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*भारतीय मानक मसौदा*

**रबर गैस्केट — विशिष्टि**

*( आई एस 11149 का पहला पुनरीक्षण )*

**DRAFT Indian Standard**

**RUBBER GASKETS — SPECIFICATION**

*( First Revision of IS 11149)*

ICS 23.040.80, 83.060, 83.140.50

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**Gaskets and Packing Sectional  
Committee, MED 30**

**Last date for receipt of comments  
is 30<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

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**FOREWORD**

*(Adoption clause to be added later)*

The vulcanized rubber gaskets covered by this standard are used in water, steam (low pressure), gas installations, diesel engines, etc.

This standard was first published in 1984. The present revision has been taken up with a view to incorporating the modifications found necessary as a result of experience gained in the use of this standard. Also, in this revision, the standard has been brought into latest style and format of Indian Standards, and references to Indian Standards, wherever applicable have been updated. BIS certification marking clause has been modified to align with the revised *Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 2016*. In this revision, amendment has been incorporated. The following major modifications have been incorporated in this revision of the standard.

- a) Scope has been revised to add foam rubber gaskets;
- b) Acid resistant gaskets (Type V) has been added;
- c) The unit of hardness changed from IRHD to Shore A scale; and
- d) Method of determination of hardness in Shore A scale has been added.

The composition of the Committee, responsible for the formulation of this standard is given at Annex (*To be added later*).

For the purpose of deciding whether a particular requirement of this standard is complied with, the final value, observed or calculated, expressing the result of a test or analysis, shall be rounded off in accordance with IS 2 : 2022 ‘Rules for rounding off numerical values (*second revision*)’. The number of significant places retained in the rounded off value should be the same as that of the specified value in this standard.

**DRAFT Indian Standard**

**RUBBER GASKETS — SPECIFICATION**

*(First Revision of IS 11149)*

**1 SCOPE**

**1.1** This standard specifies different types of rubber gaskets, their characteristics, and applications.

**1.2** The standard is divided in 2 sections as follows:

- a) Section I — Rubber gaskets of five different types for various applications. Each type is divided into a number of classes in different hardness ranges; and
- b) Section II — Foam rubber gaskets of different material for various applications.

**2 REFERENCES**

The standards given below contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this standard. At the time of publication, the editions indicated were valid. All standards are subject to revision, and parties to agreements based on this standard are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent editions of the standards given below:

<i>IS/ISO No.</i>	<i>Title</i>
196 : 1966	Atmospheric conditions for testing ( <i>revised</i> )
IS 2500 (Part 1) : 2000/ ISO 2859-1 : 1999	Sampling procedures for inspection by attributes: Part 1 Sampling schemes indexed by acceptance quality limit (AQL) for lot-by-lot inspection ( <i>third revision</i> )
IS 3400 (Part 1) : 2021/ ISO 37 : 2017	Methods of test for vulcanized rubber: Part 1 Tensile stress-strain properties ( <i>fourth revision</i> )
IS 3400 (Part 4) : 2012/ ISO 188 : 2011	Methods of test for vulcanized rubber: Part 4 Accelerated ageing and heat resistance ( <i>third revision</i> )
IS 3400 (Part 6) : 2018/ ISO 1817 : 2015	Methods of test for vulcanized rubbers: Part 6 Determination of the effect of liquids ( <i>fourth revision</i> )
IS 3400 (Part 10/Sec 1) : 2020/ISO 815-1 : 2014	Methods of test for vulcanized rubbers Part 10 Compression set Section 1 At ambient or elevated temperatures ( <i>second revision</i> )
IS 6713 : 2016/ ISO 2230 : 2002	Rubber products — Guidelines of storage ( <i>second revision</i> )

17796 : 2023	Gasket and packings — Compressed non-asbestos fibre (CNAF) based gasket jointing sheets — Specification
IEC 60529 : 1989	Degrees of protection provided by enclosures (IP Code)

### **3 TERMINOLOGY**

For the purpose of this standard, the following definitions shall apply.

**3.1 Gasket** — Deformable material (or combination of materials) intended to be clamped between flanges to prevent leakage of contained fluid.

