



# Standard Test Method for Measuring the Fastener Pull-Through Resistance of a Fiber-Reinforced Polymer Matrix Composite<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D7332/D7332M; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon ( $\epsilon$ ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

## 1. Scope

1.1 This test method determines the fastener pull-through resistance of multidirectional polymer matrix composites reinforced by high-modulus fibers. Fastener pull-through resistance is characterized by the force-versus-displacement response exhibited when a mechanical fastener is pulled through a composite plate, with the force applied perpendicular to the plane of the plate. The composite material forms are limited to continuous-fiber or discontinuous-fiber (tape or fabric, or both) reinforced composites for which the laminate is symmetric and balanced with respect to the test direction. The range of acceptable test laminates and thicknesses is defined in 8.2.

1.2 Two test procedures and configurations are provided. The first, Procedure A, is suitable for screening and fastener development purposes. The second, Procedure B, is configuration-dependent and is suitable for establishing design values. Both procedures can be used to perform comparative evaluations of candidate fasteners/fastener system designs.

1.3 The specimens described herein may not be representative of actual joints which may contain one or more free edges adjacent to the fastener, or may contain multiple fasteners that can change the actual boundary conditions.

1.4 This test method is consistent with the recommendations of CMH-17, which describes the desirable attributes of a fastener pull-through test method.

1.5 The values stated in either SI units or inch-pound units are to be regarded separately as standard. The values stated in each system are not exact equivalents; therefore, each system must be used independently of the other. Combining values from the two systems may result in nonconformance with the standard.

1.5.1 Within the text the inch-pound units are shown in brackets.

1.6 *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 and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

## 2. Referenced Documents

### 2.1 ASTM Standards:<sup>2</sup>

- D792 Test Methods for Density and Specific Gravity (Relative Density) of Plastics by Displacement
- D883 Terminology Relating to Plastics
- D3171 Test Methods for Constituent Content of Composite Materials
- D3410/D3410M Test Method for Compressive Properties of Polymer Matrix Composite Materials with Unsupported Gage Section by Shear Loading
- D3878 Terminology for Composite Materials
- D5229/D5229M Test Method for Moisture Absorption Properties and Equilibrium Conditioning of Polymer Matrix Composite Materials
- D5687/D5687M Guide for Preparation of Flat Composite Panels with Processing Guidelines for Specimen Preparation
- E4 Practices for Force Verification of Testing Machines
- E6 Terminology Relating to Methods of Mechanical Testing
- E18 Test Methods for Rockwell Hardness of Metallic Materials
- E122 Practice for Calculating Sample Size to Estimate, With Specified Precision, the Average for a Characteristic of a Lot or Process
- E177 Practice for Use of the Terms Precision and Bias in ASTM Test Methods
- E456 Terminology Relating to Quality and Statistics
- E1309 Guide for Identification of Fiber-Reinforced Polymer-Matrix Composite Materials in Databases (Withdrawn 2015)<sup>3</sup>
- E1434 Guide for Recording Mechanical Test Data of Fiber-Reinforced Composite Materials in Databases (Withdrawn 2015)<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D30 on Composite Materials and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D30.05 on Structural Test Methods.

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<sup>2</sup> For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, [www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org), or contact ASTM Customer Service at [service@astm.org](mailto:service@astm.org). For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

<sup>3</sup> The last approved version of this historical standard is referenced on [www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org).



## 2.2 Industry Documents:

CMH-17-1G Composite Materials Handbook, Volume 1—Polymer Matrix Composites Guidelines for Characterization of Structural Materials<sup>4</sup>

## 3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—Terminology D3878 defines terms relating to composite materials. Terminology D883 defines terms relating to plastics. Terminology E6 defines terms relating to mechanical testing. Terminology E456 and Practice E177 define terms relating to statistics. In the event of a conflict between terms, Terminology D3878 shall have precedence over the other standards.

NOTE 1—If the term represents a physical quantity, its analytical dimensions are stated immediately following the term (or letter symbol) in fundamental dimension form, using the following ASTM standard symbology for fundamental dimensions, shown within square brackets:  $[M]$  for mass,  $[L]$  for length,  $[T]$  for time,  $[θ]$  for thermodynamic temperature, and  $[nd]$  for non-dimensional quantities. Use of these symbols is restricted to analytical dimensions when used with square brackets, as the symbols may have other definitions when used without the brackets.

### 3.2 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.2.1 *diameter-to-thickness ratio,  $D/h$   $[nd]$ ,  $n$* —the ratio of the hole diameter to the specimen thickness.

3.2.1.1 *Discussion*—The diameter-to-thickness ratio may be either a nominal value determined from nominal dimensions or an actual value determined from measured dimensions.

3.2.2 *failure force,  $n$* —the maximum force magnitude achieved prior to the first significant (greater than 10 %) drop in applied force, as observed in force versus displacement data.

3.2.3 *initial sub-critical failure,  $n$* —discontinuity observed in force versus displacement data prior to attaining the failure force. Sub-critical failures are characterized by minor (less than 10 %) drops in applied force, or by compliance changes (greater than 10 % change in slope), prior to attaining the failure force.

3.2.4 *nominal value,  $n$* —a value, existing in name only, assigned to a measurable property for the purpose of convenient designation. Tolerances may be applied to a nominal value to define an acceptable range for the property.

3.2.5 *principal material coordinate system,  $n$* —a coordinate system with axes that are normal to the planes of symmetry inherent to a material.

3.2.5.1 *Discussion*—Common usage, at least for Cartesian axes (123,  $xyz$ , and so forth), generally assigns the coordinate system axes to the normal directions of planes of symmetry in order that the highest property value in a normal direction (for elastic properties, the axis of greatest stiffness) would be 1 or  $x$ , and the lowest (if applicable) would be 3 or  $z$ . Anisotropic materials do not have a principal material coordinate system due to the total lack of symmetry, while, for isotropic materials, any coordinate system is a principal material coordinate system. In laminated composites, the principal material coordinate system has meaning only with respect to an individual

orthotropic lamina. The related term for laminated composites is “reference coordinate system.”

3.2.6 *reference coordinate system,  $n$* —a coordinate system for laminated composites used to define ply orientations. One of the reference coordinate system axes (normally the Cartesian  $x$ -axis) is designated the reference axis, assigned a position, and the ply principal axis of each ply in the laminate is referenced relative to the reference axis to define the ply orientation for that ply.

3.2.7 *rupture,  $n$* —separation of the fastener and test laminate, caused by failure of the fastener, the composite plate, or both. Rupture is characterized by an extreme force drop, such that the specimen is incapable of carrying significant applied force.

3.2.8 *specially orthotropic,  $adj$* —a description of an orthotropic material as viewed in its principal material coordinate system. In laminated composites, a specially orthotropic laminate is a balanced and symmetric laminate of the  $[0/90]_{ns}$  family as viewed from the reference coordinate system, such that the membrane-bending coupling terms of the laminate constitutive relation are zero.

