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Standard Guide for Determining Synergism Between Wear and Corrosion¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This guide covers and provides a means for computing the increased wear loss rate attributed to synergism or interaction that may occur in a system when both wear and corrosion processes coexist. The guide applies to systems in liquid solutions or slurries and does not include processes in a gas/solid system.

1.2 This guide applies to metallic materials and can be used in a generic sense with a number of wear/corrosion tests. It is not restricted to use with approved ASTM test methods.

1.3 *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, health, and environmental practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

1.4 *This international standard was developed in accordance with internationally recognized principles on standardization established in the Decision on Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations issued by the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*²

[G3 Practice for Conventions Applicable to Electrochemical Measurements in Corrosion Testing](#)

[G5 Reference Test Method for Making Potentiodynamic Anodic Polarization Measurements](#)

[G15 Terminology Relating to Corrosion and Corrosion Testing \(Withdrawn 2010\)](#)³

[G40 Terminology Relating to Wear and Erosion](#)

¹ This guide is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee G02 on Wear and Erosion and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee G02.40 on Non-Abrasive Wear.

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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.

³ The last approved version of this historical standard is referenced on www.astm.org.

[G59 Test Method for Conducting Potentiodynamic Polarization Resistance Measurements](#)

[G102 Practice for Calculation of Corrosion Rates and Related Information from Electrochemical Measurements](#)

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—For general definitions relating to corrosion see Terminology [G15](#). For definitions relating to wear see Terminology [G40](#).

3.2 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

3.2.1 *cathodic protection current density, i_{cp}* —the electrical current density needed during the wear/corrosion experiment to maintain the specimen at a potential which is one volt cathodic to the open circuit potential.

3.2.2 *corrosion current density, i_{cor}* —the corrosion current density measured by electrochemical techniques, as described in Practice [G102](#).

3.2.3 *electrochemical corrosion rate, C* —the electrochemical corrosion rate as determined by Test Method [G59](#) and converted to a penetration rate in accordance with Practice [G102](#). This penetration rate is equivalent to the volume loss rate per area. The term C_w is the electrochemical corrosion rate during the corrosive wear process, and the term C_o designates the electrochemical corrosion rate when no mechanical wear is allowed to take place.

3.2.4 *mechanical wear rate, W_o* —the rate of material loss from a specimen when the electrochemical corrosion rate has been eliminated by cathodic protection during the wear test.

3.2.5 *total material loss rate, T* —the rate of material loss from a specimen exposed to the specified conditions, including contributions from mechanical wear, corrosion, and interactions between these two.

3.2.6 *wear/corrosion interaction*—the change in material wastage resulting from the interaction between wear and corrosion, that is, T minus W_o and C_o . This can be sub-divided into ΔC_w , the change of the electrochemical corrosion rate due to wear and ΔW_c , the change in mechanical wear due to corrosion.

4. Summary of Guide

4.1 A wear test is carried out under the test conditions of interest and T is measured.

4.2 Additional experiments are conducted to isolate the mechanical and corrosion components of the corrosive wear process. These are as follows:

4.2.1 A repeat of the experiment in 4.1 with measurement of C_w ,

4.2.2 A test identical to the initial experiment in 4.1, except that cathodic protection is used to obtain W_o , and

4.2.3 Measurement of C_o , the corrosion rate in the absence of mechanical wear.

4.3 ΔC_w and ΔW_c are calculated from the values measured in the experiments described in 4.1 and 4.2.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 Wear and corrosion can involve a number of mechanical and chemical processes. The combined action of these processes can result in significant mutual interaction beyond the individual contributions of mechanical wear and corrosion (1-5).⁴ This interaction among abrasion, rubbing, impact and corrosion can significantly increase total material losses in aqueous environments, thus producing a synergistic effect. Reduction of either the corrosion or the wear component of material loss may significantly reduce the total material loss. A practical example may be a stainless steel that has excellent corrosion resistance in the absence of mechanical abrasion, but readily wears and corrodes when abrasive particles remove its corrosion-resistant passive film. Quantification of wear/corrosion synergism can help guide the user to the best means of lowering overall material loss. The procedures outlined in this guide cannot be used for systems in which any corrosion products such as oxides are left on the surface after a test, resulting in a possible weight gain.

