



Standard Test Method for Accelerated Evaluation of Wood Preservatives for Marine Services by Means of Small Size Specimens¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D 2481; 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 (ε) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

This standard has been approved for use by agencies of the Department of Defense.

1. Scope

1.1 This test method determines the relative effectiveness of wood preservatives in small wood specimens exposed to a natural marine environment. It is not within the scope of this procedure to determine the retention or duration of protection for commercial size piles and timbers.

1.2 The requirements for preparing the material for testing and the test procedures appear in the following order:

	Section
Summary of Test Method	3
Test Specimens	5
Pretreatment Handling	6
Treatment Procedure	7
Post-Treatment Handling	8
Assembly of Test Specimens	9
Exposure	10
Inspection	11
Evaluation of Results	12
Reports	13

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

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:

- D 390 Specification for Coal-Tar Creosote for the Preservative Treatment of Piles, Poles, and Timbers for Marine, Land, and Fresh Water Use²
- D 1165 Nomenclature of Domestic Hardwoods and Softwoods²
- D 2665 Specification for Poly(Vinyl Chloride) (PVC) Plas-

tic Drain, Waste, and Vent Pipe and Fittings³

3. Summary of Test Method

3.1 Small panels or blocks of wood are impregnated with an appropriate series of retentions of a preservative and are prepared for exposure, according to specified procedures. They are then exposed by total immersion in a natural marine environment. An index of physical condition determined during periodic inspection is used to measure the effectiveness of preservative treatment.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 This test method is useful in determining the relative efficacy between various treatments and naturally occurring wood-destroying agents. It is an initial means of estimating the tolerance limits of the biologically destructive agents or the threshold values of the chemical preservative, or both.

4.2 This test method is not intended to provide quantifiable reproducible values. It is a qualitative method designed to provide a reproducible means of establishing relative efficacy between experimental contract levels.

5. Test Specimens

5.1 *Selection of Wood*—Use sapwood of southern or Ponderosa pine or Douglas-fir for standard comparative tests. Use boards free from knots or excessive resins, and showing no visible evidence of infection by mold, stain, or decay fungi. Drill mounting holes before treatment.

5.2 Selection of Size:

5.2.1 *A Panels*—6 by 38 by 152 mm, vertical grain with longitudinal grain direction in the 152 mm dimension.

5.2.2 *B Panels*—19 by 76 by 460 mm.

5.2.3 *C Blocks*—19 by 19 by 19 mm, milled as accurately as possible. If necessary (for example, for convenience in handling) blocks may be drilled through the center of a tangential face with a 3-mm drill. The volume of the blocks without the

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² *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 04.10.

³ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 08.04.

hole should be approximately 6.9 mL and the blocks with the hole approximately 6.8 mL.

5.2.4 Sample size shall remain constant within a given series of tests.

6. Pretreatment Handling

6.1 *Initial Conditioning and Initial Weights*—Condition the specimens for treatment by bringing them to moisture equilibrium under 15 % oven-dry basis in a constant-temperature room, in an appropriate dry storage room, or by kiln drying.

6.2 *Weighing*—Specimens of uniform density as determined by their original weight facilitate uniform treatments within groups. Before impregnation, number and weigh them to the nearest 0.01 g for A panels, and 1.0 g for B panels. This weight is referred to as the initial or untreated weight of the specimen (T_1). Segregate specimens selected into treatment groups of approximate equal density as determined by weight.

NOTE 1—Coding the different weights as T_1 , T_2 , and T_3 avoids confusion and simplifies recording. The suggested system of T (tare) designation is as follows, with all weights recorded in grams:

T_1 = initial weight of the test specimen before impregnation,
 T_2 = weight of the test specimen immediately after impregnation and wiping (equals T_1 plus grams of treating solution absorbed), and
 T_3 = weight of the test specimen just before installation at the location site.

6.3 *Identification*—Identify each piece with die-stamped poly(vinyl chloride) or heavy polypropylene tags.

7. Treatment Procedure

7.1 *Treatment*—Apply preservatives by a full-cell or empty-cell process as retention warrants. Avoid solvent dilution of oil-type preservatives.

7.2 *Number of Specimens to be Treated:*

7.2.1 *Panels*—Treat sufficient panels to permit selection after treatment of at least five panels having preservation retentions closely approximating the desired retention level desired. If analysis of variance of attack gradings is desired, at least 20 replicates will be required. The retention in the selected panels shall have a coefficient of variation not greater than 10 %.