3.3 *Symbols:*  $A$  = cross-sectional area of a specimen

$CV$  = coefficient of variation statistic of a sample population for a given property (in percent)

$d$  = fastener or pin shank diameter

$d_{csk}$  = countersink depth

$D$  = specimen hole diameter

$h$  = specimen thickness

$l$  = specimen length

$n$  = number of specimens per sample population

$N$  = number of plies in laminate under test

$P_f$  = failure force

$P_i$  = force carried by test specimen at initial failure

$P_m$  = maximum force carried by test specimen during test

$s_{n-1}$  = standard deviation statistic of a sample population for a given property

$w$  = specimen width

$x_i$  = test result for an individual specimen from the sample population for a given property

$\bar{x}$  = mean or average (estimate of mean) of a sample population for a given property

$\delta_i$  = displacement at initial failure

$\delta_r$  = displacement at rupture

## 4. Summary of Test Method

### 4.1 Procedure A, Compressive-Loaded Fixture:

4.1.1 Two flat square, constant rectangular cross-section composite plates, each containing a centrally located fastener hole, are placed in a multi-piece fixture that has been aligned to minimize loading eccentricities. Each plate contains four additional holes on the periphery to accommodate the test fixture components. The two plates are joined together by the fastener, with one plate being rotated 45° with respect to the second plate.

4.1.2 The plates are pried apart by the application of compressive force transmitted through the fixture, producing a tensile loading through the fastener and a compressive loading

<sup>4</sup> Available from SAE International (SAE), 400 Commonwealth Dr., Warrendale, PA 15096, <http://www.sae.org>.

through the composite plates. Force is applied until failure of the composite specimen, the fastener, or both occurs. Applied force and crosshead displacement are recorded while loading.

#### 4.2 Procedure B, Tensile-Loaded Fixture:

4.2.1 A flat square, constant rectangular cross-section composite plate containing a centrally located fastener hole is placed in a multi-piece fixture that has been aligned to minimize loading eccentricities. The plate is joined by the fastener to a yoke, which is designed to rotate as to avoid imparting a moment to the fastener.

4.2.2 A uniaxial tensile force is applied to the yoke, imparting a tensile loading on the fastener and an out-of-plane compressive loading on the composite plate. Force is applied until failure of the composite specimen, the fastener, or both occurs. Applied force and crosshead displacement are recorded while loading.

4.3 For both procedures, preferred failure modes are those associated with failure of the composite at the fastener hole. Unacceptable failure modes include those associated with the fastener (such as head, shank, or thread failure) or failure of the composite away from the fastener hole.

### 5. Significance and Use

5.1 This test method is designed to produce fastener pull-through resistance data for structural design allowables, research and development. The procedures may be used to assess pull-through resistance for a variety of composite laminate thicknesses, fastener diameters, and fastener head styles. However, the flexibility of test parameters allowed by the variants makes meaningful comparison between datasets difficult if the datasets were not generated using identical test parameters.

5.2 Early composite pull-through tests using fasteners common to metal structures led to premature joint failures, and resulted in the development of fasteners specific for composite applications. These fasteners have larger heads and tails to reduce through-thickness compression stresses on the composite laminate.

5.3 General factors that influence the mechanical response of composite laminates and should therefore be reported include the following: material, methods of material preparation and lay-up, specimen stacking sequence, specimen preparation, specimen conditioning, environment of testing, specimen alignment, speed of testing, time at temperature, void content, and volume percent reinforcement.

5.4 Specific factors that influence the pull-through resistance of composite laminates and should therefore be reported include the following: hole diameter, fastener diameter, fastener head diameter, loading bar spacing to fastener hole diameter ratio (Procedure A), clearance hole diameter to fastener hole diameter ratio (Procedure B), diameter to thickness ratio, fastener torque, fastener or pin material, fastener or pin clearance, countersink angle and depth of countersink, type of grommet (if used), and type of support fixture. Fastener pull-through resistance properties which may be determined

from this test method include initial sub-critical failure force/displacement, failure force, maximum force, and rupture displacement.

### 6. Interferences

6.1 *Material and Specimen Preparation*—Poor material fabrication practices, lack of control of fiber alignment, and damage induced by improper specimen machining are known causes of high material data scatter in composites in general. Important aspects of specimen preparation that contribute to data scatter include thickness variation, out-of-plane curvature, surface roughness, and failure to meet the dimensional tolerances specified in 8.2.2.

6.2 *Hole Preparation*—Because of the dominating presence of the filled hole, results from this test method are relatively insensitive to parameters that would be of concern in an unnotched tensile, compressive or flexural property test. However, since the filled hole dominates the strength, consistent preparation of the hole, without damage to the laminate, is important to meaningful results. Damage caused by hole preparation will affect strength results and can reduce the calculated strength.

6.3 *Fastener Head Style and Countersink*—Results are affected by the head style of the fastener utilized. In general, specimens containing protruding head fasteners exhibit the highest pull-through resistance forces, followed by (in order of decreasing pull-through resistance forces) 100° tension head fasteners, 100° shear head fasteners, and 130° shear head fasteners. Results may also be affected by the ratio of countersink (flush) head depth to thickness; the preferred ratio is the range from 0.0 to 0.7 unless the experiment is investigating the influence of this ratio.

6.4 *Fastener-Hole Clearance*—Results are affected by the clearance arising from the difference between hole and fastener diameters. Excess clearance can change the observed specimen behavior by promoting the onset of sub-critical failures, due to a decrease in the effective area of the composite which reacts the pull-through load. Damage due to insufficient clearance during fastener installation will affect strength results. For these reasons, both the hole and fastener diameters must be accurately measured and recorded. A typical aerospace tolerance on fastener-hole clearance is +75/-0  $\mu\text{m}$  [+0.003/-0.000 in.] for structural fastener holes.

6.5 *Countersink Flushness*—Countersink flushness (depth or protrusion of the fastener head in a countersunk hole) will affect strength results and may affect the observed failure mode. Countersunk head fasteners shall be installed within  $\pm 0.1$  mm [ $\pm 0.005$  in.] from the composite surface, unless otherwise specified.

6.6 *Thickness*—Results are affected by the thickness of the specimen and the ratio of hole diameter to thickness. Fastener pull-through resistance is typically proportional to the thickness of the specimen. The preferred ratio of hole diameter to thickness is the range from 1.5 to 3.0 unless the experiment is investigating the influence of this ratio. Additionally, for both procedures the composite plate(s) must have sufficient



thickness, flexural stiffness and flexural strength to transmit the fixture loading without excessive plate bending, flexural failure or bearing damage.

**6.7 Fastener Torque/Pre-load**—Results are affected by the installed fastener pre-load (clamping pressure), as this force must be overcome initially by the application of tensile loading to the fastener.

**6.8 Geometry**—Results are affected by the ratio of loading bar spacing to fastener hole diameter for Procedure A tests, and by the ratio of clearance hole diameter to fastener hole diameter for Procedure B tests. The ratio should be maintained as specified in **Tables 1 and 2**, unless the experiment is investigating the influence of this ratio.