## **SECTION I RUBBER GASKETS**

### **4 TYPES AND CLASSES**

**4.1 Types** — Vulcanized rubber gaskets shall be of five types depending upon the service conditions and applications as follows:

<i>Sl No.</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Application</i>
(1)	(2)	(3)
i)	I	General purpose gaskets having superior physical properties
ii)	II	General purpose gaskets having moderately good physical properties
iii)	III	Oil resistant gaskets suitable for lubricating oil and fuels
iv)	IV	Heat and oil resistant gaskets
v)	V	Acid resistant gaskets

**4.2 Classes** — There shall be five classes in type I, three classes each in type II, III and V, and 2 or 3 classes (based on temperature and material) in type IV depending upon their hardness as given Tables 1 to 5.

### **5 REQUIREMENTS**

**5.1 Polymer** — The polymer or blends of polymers shall be as given under each type. However, other polymers as agreed to between purchaser and supplier may be used provided all other test requirements are satisfied. All the constituent of the mix shall be free from foreign matter and grit.

**5.2 Workmanship and Finish** — The gaskets shall be free from all such defects which may be detrimental to performance.

**5.3 Thickness** — The recommended thicknesses of the rubber gaskets shall be as per requirement.

**5.4 Tolerances on Specified Dimensions** — Tolerances on specified dimensions shall be as agreed to between the purchaser and the supplier.

## 6 SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR TYPE I

**6.1** This type refers to gaskets having superior physical properties, and useful at temperatures up to 70 °C, not resistant to oils or solvents. Either natural or synthetic rubber or a blend thereof shall be used in the manufacture of these gaskets. Use of reclaimed rubber or ground vulcanized rubber is not permitted.

**6.2** The gaskets are classified in five classes (A, B, C, D, and E) and their physical properties shall be as given in Table 1.

**Table 1 Physical Properties of Type I Gaskets**  
(Clauses 3.2 and 5.2)

Sl No.	Physical Properties	Class				
		1A	1B	1C	1D	1E
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
i)	Hardness (A), Shore A	41-50	51-60	61-70	71-80	81-90
ii)	Tensile strength, (kg/cm <sup>2</sup> ), <i>Min</i>	200	175	175	140	120
iii)	Ultimate elongation (percent), <i>Min</i>	500	450	400	350	200
iv)	Compression set at 70 °C, <i>Max</i>	20	25	30	35	40

**6.3 Accelerated Ageing** — The maximum variation of hardness after ageing at 70 ± 1 °C for 72 h in accordance with the method prescribed under **11.3** shall not be more than ± 5 Shore A. The tensile strength shall not vary more than +10 percent and ultimate elongation shall not vary more than -15 percent when tested in accordance with the method prescribed under **11.3**.

**6.4 Water Absorption** — The gaskets shall not absorb more than 10 percent water by weight, when tested as prescribed in Annex A. If the gaskets are to be used for food products, the water shall be free from turbidity, odour, or taste at the end of the test.

## 7 SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR TYPE II

**7.1** This type refers to gaskets having moderately good physical properties and not intended for use in stringent working conditions. Either natural or synthetic rubber or a blend thereof may be used in their manufacture. Reclaimed rubber and ground vulcanized rubber may also be used.

**7.2** The gaskets are divided in three classes (2A, 2B, and 2C) and their physical properties shall be as given in Table 2.

**Table 2 Physical Properties of Type II Gaskets**  
(Clauses 3.2 and 5.2)

SI No.	Physical Properties	Class		
		2A	2B	2C
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
i)	Hardness (A), Shore A	51-60	61-70	71-80
ii)	Tensile strength (kg/cm <sup>2</sup> ), <i>Min</i>	85	70	60
iii)	Ultimate elongation (percent), <i>Min</i>	200	250	200
iv)	Compression set at 70 °C, <i>Max</i>	35	35	45

**7.3 Accelerated Ageing** — The maximum variation of hardness after ageing at  $70 \pm 1$  °C for 72 h in accordance with method prescribed in **11.3** shall be more than  $\pm 5$  Shore A . The tensile strength shall not vary by more than +10 percent and ultimate elongation shall not vary more than -35 percent from that of unaged samples.

## 8 SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR TYPE III OIL RESISTANT GASKETS

**8.1** The gaskets shall be suitable for oil and heat resistant applications up to 121 °C temperature. Basic polymer (nitrile or polychloroprene) shall be used in their manufacture.

