

Confidence limits at 95 % for this mean difference = $1.4 \pm 2.45 (0.52) = 0.23$ to 2.67

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