**6.9 Test Fixture Characteristics**—The configuration of the test fixture can have a significant effect on test results. For Procedure A, friction between the composite plates and loading posts (resulting from plate flexure or hole misalignment) can cause force measurement errors and affect test results. For Procedure B, the configuration of the yoke, and its ability to minimize the applied moment to the test specimen, can affect test results. Additionally, for Procedure B the diameter of the clearance hole can affect the degree of bending in the composite plate.

**6.10 System Alignment**—Errors can result if the test fixture is not centered with respect to the loading axis of the test machine.

## 7. Apparatus

**7.1 Micrometers and Calipers**—A micrometer with a 4 to 7 mm [0.16 to 0.28 in.] nominal diameter ball interface or a flat anvil interface shall be used to measure the specimen thickness. A ball interface is recommended for thickness measurements when at least one surface is irregular (e.g. a coarse peel ply surface which is neither smooth nor flat). A micrometer or caliper with a flat anvil interface shall be used for measuring length, width, and other machined surface dimensions. The use of alternative measurement devices is permitted if specified (or agreed to) by the test requestor and reported by the testing laboratory. The accuracy of the instrument(s) shall be suitable for reading to within 1 % of the specimen dimensions. For typical specimen geometries, an instrument with an accuracy of  $\pm 0.0025$  mm [ $\pm 0.0001$  in.] is adequate for thickness measurements, while an instrument with an accuracy of  $\pm 0.025$  mm [ $\pm 0.001$  in.] is adequate for measurement of length, width, and other machined surface dimensions.

**7.2 Loading Fasteners or Pins**—The fastener type shall be specified as an initial test parameter and reported. Fastener grip lengths shall be selected to ensure that the threads do not contact the laminate after pin installation. The assembly torque (if applicable) shall be specified as an initial test parameter and reported. This value may be a measured torque or a specification torque for fasteners with lock-setting features. If washers are utilized, the washer type, number of washers, and washer location(s) shall be specified as initial test parameters and reported. The reuse of fasteners is not recommended due to potential differences in through-thickness clamp-up for a given torque level, caused by wear of the threads or deformation of the locking features.

**7.3 Torque Wrench**—If using a torqued fastener, a torque wrench used to tighten the fastener shall be capable of determining the applied torque to within  $\pm 10$  % of the desired value.

### 7.4 Support Fixture:

**7.4.1 Procedure A**—The test fixture for Procedure A, shown in **Fig. 1**, consists of two symmetric components, each of which consists of a base and four cylindrical supports, evenly spaced around the circumference of the base. When the composite plates are assembled within the fixture, the application of compressive force to the fixture imparts a compressive loading to the plates and tensile loading to the fastener.

**7.4.2 Procedure B**—The test fixture for Procedure B, shown in **Fig. 2**, consists of a rigid base plate, a channel section with a clearance hole, fasteners to secure the channel section to the base, and a loading yoke. When the composite specimen is placed within the fixture, the application of tensile force to the loading yoke imparts a compressive loading to the specimen and tensile loading to the fastener.

**7.4.3 Support Fixture Details**—The support fixture shall be constructed of sufficient stiffness and precision as to satisfy the loading uniformity requirements of this test method. The following general notes apply to these figures:

**7.4.3.1** Machine surfaces to a 3.2 [125] rms surface finish unless otherwise specified.

**7.4.3.2** Break all edges.

**7.4.3.3** The test fixture shall be made of steel. It may be made of low carbon steel for ambient temperature testing. For non-ambient environmental conditions, the recommended fixture material is a nonheat-treated ferritic or precipitation hardened stainless steel (heat treatment for improved durability is acceptable but not required).

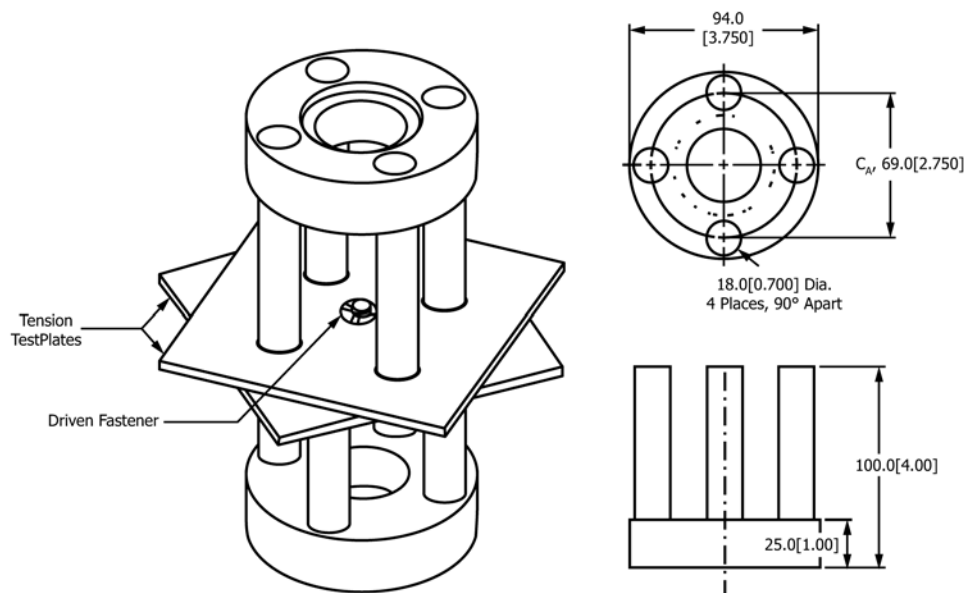
**TABLE 1 Recommended Minimum Thicknesses for Carbon Fiber-Reinforced Composite Pull-Through Test Plates, Procedures A and B**

Shank Diameter, mm [in.]	Minimum Specimen Thickness, mm [in.]			
	Protruding Head Fasteners	100° Countersunk Tension Head Fasteners	100° Countersunk Shear Head Fasteners	100° Csk. Reduced Shear & 130° Csk. Head Fasteners
4.0 [0.156]	1.4 [0.055]	2.5 [0.100]	2.0 [0.080]	1.4 [0.055]
5.0 [0.190]	1.5 [0.060]	3.0 [0.120]	2.5 [0.100]	1.5 [0.060]
6.0 [0.250]	2.0 [0.080]	3.8 [0.150]	3.5 [0.140]	2.0 [0.080]
8.0 [0.313]	2.8 [0.110]	4.9 [0.195]	3.9 [0.155]	2.8 [0.110]
10.0 [0.375]	3.3 [0.130]	5.8 [0.230]	4.9 [0.195]	3.3 [0.130]



**TABLE 2 Recommended Minimum Specimen Length/Width and Fixture Dimensions for Procedure B, Carbon Fiber-Reinforced Composites**

Shank Diameter, mm [in.]	Min Specimen Length/Width (dimension "A"), mm [in.]	Fastener Position (dimension "B"), mm [in.]	Clearance Hole Diameter (dimension "C <sub>B</sub> "), mm [in.]
4.0 [0.156]	68 [2.56]	34 [1.28]	34.0 [1.31]
5.0 [0.190]	72 [2.75]	36 [1.38]	38.0 [1.50]
6.0 [0.250]	84 [3.25]	42 [1.63]	50.0 [2.00]
8.0 [0.313]	96 [3.75]	48 [1.88]	63.0 [2.50]
10.0 [0.375]	108 [4.25]	54 [2.13]	75.0 [3.00]



NOTE 1—All dimensions in millimetres [inches] unless otherwise specified.