**8.2** The physical properties of these gaskets shall be as given in Table 3.

**Table 3 Physical Properties of Type III Gaskets**

(Clauses 3.2 and 7.2)

Nitrile rubber (Temperatures upto 121 °C)  
 Polychloroprene (Temperatures upto 90 °C)

SI No.	Physical properties	Class		
		3A (3)	3B (4)	3C (5)
(i)	Hardness (A), Shore A	50 ± 5	60 ± 5	70 ± 5
(ii)	Tensile strength (kg/cm <sup>2</sup> ), <i>Min</i>	100	140	170
(iii)	Elongation at break (percent), <i>Min</i>	300	300	300
(iv)	Compression set (100 °C for 22 h), <i>Max</i>	25	25	25
(v)	Accelerated ageing (100 °C for 70 h)			
		Nitrile	Polychloroprene	
a)	Change in hardness (A)	±10	+15	
b)	Change in tensile strength (percent)	-20	-15	
c)	Change in elongation at break (percent)	-30	-40	
(vi)	Ageing in oil (100 °C for 70 h)			
a)	Change in hardness (A)	±10	±10	
b)	Change in tensile strength (percent)	-20	-30	
c)	Change in elongation at break (percent)	-20	-30	
d)	Change in volume (percent)	±10	-10 to +15	

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(vii)	Ageing in fuel (23 °C for 70 h)		
a)	Change in hardness (A)	±10	-
b)	Change in tensile strength (percent)	-25	-
c)	Change in elongation at break (percent)	-25	-
d)	Change in volume (percent)	-5 to +10	-

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NOTE — Properties of oil and fuel shall be as follows:

1 Oil:

- a) Flashpoint: 171
- b) Density at 15 °C 920 kg/m<sup>3</sup>
- c) Flash point cleveland 171 °C
- d) Kinematic viscosity at 40 °C 29.5 mm<sup>2</sup>/s
- e) Kinematic viscosity at 100 °C 4.3 mm<sup>2</sup>/s
- f) Pourpoint -33 °C

2 Fuel:

- a) Density at 15 °C 882 kg/m<sup>3</sup>
- b) Flash point cleveland 243 °C
- c) Kinematic viscosity at 40 °C 213 mm<sup>2</sup>/s
- d) Kinematic viscosity at 100 °C 19.1 mm<sup>2</sup>/s
- e) Pourpoint -12 °C

**8.3 Accelerated Ageing** — The maximum variation of hardness after ageing at  $100 \pm 2$  °C for 70 h in accordance with method prescribed under **11.3** shall not be more than  $\pm 15$  Shore A. The tensile strength shall not vary by more than +10 percent and elongation by -35 percent from that of unaged sample.

**8.4 Ageing in Oil** — After ageing in applicable oil (*see* NOTE) at  $100 \pm 2$  °C for 72 h, the hardness Shore A shall not vary by more  $\pm 8$  points, the tensile strength shall not vary by more than -35 percent and volume by  ${}_{-8}^{+20}$  percent with respect to actual values recorded before ageing.

NOTE — Additives used in various oils can affect the performance of rubber and hence while selecting the polymer, compatibility with oil under application needs to be established.

**8.5 Ageing in Iso-octane** — After ageing in iso-octane [*see* ‘Liquid A’ in Table A-1 IS 3400 (Part 6)/ISO 1817] at  $70 \pm 2$  °C for 70 h, Shore A shall not vary more than  ${}_{-13}^{+0}$  Shore A, the tensile strength shall not vary by more than +0 to -40 percent and volume shall not vary by more than +12 percent with respect to actual values recorded before ageing.

## **9 SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR TYPE IV**



**9.1** This type refers to gaskets having good to excellent heat and oil resistance properties. Basic polymer such as alkyl acrylate copolymer (ACM) [polyacrylate], FKM (fluorocarbon-based fluoroelastomer), or silicone rubber shall be used in their manufacture.

**9.2** The gaskets are divided into three classes and their physical properties shall be as given in Table 4.

**Table 4A Physical Properties of Type IV Gaskets**  
(Clauses 3.2 and 8)

Polyacrylic (Temperatures upto 150 °C)

SI No.	Physical properties	Class		
		4A	4B	4C
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
i)	Hardness (A), Shore A	50 ± 5	60 ± 5	70 ± 5
ii)	Tensile strength (kg/cm <sup>2</sup> ), <i>Min</i>	70	80	80
iii)	Elongation at break (percent), <i>Min</i>	225	175	150
iv)	Compression set (175 °C for 22 h), <i>Max</i>	60	60	60
v)	Accelerated ageing (150 °C for 70 h)			
a)	Change in hardness (A)		+10	
b)	Change in tensile strength (percent)		-25	
c)	Change in elongation at break (percent)		-30	
vi)	Ageing in oil no.1 (150 °C for 70 h)			
a)	Change in hardness (A)		-8 to 15	
b)	Change in tensile strength (percent)		-20	

