



**NATIONAL STANDARD OF THE
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

GB/T 16997-1997

Adhesives - Designation of main failure patterns

胶粘剂 主要破坏类型的表示法

(English Translation)

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Table of Contents

Foreword

1 Scope

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This document was issued on 26 September 1997 by the State Bureau of Technical Supervision of the People's Republic of China, and has applied since 1 April 1998.

It has been superseded by GB/T 16997-2025, Adhesives - Designation of main failure patterns.

It is a GB/T standard: recommended rather than compulsory, but it is the text a Chinese reviewer, customer or inspection body applies.

1 Scope

GB/T 16997-1997 is the Chinese national standard that names the ways a bonded joint fails: adhesive failure at the interface, cohesive failure within the adhesive layer, failure of the substrate itself, and the mixed patterns between them. A strength figure alone does not say whether a joint is sound: a high result with adhesive failure means the surface preparation is wrong, while substrate failure means the bond is stronger than the material. Naming the failure pattern in a standard way lets test reports from different laboratories be compared and lets a supplier and a customer discuss a result at all. The standard gives the designations and their symbols for the main failure patterns observed on bonded specimens, for use in the test reports of adhesive test methods. It is superseded by GB/T 16997-2025; this edition remains the reference for test reports drawn up under it. Issued on 26 September 1997, it applied from 1 April 1998.