NOTE 2—Dimensional tolerances are linear  $\pm 0.5$  mm [ $\pm 0.02$  in.], angular  $\pm 0.5$  degrees.

NOTE 3—Break all edges.

**FIG. 1 Fastener Pull-Through Test Fixture, Procedure A**

NOTE 2—Experience has shown that fixtures may be damaged due to handling in use, thus periodic re-inspection of the fixture dimensions and tolerances is important.

**7.5 Testing Machine**—The testing machine shall be in conformance with Practices E4, and shall satisfy the following requirements:

**7.5.1 Testing Machine Configuration**—The testing machine shall have both an essentially stationary head and a movable head. A short loading train and flat end-loading platens or grips shall be used.

**7.5.2 Flat Platens, Procedure A**—The test machine shall be mounted with well-aligned, fixed (as opposed to spherical seat) flat platens (58 HRC minimum as specified in Test Methods E18). The platen surfaces shall be parallel within 0.025 mm [0.001 in.] across the test fixture diameter (94 mm [3.75 in.]). If the platens are not sufficiently hardened, or simply to protect the platen surfaces, a hardened plate (with parallel surfaces) can be inserted between each end of the fixture and the corresponding platen. The lower platen should be marked to help center the test fixture between the platens.

**7.5.3 Grips, Procedure B**—Each head of the testing machine shall be capable of holding one end of the test assembly so that the direction of force applied to the specimen is coincident with the longitudinal axis of the fastener. The upper grip shall hold

a connection to the test fixture yoke; the lower grip shall hold a connection to the test fixture base. If utilized, hydraulic wedge grips shall apply sufficient lateral pressure to prevent slippage between the grip face and the fixture attachment.

**7.5.4 Drive Mechanism**—The testing machine drive mechanism shall be capable of imparting to the movable head a controlled velocity with respect to the stationary head. The velocity of the movable head shall be capable of being regulated as specified in 11.3.

**7.5.5 Force Indicator**—The testing machine force-sensing device shall be capable of indicating the total force being carried by the test specimen. This device shall be essentially free from inertia-lag at the specified rate of testing and shall indicate the force with an accuracy over the force range(s) of interest of within  $\pm 1$  % of the indicated value.

**7.5.6 Crosshead Displacement Indicator**—The testing machine shall be capable of monitoring and recording the crosshead displacement (stroke) with a precision of at least  $\pm 1$  %. If machine compliance is significant, it is acceptable to measure the displacement of the movable head using a LVDT or similar device with  $\pm 1$  % precision on displacement.

**7.6 Conditioning Chamber**—When conditioning materials at non-laboratory environments, a temperature/vapor-level

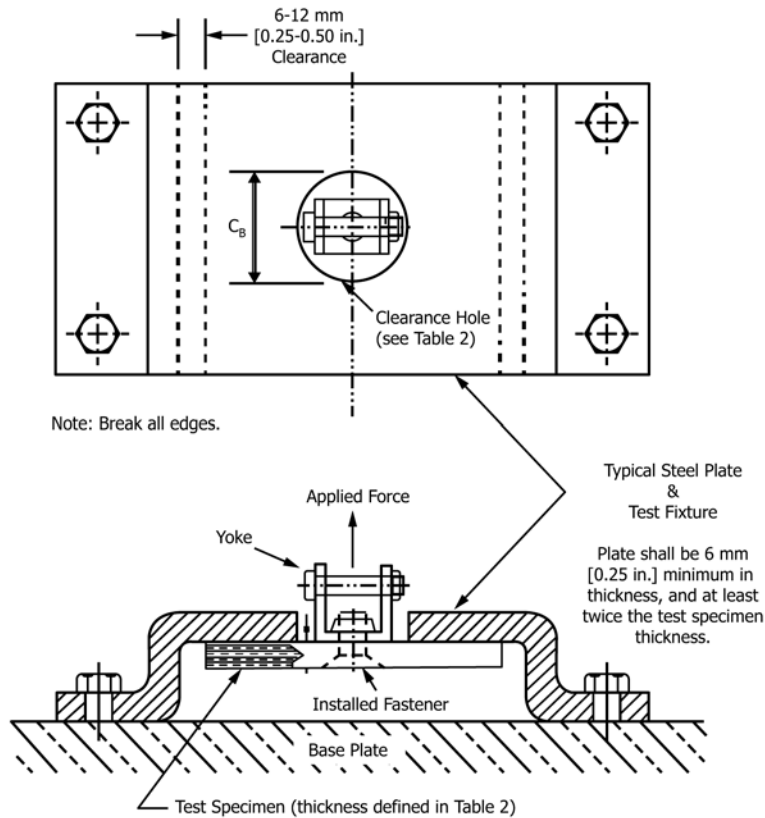


FIG. 2 Fastener Pull-Through Test Fixture, Procedure B

controlled environmental conditioning chamber is required that shall be capable of maintaining the required temperature to within  $\pm 3^{\circ}\text{C}$  [ $\pm 5^{\circ}\text{F}$ ] and the required relative humidity level to within  $\pm 3\%$ . Chamber conditions shall be monitored either on an automated continuous basis or on a manual basis at regular intervals.

**7.7 Environmental Test Chamber**—An environmental test chamber is required for test environments other than ambient testing laboratory conditions. This chamber shall be capable of maintaining the test specimen and fixture at the required test environment during the mechanical test. The test temperature shall be maintained within  $\pm 3^{\circ}\text{C}$  [ $\pm 5^{\circ}\text{F}$ ] of the required temperature, and the relative humidity level shall be maintained to within  $\pm 3\%$  of the required humidity level.

**7.8 Data Acquisition Equipment**—Equipment capable of recording force and crosshead displacement data is required.

## 8. Sampling and Test Specimens

**8.1 Sampling**—Test at least five specimens per test condition unless valid results can be gained through the use of fewer specimens, as in the case of a designed experiment. For statistically significant data the procedures outlined in Practice E122 should be consulted. The method of sampling shall be reported.

### 8.2 Geometry:

**8.2.1 Stacking Sequence**—The standard tape and fabric laminates shall have multidirectional fiber orientations (fibers oriented in a minimum of three directions for tape laminates,

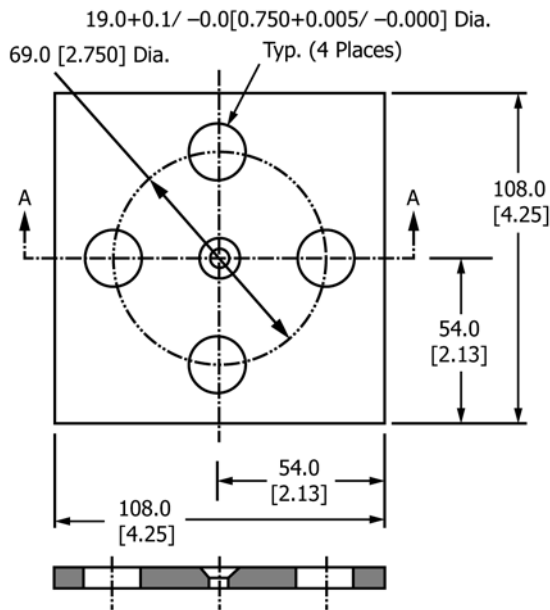
and a minimum of two ply orientations for fabric laminates), and balanced and symmetric stacking sequences. Minimum thicknesses for carbon-fiber reinforced composites are defined in Table 1 for Procedure A and Procedure B specimens; thicker specimens may be required for composites reinforced using lower modulus fibers (for example, fiberglass or aramid fibers) to prevent laminate flexural failures. Fabric laminates containing satin-type weaves shall have symmetric warp surfaces, unless otherwise specified and noted in the report.