7.2.2 *Blocks*—Treat sufficient blocks to permit the selection of N replicate sets of blocks of approximate uniform retention for each preservative at each retention level. The N represents the number of planned removal periods.

7.3 *Treating Reference Specimens*—Treat to obtain a minimum of four panels or blocks at each retention of 128 and 256 kg/m³. Treatment shall be made using Marine Grade creosote conforming to Table 2 of Specification D 390 for coal-tar creosote having a minimum specific gravity of 1.08. Use creosote or creosote solutions undiluted. Install such reference specimens on a random basis throughout the exposure rack with each installation of treated specimens.

7.4 *Untreated Control Specimens*—Randomly install a minimum of four untreated control panels or blocks throughout the exposure rack with each installation of treated panels or blocks. It is desirable to replace destroyed untreated control specimens to verify continued marine borer activity.

7.5 *Graded Retentions of Preservatives*—Test each preservative in a geometric series of not less than three and

preferably in five graded retentions. The retention nearest the expected effective retention should be at or near the middle of the series. When little or nothing is known regarding the effectiveness of the preservative, wider ranges in retention should be used.

7.6 *Concentration of Treating Solutions*—Make up the aqueous treating solutions for tests in appropriate gradient concentrations with a view to leaving in the panels or blocks after treatment a predetermined range of retentions running from below to above an anticipated effective (protective) retention.

7.7 *Weight After Treatment*—Determine the amount of preservative absorbed by weighing the panels or blocks individually immediately after treatment. The code designation for after-treatment weight shall be T_1 (Note 1). In all treatments with creosote or petroleum solutions, remove each specimen individually from the treating chamber, wipe lightly to remove surface preservative or preservative solution, and weigh promptly to the nearest 0.01 g for A panels and 1.0 g for B panels to determine T_2 . Follow the same procedure with waterborne preservatives.

7.8 *Calculation of Retention*—Calculate the retention of preservative or preservative solution as follows:

$$\text{kg/m}^3 = 1000 \text{ GC/V} \quad (1)$$

where:

G = grams of treating solution absorbed by the specimens. Use G_2 or G_3 , depending on how retention was determined (T_2 or T_3 weights),

G_2 = $(T_2 - T_1)$ = grams of preservative or preservative solution absorbed by the specimen (initial weight of specimen, subtracted from the initial weight plus the amount absorbed),

G_3 = $(T_3 - T_1)$ = grams of preservative remaining in the specimen at the time of installation,

C = grams of preservative in 100 g of treating solution, and

V = volume of specimen, mL.

8. Post-Treatment Handling

8.1 *Treatment with Water Solutions*—Dry the specimens treated with waterborne preservatives by air seasoning, kiln drying, or a combination of both; upon final weighing after treatment, the specimens may be stacked so that air can circulate freely between them until their moisture content is less than 30 %; or the specimens may be dried in an oven or kiln at a temperature not to exceed 60°C until their moisture content is less than 30 %. Some preservatives may require other types of conditioning than those specified. Record fully the method of post-treatment handling.

8.2 *Treatment with Oil-Type Preservatives*—Specimens treated with undiluted preservatives, for example, creosote or creosote-coal tar solution using any empty-cell process, shall be wrapped as described in 6.2 within 8 h after the T_2 weighing. Wrap the specimens individually in aluminum foil (which may be protected by an outer wrapper) or polyethylene film. Store preferably under cover in a cool location until shipment to the exposure site for installation. Record observations of preservative bleeding.

8.3 *Weighing Before Installation*—With the exception of specimens treated with a water solution of a preservative, it is desirable to weigh the specimens to the nearest 0.01 g for A panels, and 1.0 g for B panels prior to installation.

9. Assembly of Test Specimens

9.1 Fasten A and B panels to a frame of noncorrosive metal or fiberglass-reinforced polyester or PVC pipe and fittings (1120, Schedule 40, Specification D 2665). Fasten the panel including the identification tag (6.1) to the frame with rigid poly(vinyl chloride), stainless steel, nylon, or Monel bolts. Minimum spacing shall be 38 mm between panels. The frames should be secured by either braided nylon or polypropylene rope.

