

Paint Test Equipment

Testex Tape Data Sheet





Complies with International Standards

ISO DIS 8503-3	ASTM D 4417-C
BS 7079-C5	NACE RP 0287-95



Testex Tape

A unique replica technique and a simple snap gauge makes possible accurate, low-cost blast-surface profile measurements. Testex Tape makes surface replicas easy to obtain and produces average maximum peak-to-valley readings that ensure optimum blasting effectiveness. Replicas can be retained for future needs.

The accuracy of Testex Tape measurements is due to an innovative two-level film that can produce virtually exact replicas of the abrasive blasted surfaces. The film is available in two different thickness grades to cover the most common range of blasted profiles.

Measurements can be taken in internal pipe diameters and grooves, which are locations that are not accessible using conventional stylus devices.

Easy to use, remove the protective paper from the Tape and place firmly on the blasted surface. Apply moderate pressure with the Burnishing Tool over the circular cut-out in the tape. Remove the Tape. The replica is now ready for measurement using the Testex Gauge.

The Testex Gauge is used to measure the Testex Tape replica and determine the average maximum peak-to-valley height of the blasted profile.

Measurements are made by firstly zeroing the gauge on 50µm (2mils). This is to allow for the film backing. Place the replicated area between the anvils and gently lower the moveable anvil onto the film. The reading can now be taken, giving you the average peak-to-valley height of the blasted profile.

Calibration Certificate with traceability to UKAS for the Testex Gauge is an optional extra. The Certificate is supplied in a paper format and is available online through the Calibration Portal (under Browse Categories) on our website. The Calibration Portal will list all your equipment that is calibrated by Paint Test Equipment, showing the renewal dates and allowing Calibration Certificates to be viewed at any time.

The Testex Gauge is supplied in a Foam-Filled Carrying Case with Testex Tape X Coarse, Testex Tape Coarse and Burnishing Tool.

Testex Tape Specifications

Part No	Grade	Range Metric	Range Imperial	Number of Tests	Conformance Cert Part No
R1001	Coarse	20–64µm	0.8–2.5mils	50	NRC02
R1002	X Coarse	40–115µm	1.5–4.5mils	50	NRC02
R1004	Testex Gauge (metric) Includes Testex Coarse and X Coarse				NR001
R2004	Testex Gauge (imperial) Includes Testex Coarse and X Coarse				NR001

Operation

Taking Measurements

Locate a representative site for measurement and select the appropriate grade of Testex Tape (Coarse or X Coarse).

Peel one piece of Testex Tape from the roll. The test area on the tape is the small, square, white plastic film in the centre. The small circular paper should also be removed. Apply the Testex Tape to the surface being measured and rub the burnishing tool over the circular cut-out, using moderate to firm pressure. The circular cut-out will become darker when the surface is replicated. Make sure that the entire circular area has darkened uniformly.

Prepare the Testex Gauge by ensuring the anvils are clean and adjusting the zero point to read Minus 50µm. This zero adjustment will automatically subtract the backing plastic from the readings.

Remove the Testex Tape from the surface and place between the anvils of the Testex Gauge, making sure that the test film is correctly centred. Release the Testex Gauge gently onto the test film. The reading taken will be the average maximum peak-to-valley height of the blasted surface.

If a measurement with either Coarse or X-Coarse grade is between 38 to 64µm (1.5 to 2.5mil) take a second reading with the other grade of Tape and average the reading.

Definitions of Roughness

Micrometer gauge measurements of Testex Tape give Rz results, which is the average maximum peak-to-valley height of the profile. This is the form of measurement most commonly used by the painting and coating industries.

In some applications, Ra results are used, which are the arithmetic average roughness. In most cases Rz has a value approximately 4 times Ra for a given surface.

Sources of Error

Major sources of error in determining the profile of a blasted surface using Testex Tape and the Testex Gauge are:

Variation of profile over the surface being measured. SSPC recommends a minimum of three measurements of profile per 10 square meters (100 square feet).

Presence of particles of dirt on either the replica Testex Tape or the Testex Gauge. Reasonable care should be taken to keep the gauge anvils free of dirt.

Poor rubbing (burnishing) technique, including incomplete compression of the test film.

Shelf Life

The test area on the Testex Tape has no expiry date. The only degeneration is the adhesive on the tape if exposed to extremes of temperature. We would recommend that the tape is used within a 12-month period from date of purchase.

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About us

Paint Test Equipment are manufacturers of a comprehensive range of specialist instruments for the Industrial Coatings and Finishings Industries and have been supplying instruments to customers worldwide for over 25 years.

During this time Paint Test Equipment have established a reputation for manufacturing quality instruments to the highest specification, to meet the demanding requirements of the Industrial Painting Industry.

Recalibration

Paint Test Equipment can service and recalibrate all applicable products that we supply.

We recommend that the equipment is returned on a 12-monthly basis to Paint Test Equipment for service and recalibration.

Calibration Certificates will have traceability to UKAS or BAM. The Certificate is supplied in a paper format and is available online through the Calibration Portal (under Browse Categories) on our website. The Calibration Portal will list all your equipment that is calibrated by Paint Test Equipment, showing the renewal dates and allowing Calibration Certificates to be viewed at any time.

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