NOTE 3—Typically a  $[45_i/0_j/-45_i/90_k]_{ms}$  tape or  $[45_i/0_j]_{ms}$  fabric laminate should be selected such that a minimum of 5 % of the fibers lay in each of the four principal orientations. This laminate design has been found to yield the highest likelihood of acceptable failure modes. Alternative layups may be tested using these procedures as long as flexural failures are not observed, although such tests shall be considered non-standard.

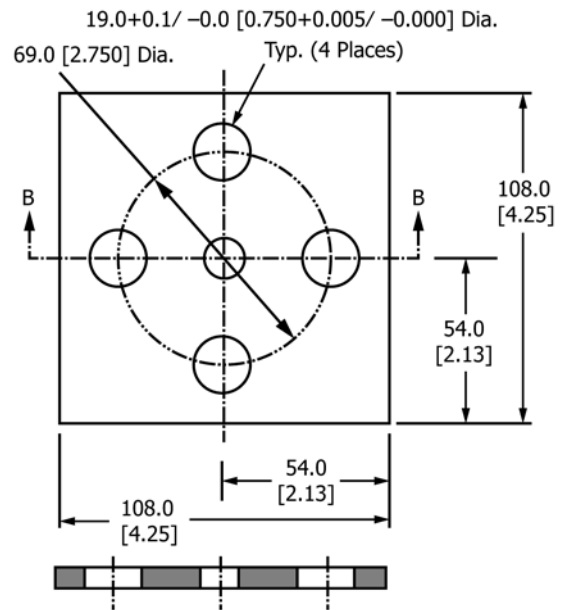
**8.2.2 Specimen Configuration**—Specimen geometry is shown in Figs. 3 and 4 for Procedure A and in Fig. 5 for Procedure B; dimensional data for Procedure B specimens are provided in Table 2.

**8.3 Specimen Preparation**—Guide D5687/D5687M provides recommended specimen preparation practices and should be followed where practical.

**8.3.1 Panel Fabrication**—Control of fiber alignment is critical. Improper fiber alignment will reduce the measured properties. The panel must be flat and of uniform thickness to assure even loading. Erratic fiber alignment will also increase the coefficient of variation. Report the panel fabrication method.



A-A Section (Upper Test Plate)



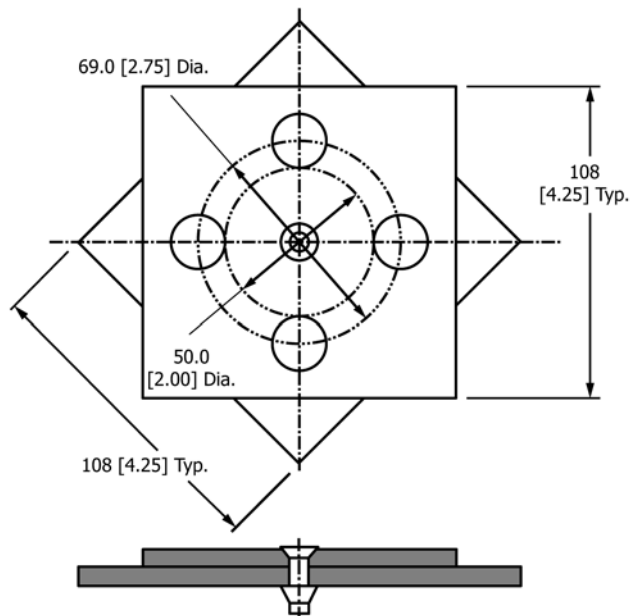
B-B Section (Lower Test Plate)

NOTE 1—All dimensions in millimetres [inches] unless otherwise specified.

NOTE 2—Dimensional tolerances are linear  $\pm 0.5$  mm [ $\pm 0.02$  in.], angular  $\pm 0.5$  degrees.

NOTE 3—Thicknesses defined in Table 1 are suggested minimum specimen thicknesses for tensile testing  $100^\circ$  and  $130^\circ$  flush head fasteners. Thickness dimensions represent standard design criteria that allow the countersink to penetrate a maximum depth equal to 70 % of the test plate thickness.

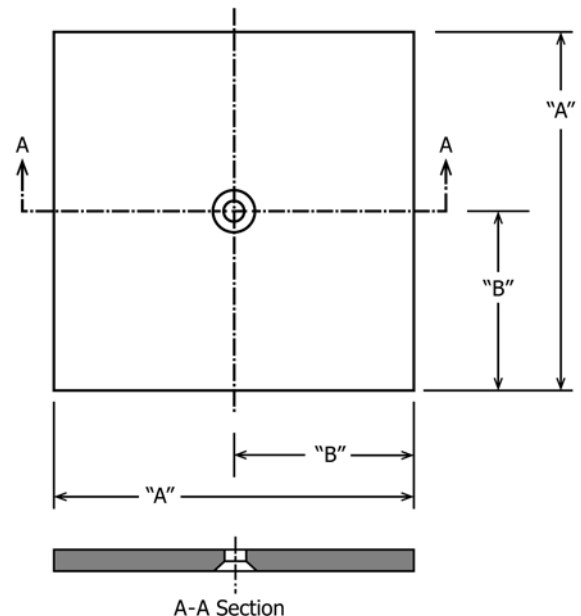
FIG. 3 Composite Test Plates, Procedure A



NOTE 1—All dimensions in millimetres [inches] unless otherwise specified.

NOTE 2—Dimensional tolerances are linear  $\pm 0.5$  mm [ $\pm 0.02$  in.], angular  $\pm 0.5$  degrees.

FIG. 4 Test Plate Assembly, Procedure A



NOTE 1—All dimensions in millimetres [inches] unless otherwise specified.

NOTE 2—Dimensional tolerances are linear  $\pm 0.5$  mm [ $\pm 0.02$  in.], angular  $\pm 0.5$  degrees.

NOTE 3—Thicknesses defined in Table 1 are suggested minimum specimen thicknesses for tensile testing protruding head,  $100^\circ$  flush head and  $130^\circ$  flush head fasteners. Thickness dimensions represent standard design criteria that allow the countersink to penetrate a maximum depth equal to 70 % of the test plate thickness.

NOTE 4—Recommended minimum length/width (dimension "A") and fastener position (dimension "B") are defined in Table 2.

