

ICS 83.060

CCS G 40



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

GB/T 529-2008

**Rubber, vulcanized or thermoplastic -- Determination of tear
strength (Trouser, angle and crescent test pieces)**

(English Translation)

Issued on: June 4, 2008

Implemented on: December 1, 2008

**Issued by: General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and
Quarantine (AQSIQ)**

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1 Scope

This Standard specifies three test methods for the determination of the tear strength of vulcanized and thermoplastic rubber, namely:

- Method A, using a trouser test piece;
- Method B, using an angle test piece, with or without a nick of specified depth;
- Method C, using a crescent test piece with a nick.

The value of tear strength obtained depends on the shape of the test piece, speed of stretching, temperature of test and calendaring effect of vulcanized rubber.

Method A: Using a trouser test piece

Using the trouser test piece is preferred because it is not sensitive to the length of the cut, unlike the other two test pieces in which the nick has to be very closely controlled. In addition, the results obtained are more easily related to the fundamental tear properties of the material and are less sensitive to modulus effects (provided that the leg extension is negligible) and the rate of propagation of the tear is directly related to the rate of grip separation. With some rubbers, the propagation of tear is not smooth (knotty tear), and

analysis of results may be difficult.

Method B, procedure (a): Using an angle test piece without nick

This test is a combination of tear initiation and propagation. Stress is built up at the point of the angle until it is sufficient to initiate a tear and then further stresses propagate this tear. However it is only possible to measure the overall force required rupturing the test piece, and, therefore, the force cannot be resolved in two components producing initiation and propagation.

Method B, procedure (b): Using an angle test piece with nick

This test measures the force required to propagate a nick already produced in the test piece. The rate of propagation is not directly related to the jaw speed.

Method C: Using a crescent test piece

This test also measures the force required to propagate a nick already produced in the test piece and the rate of propagation is not related to the jaw speed.

Note: A method for the determination of the tear strength of small test pieces of rubber (Delft test pieces) is specified in ISO 34-2.

2 Normative References

The following standards contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this Standard. For dated reference, the subsequent modification or revisions of these publications do not apply. However, all parties who enter into an agreement according to this Standard are encouraged to study whether the latest edition of these documents is applicable. For undated references, the latest edition of the normative document is applicable to this Standard. For undated references, the latest edition of the normative document is applicable to this Standard.

GB/T 2941 Rubber - General Procedures for Preparing and Conditioning Test Pieces for Physical Test Methods (GB/T2941-2006, ISO 23529:2004, IDT)

GB/T 12833 Rubber and Plastics - Analysis of Multi-peak Traces Obtained in Determinations of Tear Strength and Adhesion Strength (GB/T 12833-2006, ISO 6133:1998, IDT)

GB/T 14838 Rubber and Rubber Products - Determination of Precision for Test Method Standards (GB/T 14838-1993, neq ISO/TR 9272:1986)

ISO 5893 Rubber and Plastics Test Equipment - Tensile, Flexural and Compression Types (Constant Rate of Traverse) - Specification

3 Terms and Definitions

For the purposes of this Standard, the following terms and definitions apply.

3.1

Trouser tear strength

Median force, calculated in accordance with GB/T 12833, required propagating a cut in a specified trouser-shaped test piece by tearing, divided by the thickness of the test piece, the force acting in a direction substantially in the plane of the cut.

3.2

Unnicked angle tear strength

Means shall be provided for clamping the test piece firmly, to fix the nick on a certain position. The cutting tool, consisting of a razor blade or similar blade, shall be clamped in a plane perpendicular to the major axis of the test piece, and positioned so as to introduce the nick in the appropriate place. The blade clamping device shall permit no lateral movement and shall be fitted in guides to enable the blade to be moved across the test piece with its edge remaining perpendicular to the plane of the test piece.

Alternatively, the blade may be fixed and the test piece arranged to move in an analogous manner. Means shall be provided for fine adjustment of the depth of the nick to make the nick depth meet relevant requirements. The adjustment of the position of the blade holder and/or clamped test piece shall be determined for each blade by cutting one or two preliminary nicks and measuring these with the aid of a microscope. The blade shall be wetted with water or soap solution prior to nicking.

Note: A suitable apparatus for nicking tear test pieces has been described in detail in the literature [4].

To check that the depth of the nick is within the specified limits (see 6.4), any suitable means may be used, for example an optical projection apparatus. A convenient arrangement is a microscope giving at least x10 magnification fitted with a travelling stage suitably illuminated. The eyepiece is fitted with a graticule or crosswire by which to record the travel of the stage and test piece through a distance equal to the depth of the nick. The travel of the stage is calibrated with a stage micrometer. Alternatively, a travelling microscope may be used.

The apparatus shall have an accuracy of measurement of 0.05 mm.

5.3 Testing machine

The machine shall conform to the requirements of ISO 5893, to an accuracy corresponding to grade B.

It shall be capable of registering the applied forces within during the test while maintaining the specified constant rate of separation of the jaws of (100 ± 10) mm/min for the trouser test piece and (500 ± 50) mm/min for the angle and crescent test pieces. A low-inertia machine having autographic force-recording facilities is essential when using the trouser test piece.

Note: Inertia (pendulum) type dynamometers are apt to give results which differ from each other because of frictional and inertial effects.

A low-inertia (for example electronic- or optical-transducer) type dynamometer gives results which are free from these effects and is therefore to be preferred.

5.4 Grips

The direction of tear propagation will be parallel to the length of the test piece for the trouser test piece and perpendicular for angle and crescent test pieces.

6.4 Each test piece shall be cut or nicked to a depth as given below by the apparatus specified in 5.2.

Method A (trouser test piece) - Cut of depth (40 ± 5) mm made at the centre of the width of the test piece in the direction indicated in Figure 1. It is important that the last 1mm (approximately) of the cut is made with a razor blade or a sharp knife.

Method B, procedure (b) (angle test piece) - Nick of depth (1.0 ± 0.2) mm at the apex of the internal angle of the test piece (see Figure 2).

Method C (crescent test piece) - Nick of depth (1.0 ± 0.2) mm at the centre of the concave inner edge of the test piece (see Figure 3).

Test pieces may be nicked, measured and then tested immediately, but if not tested immediately they shall be kept at $(23\pm2)^{\circ}\text{C}$ or $(27\pm2)^{\circ}\text{C}$, as the case may be, until tested.

The period between nicking of the test piece and testing shall not exceed 24h.

The cut or nick shall be made after any ageing treatment has been carried out.

7 Number of Test

At least five test pieces per sample shall be tested and, where possible, five from each of the directions referred to in 6.3.

8 Temperature of Test

The test is normally carried out at a standard laboratory temperature of $(23\pm2)^{\circ}\text{C}$ or $(27\pm2)^{\circ}\text{C}$, as specified in GB/T 2941. When other temperatures are required, these shall be selected from GB/T 2941.

If the test is to be carried out at a temperature other than a standard laboratory