9.2 String C blocks on nylon-covered, braided stainless steel wire or material of equal serviceability, and attach to a suitable frame of permanent construction for complete submersion. Each line shall contain one of the replicate sets of blocks for each retention level of each preservative. Separate blocks within the set by 6 mm plastic or ceramic beads; and separate sets by 12 mm beads. Space lines approximately 150 mm apart in the rack.

9.3 The assemblies should be of suitable weight to maintain complete immersion of the entire assembly. Suitable means should be provided to facilitate easy removal of the entire assembly from the water for periodic inspection.

9.4 Prior to water immersion, plot the location of each specimen within an assembly for future reference in the event of loss or obliterated number on the panels. Suspend assemblies in water by means of nylon or dacron-nylon cordage of sufficient diameter to adequately support the assembly with 100 % safety factor.

10. Exposure

10.1 *Location*—Expose in a warm water location where the marine borer attack rate is known to be high. Choose a location having some protection from storm damage. Using exposure sites at more than one harbor is recommended. Verify activity by both mollusks and crustacea by simultaneous immersion of untreated specimens.

10.2 *Time Lapse Between Treatment and Installation*—Install the specimen in the test site location as soon as possible after treatment, consistent with the requirements outlined in Section 9. The lapse of time between treatment and installation shall not exceed three months.

10.3 *Placement*—Randomize the location of test specimens, as well as the treated reference and untreated specimens. Expose all assemblies so that the test specimens are continuously submerged below the low tide level.

11. Inspection

11.1 *Frequency of Inspection:*

11.1.1 *Panels*—A panels normally should be inspected quarterly. When present, fouling should be removed by scraping at each inspection. B panels should be inspected on an annual or semiannual basis. Severe surface fouling (barnacles, slime, moss, etc.) may interfere with the rapid progress of the test. In test installations showing such fouling, it is desirable to

remove all test groups at periodic intervals for removal of such surface fouling. The interval between scraping will be dependent on the rate and amount of fouling at the test site. Keep records on frequency of scraping. Inspect specimens for evidence of attack immediately following removal of fouling. Return specimens to the water as quickly as possible.

11.1.2 *Blocks*—Remove each line after its predesignated exposure time; for example, 6, 12, 18, 24, and 36 months. Clean blocks of all surface fouling and grade according to 11.2. Do not return such inspected and graded lines to the water for further exposure.

11.2 *Grading System*—Use the following grading system:

Rating	Description
10	No more than trace attack
9	Light attack
7	Moderate attack
4	Heavy attack
0	Destroyed by attack

12. Evaluation of Results

12.1 *Termination of Test*—The general pattern of preservative performance for a group and its relationship to the creosote controls may be established prior to complete destruction when the calculated average index of condition is 7.0 or less.

Nominal Retention G_2 or G_3 , kg/m ³	Number of Specimens in Group	Rating, Y	Number of Specimens in Each Grade, n	Weighted Grades, nY
128	20	10	1	10
		9	2	18
		7	6	42
		4	8	32
		0	8	0
			20	102

$$I = \sum nY / \sum n = 102/20 = 5.1 \tag{2}$$

I = average index of condition for the group,
n = number of specimens in each grade, and
Y = rating.

Do not include specimens lost through accidental causes in calculations.

13. Reports

13.1 Include the following testing information and data in the reports:

13.1.1 Name and complete description of preservative chemical and its carrier sufficient to identify it fully.

13.1.2 Calculated retention of preservative chemical in each specimen.

13.1.3 Species of wood according to Nomenclature D 1165.

13.1.4 Treatment procedure employed.

13.1.5 Post-treatment handling.

13.1.6 Exact location of marine exposure. Identification of marine borers and incidence of attack on controls and test specimens.

13.1.7 Date of installation.

13.1.8 Frequency of inspection and removal of fouling.

13.1.9 Average index of condition of test specimens and reference specimens at each inspection.

13.1.10 Deviations, if any, from standard procedure.

14. Precision and Bias

14.1 This test method is dependent upon the physiological action of living organisms and care should be taken to avoid inferring that the results are quantitatively repeatable or reproducible. The relative efficacy on performance of the individual experimental levels should be obtainable but repeatability and

reproducibility as it relates to some absolute relationship between treatments should not be anticipated.

15. Keywords

15.1 evaluation; marine borer

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