ESD Association Standard Test Method for
the Protection of Electrostatic Discharge
Susceptible Items -

Garments -
Resistive Characterization

Approved April 15, 2018
EOS/ESD Association, Inc.
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FOREWORD

This standard test method\(^1\) (STM) provides test methods for evaluating the electrical resistance of garments that contain surface conductive or dissipative components or materials used in the electronics industry for the control of electrostatic discharge. This document defines procedures for measuring electrical resistance, including a system resistance test for garments that provide a ground path for personnel.

Clothing made from synthetic fibers is a common source of electrostatic charge. Wearing an appropriate static control garment over personal clothing can minimize the effect of this charge. To effectively control electrostatic charges, the static control garment must be grounded.

Three categories of garments are considered in this document.

- **ESD Category 1 garment**: a static control garment may suppress or otherwise affect an electric field from clothing worn underneath the garment without being attached to ground. However, without grounding, a charge may accumulate on conductive or dissipative elements of a garment, if present, resulting in a charged source.

- **ESD Category 2 garment**: a groundable static control garment, when connected to ground, provides a higher level of suppression of the affects of an electric field from clothing worn underneath the garment.

- **ESD Category 3 garment**: a groundable static control garment system provides a ground path for a person that suppresses the electrical field from clothing worn underneath the garment and also bonds the skin of the test subject to an identified ground path. Groundable static control garment systems may also be used in conjunction with a continuous or constant monitoring system in a manner similar to those used in continuous monitoring of wrist straps in an ESD protected area (EPA).

Resistive characterization is only one aspect to consider in evaluating garments for any specific application. To fully characterize a garment, electrical field attenuation, static charge decay, peak voltage, residual voltage and triboelectric charging may need to be considered. Other attributes related to applications and environments, such as cleanroom compatibility, chemical and fire resistance, etc., should be evaluated in the garment selection process but are beyond the scope of this document.

Garments constructed from fabrics made with fibers that are not surface conductive but may have other related properties that impart some level of electrostatic charge dissipation or suppression when connected to ground, are not specifically measured by the methods provided in this STM.

Some garment fabrics and construction may allow for surface voltage accumulation and charge transfer to occur, which may be detrimental to electronic items.


\(^1\) ESD Association Standard Test Method (STM): A definitive procedure for the identification, measurement and evaluation of one or more qualities, characteristics or properties of a material, product, system or process that yields a reproducible test result.
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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0 PURPOSE, SCOPE, AND APPLICATION ................................................................. 1
   1.1 PURPOSE ........................................................................................................... 1
   1.2 SCOPE .............................................................................................................. 1
   1.3 APPLICATION .................................................................................................. 1

2.0 REFERENCED PUBLICATIONS ............................................................................. 2

3.0 DEFINITIONS ........................................................................................................ 2

4.0 PERSONNEL SAFETY ............................................................................................ 2

5.0 EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS ........................................................................... 3
   5.1 TEST EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS ................................................................. 3
      5.1.1 Resistance Measurement Apparatus .............................................................. 3
      5.1.2 Resistance Measurement Electrode(s) .......................................................... 3
      5.1.3 Insulative Support ...................................................................................... 4
      5.1.4 Environment .............................................................................................. 5

6.0 TEST METHODS ..................................................................................................... 6
   6.1 SAMPLE PREPARATION .................................................................................... 6
      6.1.1 Sample Size .............................................................................................. 6
      6.1.2 Sample Sketch .......................................................................................... 6
   6.2 HUMIDITY REQUIREMENTS .......................................................................... 6
      6.2.1 Product Qualification ............................................................................... 6
      6.2.2 Acceptance Testing .................................................................................. 6
      6.2.3 Periodic Verification ................................................................................ 6
   6.3 TEST METHOD – PRODUCT QUALIFICATION ............................................... 6
      6.3.1 Static Control Garment .............................................................................. 7
      6.3.2 Groundable Static Control Garment ........................................................... 8
      6.3.3 Groundable Static Control Garment System .............................................. 10
      6.3.4 Groundable Static Control Garment System in Combination with a Person .... 15
   6.4 TEST METHOD - ACCEPTANCE TESTING ...................................................... 18
   6.5 PERIODIC VERIFICATION TESTING ............................................................... 18
      6.5.1 Resistance Point-to-Point (Rpp) Test Method ............................................. 18
      6.5.2 Hanging Clamp/Electrode Sleeve-to-Sleeve (Alternate Test Method) ......... 20
      6.5.3 Groundable Static Control Garment System In Combination with a Person .... 20
   6.6 COMPLIANCE VERIFICATION TESTING ....................................................... 22