- |    |   |          |
|----|---|----------|
| c) | Change in elongation at break (percent) | -30      |
| d) | Change in volume (percent)              | -5 to 10 |

**Table 4B Physical Properties of Type IV Gaskets**  
(Clauses 3.2 and 8)

FKM (fluorocarbon-based fluoroelastomer) (Temperature upto 204 °C)

Sl No.	Physical properties	Class	
		4C	4D
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
i)	Hardness (A), Shore A	70	80
ii)	Tensile strength (kg/cm <sup>2</sup> ), <i>Min</i>	100	100
iii)	Elongation at break (percent), <i>Min</i>	175	150
iv)	Compression set (175 °C for 22 h), <i>Max</i>	35	35
v)	Accelerated ageing (200 °C for 70 h)		
a)	Change in hardness (A)		±10
b)	Change in tensile strength (percent)		-25
c)	Change in elongation at break (percent)		-25
vi)	Ageing in oil no.1 (23 °C for 70 h)		
a)	Change in hardness (A)		±5
b)	Change in tensile strength		-25

	(percent)	
c)	Change in elongation at break (percent)	-20
d)	Change in volume (percent)	0 to 10

**9.3 Accelerated Ageing** — The maximum variation of hardness after ageing at  $100 \pm 2$  °C for 72 h in accordance with method prescribed under **11.3** shall not be more than  $\pm 15$  Shore A. Tensile strength and ultimate elongation shall not vary beyond the value given below:

Tensile strength  $\pm 20$  percent, elongation at break  $_{-25}^{+10}$  percent percent form that of unaged sample.

**9.4 Ageing in Oil** — After ageing in applicable oil (*see* NOTE) at  $100 \pm 2$  °C Shore A for 72 h, the hardness shall not vary by more than  $\pm 8$  percent, the tensile strength shall not vary by more than  $-35$  percent and volume by  $_{-8}^{+20}$  percent with respect to actual values recorded before ageing.

NOTE — Additives used in various oils can affect the performance of rubber and hence while selecting the polymer, compatibility with oil under application needs to be established.

## 10 SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR TYPE V

This type refers to gasket having good to excellent acid resistance. Basic polymer such as EPDM (ethylene propylene diene monomer) shall be used in their manufacture.

The physical properties shall be as given in Table 5.

**Table 5 Physical Properties of Type V Gaskets**  
(Clause 9)

EPDM

SI No.	Physical properties	Class		
		5A	5B	5C
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
i)	Hardness (A), Shore A	$50 \pm 5$	$60 \pm 5$	$70 \pm 5$
ii)	Tensile strength (kg/cm <sup>2</sup> ), <i>Min</i>	70	100	100
iii)	Elongation at break (percent), <i>Min</i>	300	250	200
iv)	Compression set (150 °C for 22 h), <i>Max</i>	25	25	25

v)	Accelerated ageing (150 °C for 70 h)	
a)	Change in hardness (A)	+10
b)	Change in tensile strength (percent)	-20
c)	Change in elongation at break (percent)	-20
vi)	Water resistance (100 °C for 70 h)	±5

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## **11 TEST METHODS**

**11.1 Hardness** — Hardness of the gaskets shall be tested in accordance with the method prescribed in Annex B.

**11.2 Tensile Strength and Ultimate Elongation** — Shall be carried out in accordance with method prescribed in IS 3400 (Part 1) using type I dumbbell test piece.

**11.3 Accelerated Ageing** — The test pieces shall be subjected to this test in accordance with method prescribed in IS 3400 (Part 4).

**11.4 Compression Set** — Compression set shall be tested at  $70 \pm 1$  °C for 24 h under 25 percent strain according to the method prescribed in IS 3400 (Part 10/Sec 1). Recovery time of 60 min shall be allowed. *See also* Annex C.

### **11.5 Sample Thickness**

For all types of gaskets, two test slabs, each of the following sizes shall be supplied:

- a) 2.5 mm (dumbbell shape); and
- b) 10 mm (button shape).