FIG. 5 Composite Test Specimen, Procedure B

8.3.2 *Machining Methods*—Specimen preparation is extremely important for this specimen. Take precautions when cutting specimens from large panels to avoid notches, undercuts, rough or uneven surfaces, or delaminations due to inappropriate machining methods. Obtain final dimensions by

water-lubricated precision sawing, milling, or grinding. The use of diamond-tipped tooling (as well as water-jet cutting) has been found to be extremely effective for many material systems. Edges should be flat and parallel within the specified tolerances. Holes should be drilled undersized and reamed to final dimensions. Take special care to ensure that creation of the specimen hole does not delaminate or otherwise damage the material surrounding the hole. Machining tolerances are as noted in **Figs. 3-5**. Record and report the specimen cutting methods.

8.3.3 *Labeling*—Label the plate specimens so that they will be distinct from each other and traceable back to the raw material, and will neither influence the test nor be affected by it.

## 9. Calibration

9.1 The accuracy of all measuring equipment shall have certified calibrations that are current at the time of use of the equipment.

## 10. Conditioning

10.1 The recommended pre-test condition is effective moisture equilibrium at a specific relative humidity as established by Test Method **D5229/D5229M**; however, if the test requestor does not explicitly specify a pre-test conditioning environment, no conditioning is required and the test specimens may be tested as prepared.

10.2 The pre-test specimen conditioning process, to include specified environmental exposure levels and resulting moisture content, shall be reported with the test data.

NOTE 4—The term “moisture,” as used in Test Method **D5229/D5229M**, includes not only the vapor of a liquid and its condensate, but the liquid itself in large quantities, as for immersion.

10.3 If no explicit conditioning process is performed the specimen conditioning process shall be reported as “unconditioned” and the moisture content as “unknown.”

## 11. Procedure

### 11.1 *Parameters to be Specified Prior to Test:*

11.1.1 The specimen sampling method, specimen type and geometry, and conditioning travelers (if required).

11.1.2 The pull-through resistance properties and data reporting format desired.

NOTE 5—Determine specific material property, accuracy, and data reporting requirements prior to test for proper selection of instrumentation and data recording equipment. Estimate the specimen strength and strain response to aid in transducer selection, calibration of equipment, and determination of equipment settings.

### 11.1.3 The environmental conditioning test parameters.

11.1.4 If performed, sampling method, specimen geometry, and test parameters used to determine density and reinforcement volume.

### 11.2 *General Instructions:*

11.2.1 Report any deviations from this test method, whether intentional or inadvertent.

11.2.2 If specific gravity, density, reinforcement volume, or void volume are to be reported, then obtain these samples from the same panels being tested. Specific gravity and density may

be evaluated by means of Test Method **D792**. Volume percent of the constituents may be evaluated by one of the procedures of Test Methods **D3171**.

11.2.3 Condition the specimens as required. Store the specimens in the conditioned environment until test time, if the test environment is different than the conditioning environment.

11.2.4 Following final specimen machining, but before all testing, measure the specimen width,  $w$ , and length,  $l$ . The thickness of the specimen shall be measured at four locations surrounding the fastener hole, and recorded as the average of the four measurements. The accuracy of all measurements shall be within 1 % of the dimension. Record the dimensions to three significant figures in units of millimetres [inches].

11.3 *Speed of Testing*—Set the speed of testing so as to produce failure within 1 to 10 min. If the ultimate strength of the material cannot be reasonably estimated, initial trials should be conducted using standard speeds until the ultimate strength of the material and the compliance of the system are known, and speed of testing can be adjusted. The suggested standard crosshead displacement rate is 0.50 mm/min [0.025 in./min].

11.4 *Test Environment*—If possible, test the specimen under the same fluid exposure level used for conditioning. However, cases such as elevated temperature testing of a moist specimen may be beyond the capabilities of common testing machine environmental chambers. In such cases the mechanical test environment may need to be modified, for example, by testing at elevated temperature with no fluid exposure control. Testing shall be completed within a specified time limit to failure (typically 10 to 30 min) after withdrawal from the conditioning chamber. Record any modifications to the test environment.

NOTE 6—When testing a conditioned specimen at elevated temperature with no fluid exposure control, the percentage moisture loss of the specimen prior to test completion may be estimated by placing a conditioned traveler coupon of known weight within the test chamber at the same time the specimen is placed in the chamber. Upon completion of the test, the traveler coupon is removed from the chamber, weighed, and the percentage weight calculated and reported.

11.5 *Cleaning*—Clean the specimen hole, surrounding clamping area, and fastener shank. If the fastener threads are required to be lubricated, apply the lubricant to the nut threads instead of the fastener threads and take extreme care not to accidentally transfer any of the lubricant to the fastener shank, the specimen hole, or to the clamping area during assembly and torquing. Record and report the cleaning method and lubricant used, if any.

### 11.6 *Specimen Installation:*

11.6.1 *Procedure A*—Install the fastener within the composite plates as shown in **Fig. 4**. If using a torqued fastener, tighten the fastener to the required value using a calibrated torque wrench. Record and report the actual torque value. Place the assembled plates within the test fixture, ensuring the cylindrical supports extend through the peripheral holes in each of the plates.

11.6.2 *Procedure B*—Place the composite plate under the channel section, and place the fastener pin through the plate such that it extends through the clearance hole and through the hole in the yoke. Install the fastener within the assembly. If



using a torqued fastener, tighten the fastener to the required value using a calibrated torque wrench. Record and report the actual torque value.

11.7 *Preloading*—For Procedure A specimens, apply 125 N [30 lbf] compressive force to the specimen/fixture assembly, in order to ensure all loading surfaces are in contact and to align the platens if necessary. Reduce the compressive force to 45 N [10 lbf], and re-zero and balance all instrumentation.

#### 11.8 *Loading:*

11.8.1 *Procedure A*—Apply compressive force to the specimen/fixture assembly at the specified rate while recording data. The specimen is loaded until a force maximum is reached and force has dropped off about 30 % from the maximum. The first peak force observed on the force versus displacement curve, prior to the first significant (greater than 10 %) drop in applied force, defines the structural failure force (see Fig. 6). Unless specimen rupture is specifically desired, the test is terminated so as to prevent masking of the true failure mode by large-scale hole distortion, in order to provide a more representative failure mode assessment, and to prevent support fixture damage.

11.8.2 *Procedure B*—Apply tensile force to the loading yoke at the specified rate while recording data. The specimen is loaded until a force maximum is reached and force has dropped off about 30 % from the maximum. The first peak force observed on the force versus displacement curve, prior to the first significant (greater than 10 %) drop in applied force, defines the structural failure force (see Fig. 6). Unless specimen rupture is specifically desired, the test is terminated so as to prevent masking of the true failure mode by large-scale hole distortion, in order to provide a more representative failure mode assessment, and to prevent support fixture damage.

11.9 *Data Recording*—Record force versus crosshead displacement continuously, or at frequent regular intervals; for

this test method, a sampling rate of 2 to 3 data recordings per second, and a target minimum of 100 data points per test are recommended. If any initial failures are noted, record the force, displacement, and mode of damage at such points using the failure identification codes shown in Table 3. Record the method used to determine the initial failure (visual, acoustic emission, etc.). If the specimen is to be failed, record the maximum force, the failure force, and the crosshead displacement at, or as near as possible to, the moment of rupture (if specifically requested).