6. Procedures

6.1 A wear test where corrosion is a possible factor is performed after the specimen has been cleaned and prepared to remove foreign matter from its surface. Volume loss rates per unit area are then calculated, and the results tabulated. The value of T is obtained from these measurements. Examples of wear tests involving corrosion are detailed in papers contained in the list of references. These examples include a slurry wear test (1-3), a slurry jet impingement test (6), and a rotating cylinder-anvil apparatus (7).

6.2 A wear test described in 6.1 is repeated, except that the wear specimen is used as a working electrode in a typical 3 electrode system. The other two electrodes are a standard reference electrode and a counter electrode as described in Practice G3, Test Method G59, and Reference Test Method G5. This test is for electrochemical measurements only, and no mass or volume losses are measured because they could be affected by the electrical current that is passed through the specimen of interest during the experiments. Two measurements are made, one to measure the polarization resistance as in Test Method G59, and one to generate a potentiodynamic polarization curve as in Reference Test Method G5. The open

⁴ The boldface numbers in parentheses refer to the list of references at the end of this standard.

circuit corrosion potential, E_{cor} , the polarization resistance, R_p , and Tafel constants, β_a and β_c , are tabulated. The exception to Reference Test Method G5 is that the apparatus, cell geometry, and solutions or slurries used are defined by the particular wear test being conducted, and are not restricted to the electrochemical cell or electrolyte described in Reference Test Method G5. The potentiodynamic method rather than the potentiostatic method is recommended. R_p , β_a , and β_c are used to calculate the electrochemical corrosion current density, i_{cor} as described in Test Method G59. The value for i_{cor} is then converted to a penetration rate in accordance to Practice G102. This penetration rate is equivalent to the material loss rate, C_w .

6.3 A wear test similar to that conducted in 6.2 is run again except that the wear specimen is polarized one volt cathodic with respect to E_{cor} so that no corrosion takes place. The mass loss of the specimen is measured during the cathodic protection period by weighing it before and after the test. W_o is then calculated by dividing the mass loss by the specimen density and exposed surface area. The current density i_{cp} is also recorded. Caution must be used when using this technique because some metals or alloys may be affected by hydrogen embrittlement as a result of hydrogen that may be generated during this test. If hydrogen evolution is too great, then there is always a possibility that the hydrodynamics of the system could be affected. However, the results of research (1-7) have shown these effects to be minimal for the ferrous alloys studied to date.

6.4 A corrosion test similar to that conducted in 6.2 is run again except no mechanical wear is allowed to act on the specimen surface. The penetration rate, which is equivalent to C_o , is obtained as in 6.2, using polarization resistance and potentiodynamic polarization scans to obtain R_p , β_a , β_b , and i_{cor} .

6.5 T , W_o , C , C_w and C_o are all reported in units of volume loss per exposed area per unit time. The synergism between wear and corrosion is calculated according to (Eq 1), (Eq 2), and (Eq 3).

6.6 Caution must be used to make sure that the surface area exposed to corrosion is the same as that exposed to mechanical wear. Coating of the portions of the specimen with a non-conductor to mask off areas to prevent corrosion is an effective means of doing this.

7. Calculation of Wear/Corrosion Interaction

7.1 The total material loss, T , is related to the synergistic component, S , that part of the total damage that results from the interaction of corrosion and wear processes, by the following equation

$$T = W_o + C_o + S \quad (1)$$

7.2 The total material loss, T , can be divided into the following components, the wear rate in the absence of corrosion, the corrosion rate in the absence of wear, and the sum of the interactions between the processes:

$$T = W_o + C_o + \Delta C_w + \Delta W_c \quad (2)$$

where ΔC_w is the change in corrosion rate due to wear and ΔW_c is the change in wear rate due to corrosion.