7.0 TEST DATA REPORTING ....................................................................................... 22
ANNEXES
ANNEX A (INFORMATIVE) - Garment Categories and Resistance Values .......................... 23
ANNEX B (INFORMATIVE) - Data Collection Sheet (Example) ........................................ 24
ANNEX C (INFORMATIVE) - Additional Considerations .................................................. 26
ANNEX D (INFORMATIVE) - ANSI/ESD STM2.1-2018 Revision History .......................... 27

TABLES
Table 1: Test Locations and Test Equipment for Product Qualification ............................ 17
Table 2: Garment Categories and Resistance Values ...................................................... 23

FIGURES
Figure 1: Clamp/Electrodes for Hanging Sleeve-to-Sleeve (Alternate Test Method) ........... 5
Figure 2: Cuff Test Fixture for BCP Measurement ........................................................... 5
Figure 3a: Rpp - Sleeve-to-Sleeve Test Method with Insulative Sleeve Inserts ................. 7
Figure 3b: Rpp - Insulative Sleeve Insert Positioned into Sleeve Detail ........................... 8
Figure 3c: Rpp - Panel-to-Panel Test Method on Specimen Support Surface ................ 8
Figure 4: Rpdp - Sleeve to Groundable Point Test Method with Insulative Sleeve Inserts ... 10
Figure 5a: Rpp - BCP to BCP or Cuff-to-Cuff Test Method ........................................... 11
Figure 5b: Rpp - Electrode Inserted into BCP-Detail ..................................................... 11
Figure 5c: Rpp - Garment with conductive cuff or other wrist strap type BCP to garment panel .................................................................................................................................. 12
Figure 6a: Rpdp - BCP to Garment Groundable Point Test Method ............................... 13
Figure 6b: Rpdp - Sleeve to Garment Groundable Point Test Method with Insulative Sleeve Inserts .................................................................................................................. 13
Figure 7: Rpdp - BCP to Garment Groundable Point Test Method with Cuff Test Fixture ... 14
Figure 8a: Test Setup - Groundable Static Control Garment System Resistance (Ohmmeter Test Method) .............................................................. 15
Figure 8b: Test Setup - Groundable Static Control Garment System Resistance (Integrated Tester Test Method) ........................................................................ 16
Figure 9a: Rpdp - Sleeve-to-Sleeve Test Method with Insulative Sleeve Inserts ............... 19
Figure 9b: Rpdp - BCP to BCP or Cuff-to-Cuff Test Method ........................................... 19
Figure 10: Test Setup - Hanging Clamp/Electrode Sleeve-to-Sleeve (Alternate Test Method) 20
Figure 11a: Test Setup - Groundable Static Control Garment System Resistance (Groundable Garment in Combination with a Person – Ohmmeter Test Method) .................. 21
Figure 11b: Test Setup - Groundable Static Control Garment System Resistance (Groundable Garment in Combination with a Person - Integrated Tester Test Method) ........ 22

1.0 PURPOSE, SCOPE, AND APPLICATION

1.1 Purpose

This document provides test methods for evaluating the electrical resistance of static control garments that contain surface conductive or dissipative components or materials.

1.2 Scope

This document applies to outer garments that utilize surface conductive or dissipative components or materials, used for static control applications.

NOTE: The test methods defined in this document are not intended to measure materials with buried conductive layers.

1.3 Application

The test methods defined in this document utilize standard instruments to measure the electrical resistance of static control garments that are constructed with surface conductive or dissipative components or materials.

1.3.1 The resistance point-to-point test method (Figures 3a, 3b, 3c, 4, 5a, 5b, and 5c) tests the electrical resistance between the two sleeves, any two panels, or any two or more electrically interconnected components of the static control garment, including the electrical resistance across the seams and body contact point (BCP) of the garment as applicable.

1.3.1.1 An alternate sleeve-to-sleeve test method is provided in Section 6.5.2. It uses clamp/electrodes to hang the garment during the measurement, as shown in Figure 10.

1.3.2 Static control garments that electrically bond to the test subject and provide a path to ground for the test subject (Category 3) shall be evaluated by all three methods:

- the resistance point-to-point test method (Fig 5a, 5b and 5c);
- the resistance point-to-groundable point test method (Figures 4, 6a, 6b and 7); and
- the system test to determine the resistance from the person, through the garment groundable point of the garment to the groundable point, including the ground cord (Figures 8a and 8b).

1.3.3 The BCP measurement test method is provided in Section 6.3.3.3 for garments so equipped. The cuff test fixture shown in Figure 2 and applied in Figure 7 is required for these measurements. This cuff test fixture is also described in ANSI/ESD S1.1 - Wrist Straps.