

Test Procedures

Blowout of Gasket Products (No ASTM Designation)

Garlock developed the equipment and test procedure used for testing the blowout resistance of gaskets at varying pressures and temperatures.

This test method and procedure enable us to compare the blowout resistance of all types of non-metallic gasketing products. The test fluid is nitrogen gas. Internal pressures can be varied from atmospheric to approximately 5,000 psig (345 bar). The flanges and gaskets can be exposed to temperatures up to 1,000°F (540°C).

Garlock blowout tests are primarily used to compare various products, and do not represent results that can be expected under actual field conditions. The experience gained over many years in blowout testing provides part of the technical backup of our data on longer term P (psig or bar) x T (°F or °C) values.

Compressibility and Recovery of Gasket Material

ASTM Designation: F36

This method covers determination of the short-time compressibility and recovery at room temperature of sheet gasket materials.

This test method is not intended as a test for compressibility under prolonged stress applications, generally referred to as "creep", or for recovery following such prolonged stress applications, the inverse of which is generally referred to as "compression set".

Some initial compressibility is essential for proper installation of a gasket and is required to compensate for any flange irregularities such as minor flaws or nicks, non-parallelism, corrosion and variations in groove depth. Voids must be filled to obtain proper seating of the gasket or premature failure will occur.

In addition, good recovery upon release of load is indicative of torque retention of a gasketed joint.

Compressibility and recovery as defined by ASTM are two worthwhile physical property criteria for supplier and purchaser to agree upon as routine tests.

Creep Relaxation of Gasket Material ASTM Designation: F38 Method B

Measured by means of a calibrated bolt with dial indicator, ASTM F38 provides a means for measuring the amount of creep relaxation of a gasket material at a stated time after a compressive stress has been applied. There is no fluid involved.

This method is designed to compare related products under controlled conditions in regard to their ability to maintain a given compressive stress as a function of time. A portion of the torque loss on the bolted flange is a result of creep relaxation. Creep relaxation is defined by ASTM as: "A transient stress-strain condition in which the strain increases concurrently with the decay of stress." The result of creep relaxation is loss of thickness of a gasket, which causes bolt torque loss, resulting in leakage.

Torque loss also can be caused by elongation of bolts, flange distortion and vibration. Therefore, results obtained in lab conditions should be correlated with field results.

Also see Torque Retention Test for further information.

Fluid Resistance of Gasket Materials ASTM Designation: F146

These methods provide a standardized procedure for measuring the effect of immersion on physical properties of non-metallic gasketing materials in specified fluids under defined conditions of time and temperature. The types of materials covered are those included in the first numeral described in Classification F104. They are not applicable to the testing of vulcanized rubber, a method described in Test Method D471.

The test fluids and conditions outlined were selected as typical for the purposes of comparing different materials, and can be used as a routine test when agreed upon between the supplier and purchaser. The results of immersion tests are not intended to give any direct correlation with service conditions in view of the wide variations in temperature and special uses encountered in gasket applications.