
**Self adhesive tapes — Measurement of
breaking strength and elongation at break**

*Rubans auto-adhésifs — Mesurage de la résistance à la rupture et de
l'allongement à la rupture*

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Foreword

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The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

ISO 29864 was prepared by the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) (as EN 14410) and was adopted, under a special "fast-track procedure", by the ISO Technical Management Board (TMB), in parallel with its approval by the ISO member bodies.

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Foreword

This document (EN 14410:2003) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 253 "Self adhesive tapes", the secretariat of which is held by AFNOR.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by September 2003, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by September 2003.

This document supersedes EN 1940:1996 and EN 1941:1996.

This European standard has been revised in conjunction with AFERA (Association of European self Adhesive tapes Manufacturers) in Europe and PSTC (Pressure Sensitive Tape Council) in USA with the purpose to produce a standard which will be acceptable in due course by ISO.

According to the CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations, the national standards organizations of the following countries are bound to implement this European Standard: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

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Introduction

The method specified in this European Standard combines the determination of breaking strength and elongation at break into one method in place of the two separate methods originally published, EN 1940 and EN 1941. The actual test method for both is identical, only the interpretation of the results was different.

Method A: Self adhesive tapes – Measurement of breaking strength and elongation at break of tapes other than filament tapes.

Method B: Self adhesive tapes – Measurement of breaking strength of filament reinforced tapes.

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1 Scope

This European Standard specifies methods to measure the breaking strength and elongation at break of a self adhesive tape when it is subjected to a tensile force sufficient to cause it to break.

The breaking strength of adhesive tape is of value as an indication of its uniformity and quality, and its ability to withstand stresses during application and use.

The elongation at break of the adhesive tape is of value as an indication of its uniformity and quality as well as a rough indication of its ability to conform to curved and irregular surfaces. It is usually determined at the same time as the breaking strength.

This test method describes a procedure for testing 12 mm or 24 mm wide samples cut from supplied rolls of self adhesive tapes. Alternatively rolls of self adhesive tape up to 50 mm wide may be directly tested in their original width. In these circumstances the practical breaking strength and elongation will be typical of the manufacturer's cut edges. When newly cut sample pieces are tested, because of the better cutting of the edges, the results can be higher than would be found on commercial tape.

2 Terms and definitions

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

2.1

breaking strength

ability to resist breaking when subject to load under prescribed conditions

2.2

elongation at break

increase in length of the adhesive tape at the time of breaking as a percentage of the original length

3 Significance and use

These methods provide a means of assessing the uniformity of breaking strength and elongation at break of a given type of pressure sensitive tape and may be used to compare one product with another.

The test method may be used to determine particular backing materials or tape widths appropriate to a desired end use.

When relative strength is of interest, the testing should be on tape in the width received to avoid discrepancies as described above.

NOTE 1 Comparison of tapes by different procedures should be avoided because test parameters such as test piece dimension or jaw speed determine the result. Different levels will produce different results for the same test tape. It is usual to find breaking strength increasing significantly with increasing jaw speed.

NOTE 2 Elongation measurements become difficult to perform on stretchy materials (greater than 200 % elongation at break) when the ratio of test piece length to width is small (approaching 2). The results show high variability and do not allow for practical use of this information except when one wishes to demonstrate large differences between materials.

4 Principle

The method consists of holding the adhesive tape vertically by the two clamps of a tensile testing machine. A tensile test is carried out until the adhesive tape breaks.

Method A: A strip of tape is mounted between two clamps aligned in a straight flat plane and a force is applied at a specified rate until the tape breaks.

Method B: A strip of filament reinforced tape is applied to two drums aligned in a flat plane and a force is applied at a specified rate until the tape breaks.

5 Apparatus

5.1 Tensile testing machine

A constant rate of extension (CRE) tension tester shall be used. The tester shall have two clamps with centres in the same plane, parallel with the direction of the motion on the stressing clamp and so aligned that they will hold the specimen wholly in the same plane, a means of moving the stressing clamp at a uniform rate of $5 \text{ mm/s} \pm 0,2 \text{ mm/s}$ and a device for recording load and clamp displacement. The instrument shall be calibrated such that a maximum error of 2 % is allowed on the reading.

5.2 Clamps

Preferably of the pneumatic action type. Clamp faces should be at least 50 mm wide and 38 mm deep. The faces should have a light cross-hatched serration to minimise the risk of slippage.

NOTE 1 Plastic materials are reduced in width and thickness as they stretch. This causes them to draw down out of the clamps. Pneumatic clamps minimise this effect. It can be further reduced by the appropriate choice of surface on the clamps. The greatest improvement, both with respect to the above mentioned shrinkage problem and simple slippage, may be found from the use of urethane film which can be obtained as a self adhesive tape approximately 0,5 mm thick. This material has a very high coefficient of friction, is somewhat malleable and is easily replaced. Alternative materials are coated abrasives, rubber (or other synthetic types) or other tapes.

