

Gas Permeability

DIN* Designation: 3535

This standard provides a means of measuring leakage of a gas through a gasket. This test is designed to compare the leakage rates of different products.

The fluid used is nitrogen gas at an internal pressure of 580 psig (40 bar) and a gasket loading of 4,640 psi (32 N/mm²). The apparatus is considerably more versatile than that used in ASTM F37. The sample gasket size can be varied; much higher internal pressures can be used. Normally measurements are made at room temperature. However, we have the ability to test at elevated temperatures.

The test measures the effects on leakage rates due to changes in gasket products themselves, in gasket thicknesses, in gasket flange widths, in varying internal pressures, in varying gasket loads, and at varying temperatures.

Helium Mass Spectrometer Test

The ability to control and detect leakage on an ever-decreasing scale is a requirement of industry today. Mass spectrometer technology is used where stringent leak detection is needed, such as in the manufacture of devices used in body implants, nuclear vessels and cathode ray tubes.

The Helium Mass Spectrometer Leak Detector (HeMSLD) develops a high vacuum, which enables it to detect trace amounts of helium that are present. Helium gas is used as a test media in standard flange fixtures on the DIN 3535 gas permeability fixture. The HeMSLD detects the helium leakage through the gasketed joint by way of a hand-held "sniffer" probe or by a hard-piped connection from the DIN 3535 fixture or equipment where other leak detection systems are used. Leakage as low as 1×10^{-9} standard cc He/second can be detected.

Other ASTM Tests

Purchasers may want to consider the use of the following ASTM test methods, depending on their gasketing needs:

- F147 Test Methods for Flexibility of Non-Metallic Gasket Materials
- F607 Test Method for Adhesion of Gasket Materials to Metal Surfaces

Sealability of Gasket Materials

ASTM Designation: F37

Test methods A and B provide a means of evaluating fluid sealing properties at room temperature. Method A is restricted to liquid measurements and Method B (most common) can be used for both gas and liquid measurements.

These test methods are suitable for evaluating the sealing characteristics of a gasket product under differing compression flange loads. Since this physical property is so important to the proper function of a gasket, it should be used as an acceptance test when test methods are agreed upon between supplier and purchaser as follows: fluid, internal pressure of fluid, and flange load on the gasket specimen.

The most commonly used fluids are isooctane and nitrogen gas. Gasket load, fluid and internal pressures can vary according to customer needs. However, our experience indicates a strong preference for nitrogen gas, with a gasket load of 3,000 psi (20.7 N/mm²) at an internal pressure of 30 psig (2 bar).

These precise measurements of leakage rates are designed to compare gasketing products under controlled conditions. The leakage measured comes either through the gasket, or between the gasket and the flange faces, or both. Our experience over many years with thousands of test samples indicates that, in most cases, the leakage measured is a result of leakage through the gasket.

It is not a question of whether or not any fibrous type gasketing product allows leakage through the gasket, but how much leakage, under any set of given conditions of time, temperature and pressure.

Questions? Call

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