NOTE 7—Other valuable data that can be useful in understanding testing anomalies and gripping or specimen slipping problems include force versus time data.

11.10 *Failure Modes*—Record the mode, area, and location of failure for each specimen. Three-place failure mode descriptors, summarized in Table 3, shall be used. This notation uses the first place to describe failure type, the second to describe failure area, and the last to describe failure location. Commonly observed fastener pull-through failure modes are provided in Fig. 7.

## 12. Validation

12.1 Values for ultimate properties shall not be calculated for any specimen that breaks at some obvious flaw, unless such flaw constitutes a variable being studied. Retests shall be performed for any specimen on which values are not calculated.

12.2 A significant fraction of failures in a sample population occurring away from the hole location shall be cause to re-examine the means of force introduction into the material. Factors considered should include the fixture alignment, gaps between the fixture and specimen, specimen thickness taper, and uneven machining of specimen ends.

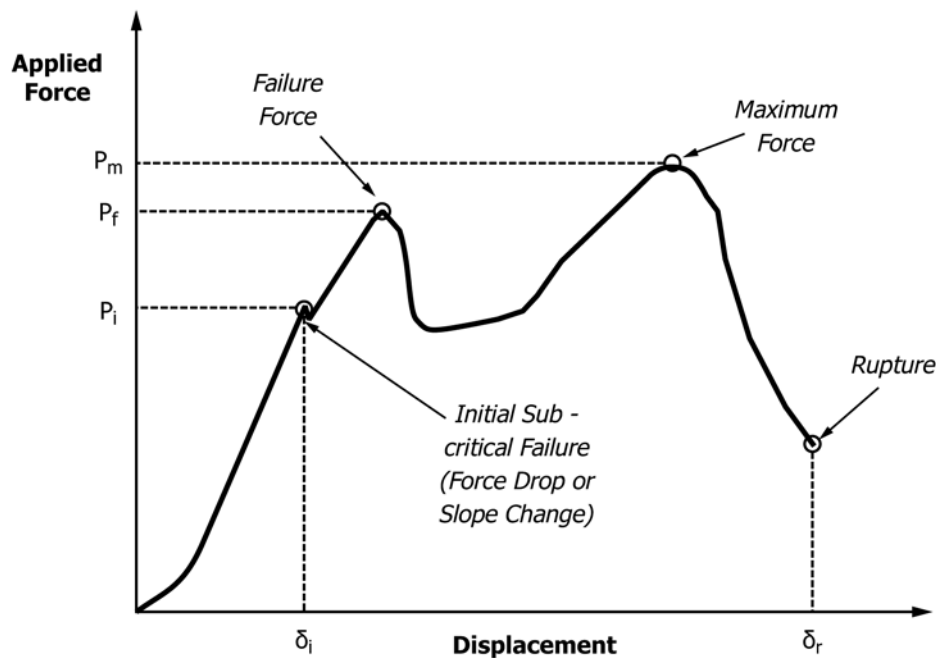


FIG. 6 Typical Force versus Displacement Behavior



TABLE 3 Three-Place Failure Mode Codes

First Character		Second Character		Third Character	
Failure Type	Code	Failure Area	Code	Failure Location	Code
Delamination	D	laminate, Away from hole	A	Bottom	B
Fastener tension	F	fastener Blind head	B	fastener Dished or Deformed	D
Laminate flexure	L	fastener Collar	C	collar Fracture	F
Multimode	M(xyz)	fastener Flange	F	blind Head deformed	H
laminate Pull-through	P	fastener Head	H	Left	L
eXplosive	X	Laminate, at hole	L	Middle	M
Other	O	Multiple areas	M	Right	R
		fastener Shank	S	flange Shear or threads Stripped	S
		fastener Threads	T	Top	T
		Various	V	Various	V
		Unknown	U	Unknown	U

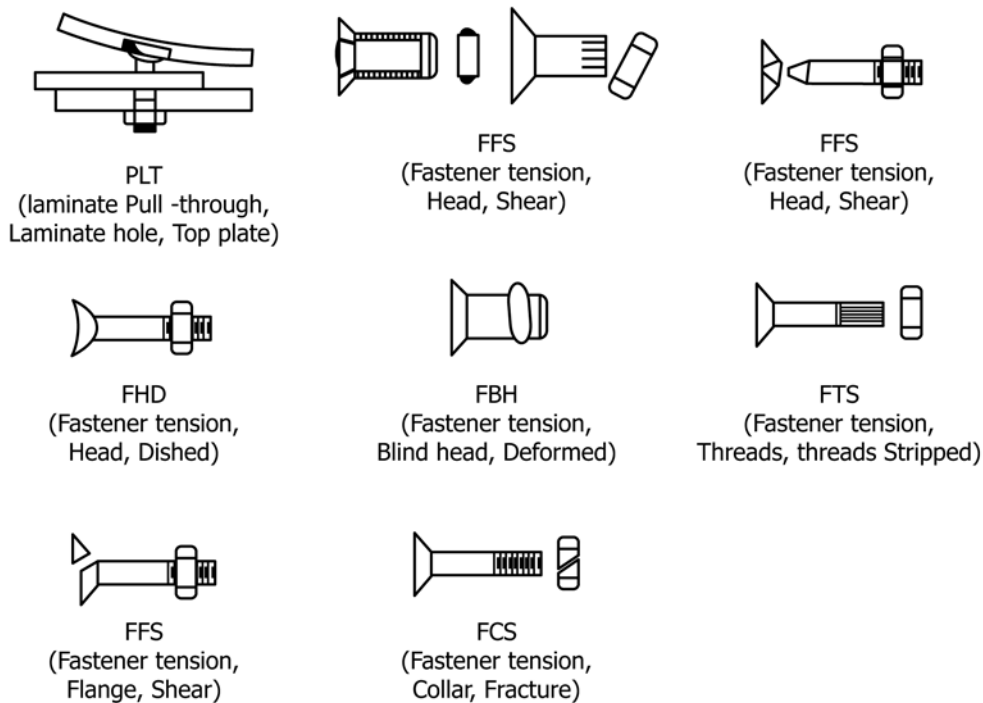


FIG. 7 Common Fastener Pull-Through Failure Modes

### 13. Calculation

13.1 *Ratio of Loading Bar Spacing to Fastener Hole Diameter (Procedure A)*—For specimens tested using Procedure A, calculate the ratio of the loading bar spacing to fastener diameter using measured values with Eq 1, and report the result to three significant digits. Report both the nominal value determined from nominal dimensions and the actual value determined from measured dimensions.

$$C_A/D \text{ ratio} = C_A/D \quad (1)$$

where:

$C_A$  = loading bar spacing (nominally 69 mm [2.750 in.], see Fig. 1), mm [in.], and

$D$  = fastener hole diameter, mm [in.].

