

31 Formability (Method A)

31.1 Principle

A test specimen is subjected to radiant heat on its decorative face until the reverse side reaches a predetermined temperature. It is then formed in a jig to a specified radius and angle, and cooled before examining for signs of failure on the bend line.

The test is carried out with specimens cut in the longitudinal and transverse directions of the laminate, with the decorative face on the outside of the bend.

This method is an alternative test method to the test method of Clause 32.

31.2 Apparatus

31.2.1 Radiant heater, consisting of two electrically heated sheathed elements of 1500 W total rating, mounted parallel and in a horizontal plane in a metal lined trough approximately 110 mm wide and 125 mm deep (Inside dimensions), the height of the heating elements above the bottom of the trough being such that, when a specimen is laid across the trough, the specimen is at a distance of $(76 \pm 1,0)$ mm above the heating elements. A windscreen enclosure to surround three sides and the top is advisable.

31.2.2 Variable-output transformer, with a voltage indicator, to control the voltage applied to the heater.

31.2.3 Temperature indicators, (thermal crayons or waxes), with melting points covering the required range of temperatures. Other types of temperature indicator with equal or better precision may also be used (e.g. infra-red thermometers, colour-change indicators).

31.2.4 Stopwatch, or other suitable timer.

31.2.5 Forming apparatus, (see Figure 25), with forming blocks machined from straight-grained wood.

The male forming block shall have a suitable means for attaching it securely to the moving arm of the forming apparatus.

31.2.6 Conditioning chamber, in accordance with EN ISO 291, with a standard atmosphere of (23 ± 2) °C and relative humidity (50 ± 5) %.