**11.5.1** These slabs shall be compounded identically and cured to the same degree as the gaskets.

**11.6** Unless otherwise agreed to between the purchaser and the supplier, all tests shall be carried out within 3 months from the receipt of the material by the purchaser.

## **PART II FOAM RUBBER GASKETS**

### **12 FOAM RUBBER GASKETS**

Foam rubber gasket is coming under special category of rubber gasket material mostly custom built to suit to the specific requirement of the buyer. Foam rubber gaskets are produced using the material foam rubber, which is manufactured with a foaming agent/blowing agents to create an air-filled matrix structure. Foam rubber for gaskets is generally made using either polyurethane foam rubber/silicone foam rubber/polychloroprene and natural rubber (either as closed cell or open cell structures). Foam rubber gaskets are coming in multiple grades and used to seal enclosures and devices. Material properties, compressibility, environmental exposure, sealing effectiveness and specifications should be considered during the material selection.

### **13 TYPES OF FOAM RUBBER GASKETS**

Foam rubber gaskets are of following four types:

- a) Strip;
- b) Die-cut;
- c) Form-in-place; and
- d) Bulb extrusion.

NOTE — Bulb extrusion help to seal according to the requirements of IEC 60529.

### **14 MATERIAL**

#### **14.1 Polyurethane Foam Rubber Gaskets**

Polyurethane foam gaskets are used in medical, industrial, and electronic packaging applications like medical filters, prosthetic devices, and healthcare facilities and laboratories, industrial, electrical and to protect electronic devices.

#### **14.2 Silicone Foam Rubber Gaskets**

Silicon foam rubber gaskets are used for high-temperature and low-temperature services and sanitary applications.

### **15 SEALING TEST**

**15.1** Gaskets are designed to seal many types of media, including water, air, dust, oil and others gasket material's sealing performance is tested using water as the medium of infiltration.

**15.2** Hydro test pressure applied will be 0.25 to 1 psi according to the application for a duration of about 30 min.

**15.3** Equipment based on the design as Annex E of IS 17796 shall be used to carry out this sealing performance test of the foam rubber material used for this gasket.

#### **15.4 Measurements/Findings**

The leakage rate is measured as displacement in the column holding the pressurized water. The leakage is calculated in ml/min.

#### **16 SAMPLING**

Unless otherwise agreed to between the purchaser and the supplier, the procedure given in IS 2500 (Part 1) shall be followed. For this purpose, the Inspection Level III and AQL value of 2.5 percent as per IS 2500 (Part 1) shall be taken.

#### **17 MARKING**

The following details shall be clearly marked on every gasket:

- a) Manufacturer's name and address,
- b) Type of gasket, and
- c) Date of manufacture.

#### **17.1 BIS Certification Marking**

The product(s) conforming to the requirements of this standard may be certified as per the conformity assessment schemes under the provisions of the *Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 2016* and the Rules and Regulations framed thereunder, and the product(s) may be marked with the Standard Mark.

#### **18 STORAGE**

Recommendation regarding storage conditions after receipt from the manufacturer are given in IS 6713/ISO 2230.

**ANNEX A**  
*(Clause 5.4)*

**WATER ABSORPTION TEST**

**A-1 PROCEDURE** — From the finished gasket, cut a piece of about 3 g and weigh it accurately. Put in 150 ml of distilled water. Boil under reflux with air condenser for 168 h. Remove the piece and weigh again after surface water layer is dried up with filter paper.

**A-2 CALCULATION**

$$\text{Water absorption, percent by mass} = \frac{W_2 - W_1}{W_1} \times 100$$

where

$w_1$  = original mass in grams of test piece before immersion in water; and  
 $w_2$  = mass in grams of the test piece after immersion in water.