NOTE 2 The use of clamps for testing reinforced tapes is discouraged because the strength of reinforced tapes requires excessive clamping pressure which can cause crushing of the reinforcing filaments. When this occurs, the tape usually breaks at the jaw edge which can result in lower breaking values. Hence the use of cylinders described in method B and in 5.3 below is recommended for reinforced tapes.

5.3 Cylinders

Used in place of clamps in method B for reinforced tapes. Each of the two cylinders shall be approximately 100 mm in diameter and approximately 38 mm wide held in the position ordinarily occupied by the clamps so that the tape, when applied to the cylinders and extended between them falls in the line of stress otherwise occupied by the test piece when clamps are used. See Figure 1.

5.4 Scale

A scale approximately 22 mm in length divided into 2 mm increments is attached to the surface of each cylinder. The zero point shall be at the point of tangency of the tape with the cylinder during the test and the scale shall increase upwards on the lower cylinder and downwards on the upper cylinder.

NOTE These scales will be used to observe and measure the tape slippage during the determination of breaking strength of reinforced filament tapes.

5.5 Cutting tool

An appropriate test piece cutter shall hold two single edge razor blades in parallel planes a precise distance apart, to form a cutter of exact specimen width; two cutters, 12 mm and 24 mm cutting width, shall be available or appropriate alternates which will not cause edge damage. The precision on the razor blade separation shall be the nominal width $\pm 0,10 \text{ mm}$.

5.6 When intending to characterise the material from which the tape is made, the test should be performed on a specimen cut from within the sample material boundaries using a sharp razor blade cutter as defined in 5.5.

NOTE Some of the traditional tools for test piece preparation should be avoided when the backing is comprised of thin plastic sheeting. These include chopping dies and sample cutters operating on a shearing principle. The reason for this restraint is that edges sufficiently ragged and damaged resulting from shearing or chopping cause tearing to occur before the true tensile strength level is reached. Tapes with fibrous backings may be cut to satisfactory test pieces with these tools.

6 Test sample and test pieces

6.1 Condition the sample rolls of tape in the standard conditions of $23\text{ °C} \pm 1\text{ °C}$ and $50\% \pm 5\%$ relative humidity (RH) Test at these conditions unless otherwise specified. If these tolerances cannot be maintained, the closest possible tolerances shall be used and these revised tolerances quoted in the report.

6.2 Discard at least three but no more than six outer wraps of tape from the sample roll before taking the test pieces for testing

6.3 Take from each roll 5 test pieces. For method A, each test piece shall be 200 mm long and normally the same width as the adhesive tape. For test pieces used with method B, each test piece shall be 700 mm long. For test pieces used with method A, the ends that will be in the clamps may be covered with a layer of paper or be folded back on themselves (in this case the test piece would need to be longer).

The covering shall be wrinkle free so that uniform pressure is exerted by the clamps and leave the entire area exposed between the clamps uncovered.

For method B, the reinforced tape test piece requires no further preparation other than to have the appropriate dimensions and to ensure that the adhesive is not contaminated so that it will adhere to the cylinders.

6.4 Unless the roll is to be tested as supplied, a test piece 12 mm or 24 mm wide shall be cut longitudinally from the roll. Test pieces will not normally be narrower than 3 mm.

7 Procedure

7.1 The test shall be carried out at the standard conditions of $23\text{ °C} \pm 1\text{ °C}$ and $50\% \pm 5\%$ RH.

7.2 Remove the test pieces radially from the roll at an approximate speed of 300 mm/s.

NOTE When testing easily extensible self adhesive tapes such as those based on plasticised PVC, PE, etc. it is recommended that the sample pieces be further conditioned for 2 h to remove strain and distortion due to unrolling.

7.3 Method A for non-filament tapes

Set the clamps 100 mm apart. Clamp the test piece firmly so that the longitudinal axis is vertical and in line with the direction of the applied force. Apply no more tension the test piece than is necessary to remove slack.

Start the machine into motion at 5 mm/s and check that the clamps move in the same plane and parallel to the applied force.

Reject all test pieces which break within 5 mm of the clamps and carry out sufficient further tests to obtain 5 test pieces which break in the correct manner.

Note the final load at the break and the distance between the clamps at break. (This may be reported directly by the instrument).

7.4 Method B for filament tapes

7.4.1 Set the cylinders 150 mm apart so that at the start of the test 250 mm of tape will extend between and without contact with the cylinders.