13.2 *Ratio of Clearance Hole Diameter to Fastener Hole Diameter (Procedure B)*—For specimens tested using Procedure B, calculate the ratio of the clearance hole diameter to fastener diameter using measured values with Eq 2, and report

the result to three significant digits. Report both the nominal value determined from nominal dimensions and the actual value determined from measured dimensions.

$$C_B/D \text{ ratio} = C_B/D \quad (2)$$

where:

$C_B$  = clearance hole diameter (see Fig. 2), mm [in.], and  
 $D$  = fastener hole diameter, mm [in.].

13.3 *Fastener Hole Diameter to Thickness Ratio*—Calculate the actual fastener hole diameter to thickness ratio, as shown in Eq 3. Report both the nominal ratio calculated using the nominal values and the actual ratio calculated with measured dimensions.

$$D/h \text{ ratio} = \frac{D}{h} \quad (3)$$



where:

$h$  = specimen thickness near hole (nominal or actual, as specified), mm [in.].

**13.4 Countersink Depth to Thickness Ratio**—If a countersunk (flush) fastener is installed in the hole(s), calculate the actual countersink depth to thickness ratio, as shown in Eq 4. Report both the nominal ratio calculated using nominal values and the actual ratio calculated with measured dimensions.

$$d_{csk}/h \text{ ratio} = \frac{d_{csk}}{h} \quad (4)$$

where:

$d_{csk}$  = fastener countersink depth, mm [in.].

**13.5 Force-Displacement Behavior**—Plot and examine the force-displacement data to determine if there is any significant compliance change (change in slope of the force-displacement curve, sometimes referred to as a transition region) prior to achieving the failure force. A significant compliance change is one that exhibits a 10 % or greater change in slope. An example of a transition region is shown in Test Method D3410/D3410M. Determine the slope of the force-displacement curve above and below the transition point using chord values over linear regions of the curve. Intersect the linear slopes to find the transition point. Report the force and displacement at such points along with the displacement values used to determine the chord slopes. Report the force and displacement at such points.

**13.6 Statistics**—For each series of tests calculate the average value, standard deviation, and coefficient of variation (in percent) for the initial subcritical failure force, initial subcritical failure displacement, pull-through failure force, maximum pull-through force, and displacement at rupture.

$$\bar{x} = \left( \sum_{i=1}^n x_i \right) / n \quad (5)$$

$$S_{n-1} = \sqrt{\left( \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2 - n\bar{x}^2 \right) / (n-1)} \quad (6)$$

$$CV = 100 \times S_{n-1} / \bar{x} \quad (7)$$

where:

$\bar{x}$  = sample mean (average),  
 $S_{n-1}$  = sample standard deviation,  
 $CV$  = sample coefficient of variation, %,  
 $n$  = number of specimens, and  
 $x_i$  = measured or derived property.

## 14. Report

**14.1** Report the following information, or references pointing to other documentation containing this information, to the maximum extent applicable (reporting of items beyond the control of a given testing laboratory, such as might occur with material details or panel fabrication parameters, shall be the responsibility of the requestor):

NOTE 8—Guides E1309 and E1434 contain data reporting recommendations for composite materials and composite materials mechanical testing.

**14.1.1** The revision level or date of issue of this test method.

**14.1.2** The procedure used (A or B).

**14.1.3** The date(s) and location(s) of the test.

**14.1.4** The name(s) of the test operator(s).

**14.1.5** Any variations to this test method, anomalies noticed during testing, or equipment problems occurring during testing.

**14.1.6** Identification of all the materials constituent to the specimen tested, including for each: material specification, material type, manufacturer's material designation, manufacturer's batch or lot number, source (if not from manufacturer), date of certification, expiration of certification, filament diameter, tow or yarn filament count and twist, sizing, form or weave, fiber areal weight, matrix type, matrix content and volatiles content.

**14.1.7** Description of the fabrication steps used to prepare the parent laminate including: fabrication start date, fabrication end date, process specification, cure cycle, consolidation method, and a description of the equipment used.

**14.1.8** Ply orientation and stacking sequence of the laminate, relative to the reference coordination system.

**14.1.9** If requested, report density, volume percent reinforcement, and void content test methods, specimen sampling method and geometries, test parameters and test results.

**14.1.10** Method of preparing the test specimen, including specimen labeling scheme and method, specimen geometry, sampling method, and specimen cutting method.

**14.1.11** Fastener type and material, location of fastener head (bag side or tool side, if appropriate), washer type and material (if appropriate), number of washers (if appropriate), washer location (if appropriate), fastener diameter, fastener head diameter, fastener installation torque (if appropriate), lubricant (if appropriate), hole clearance, countersink angle and depth (if appropriate), and grommet type (if appropriate).

**14.1.12** Fastener and specimen cleaning method.

**14.1.13** Calibration dates and methods for all measurements and test equipment.

**14.1.14** Type of test machine, grips, jaws, grip pressure, alignment results, and data acquisition sampling rate and equipment type.

**14.1.15** Dimensions of each test specimen (length, width and thickness).

**14.1.16** Weight of specimen.

**14.1.17** Actual and nominal values of specimen hole diameter, specimen fastener hole diameter to thickness ratio, and specimen countersink depth to thickness ratio (if appropriate).

**14.1.18** Description of support fixture configuration.

**14.1.19** For Procedure A, actual and nominal loading bar spacing  $C_A$ , and actual and nominal ratios of loading bar spacing to fastener diameter.

**14.1.20** For Procedure B, test fixture plate thickness, actual and nominal clearance hole diameters  $C_B$ , and actual and nominal ratios of clearance hole diameter to fastener diameter.

**14.1.21** Conditioning parameters, results and sequence (conditioning prior to fastener installation, or vice versa).

**14.1.22** Relative humidity and temperature of the testing laboratory.

**14.1.23** Environment of the test machine environmental chamber (if used) and soak time at test environment.



14.1.24 Number of specimens tested.

14.1.25 Speed of testing.

14.1.26 Individual values of initial sub-critical failure force,  $P_i$ , and average value, standard deviation, and coefficient of variation (in percent) for the population.

14.1.27 Individual values of initial sub-critical failure displacement,  $\delta_i$ , and average value, standard deviation, and coefficient of variation (in percent) for the population.

14.1.28 Individual values of pull-through failure force,  $P_f$ , and average value, standard deviation, and coefficient of variation (in percent) for the population.

14.1.29 Individual values of maximum pull-through force,  $P_m$ , and average value, standard deviation, and coefficient of variation (in percent) for the population.

14.1.30 If specifically requested, individual values of displacement at rupture,  $\delta_r$ , and average value, standard deviation, and coefficient of variation (in percent) for the population.

14.1.31 Force versus crosshead displacement data for each specimen so evaluated, along with values used to determine transition points.

14.1.32 Failure mode and location of failure for each specimen.

14.1.33 Method used to determine initial failure.

## 15. Precision and Bias

15.1 *Precision*—The data required for the development of a precision statement are not available for this test method.

15.2 *Bias*—Bias cannot be determined for this test method as no acceptable reference standard exists.

## 16. Keywords

16.1 bolted joints; composite materials; fastener; fastener pull-through; out-of-plane loading

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