**A-3** This test is not applicable for foam gaskets.

**ANNEX B**  
(Clause 11.1)

**DETERMINATION OF HARDNESS SHORE A**

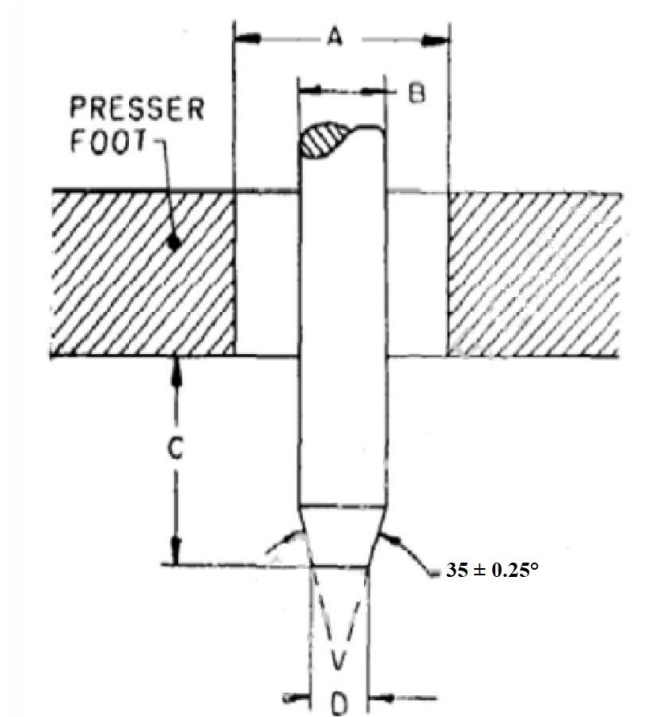
**B-1 APPARATUS**

- a) Presser foot with a hole between 2.5 and 3.2 mm in diameter, centered at least 6 mm from any edge of the foot;
- b) Indenter formed from hardened steel rod between 1.15 and 1.40 mm in diameter to the shape and dimensions as shown in Fig. 1;
- c) Indenter extension indicating device (analog or electronic), having a scale reading from 0 to 100 with equal divisions throughout the range; for reading the extent of protrusion of the point of the indenter beyond the face of the presser foot; this may be read directly in terms of units ranging from zero, for full protrusion of  $2.50 \pm 0.04$  mm to 100, for nil protrusion obtained by placing the pressure foot and indenter in firm contact with a flat piece of glass. The scale reading is an inverse function of the indenter extension. The device shall have a pointer that moves on the scale at a rate of one hardness point for each 0.025 mm of indenter movement;
- d) Timing device (optional), capable of being set to a desired elapsed time, signaling the operator or holding the hardness reading when the desired elapsed time has been reached. The timer should be automatically activated when the presser foot is in firm contact with the specimen being tested; and
- e) Calibrated spring for applying force to the indenter in accordance with the following equation:

$$\text{Force, } N = 0.550 + 0.075 H_x$$

where  $H_x$  is hardness reading on Type A durometer.





$$\begin{aligned} A &= 2.5 \text{ to } 3.2 \text{ mm} \\ B &= 1.15 \text{ to } 1.40 \text{ mm} \\ C &= 2.5 \pm 0.04 \text{ mm} \\ D &= 0.79 \pm 0.03 \text{ mm} \end{aligned}$$

FIG. 1 INDENTER FOR TYPE A DUROMETER

## B-2 TEST PIECE

For the determination of hardness by type A shore durometer, the test piece should be at least 6 mm thick and of convenient area, unless it is known that results equivalent to the 6 mm values are obtained with a thinner test piece. A test piece may be composed of plied thin pieces to obtain the necessary thickness, but determinations made on such test pieces may not agree with those made on one-piece solid test pieces because the surfaces between plies may not be in complete contact with each other. The dimensions of the test piece should be sufficient to permit measurements at least 12 mm away from any edge, unless it is known that identical results are obtained when measurements are made at a lesser distance from an edge. The surface of the test piece should be flat over an area sufficient to permit the presser foot to be in contact with the test piece over an area having a radius of at least 6 mm from the indenter point. Satisfactory hardness determinations cannot be made on rounded, uneven or rough surfaces.

## B-3 CALIBRATION

The durometer spring shall be calibrated by supporting the durometer in a vertical position and applying a measurable force to the indenter tip (*see* Fig. 2). The device used to apply the force may be a dead weight or electronic load cell device capable of measuring applied force at 50 percent of the calibration tolerance. Care should be taken to ensure that the force is applied vertically to the indenter tip, as side loads will cause errors in calibration. Spring calibration shall be verified for durometer at scale readings of 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80 and 90. The measured force ( $9.8 \times \text{mass}$  in kilograms) shall be equivalent to the force calculated by the equation 1. The measured force for type A durometers shall be within  $\pm 0.08$  N. Indenter shape and extension must be in accordance with **B-1**.

NOTE — Instruments specifically designed for calibration of durometers may be used. Test blocks (rubber or spring type) provided for checking durometer operation are not to be relied upon as calibration standards.

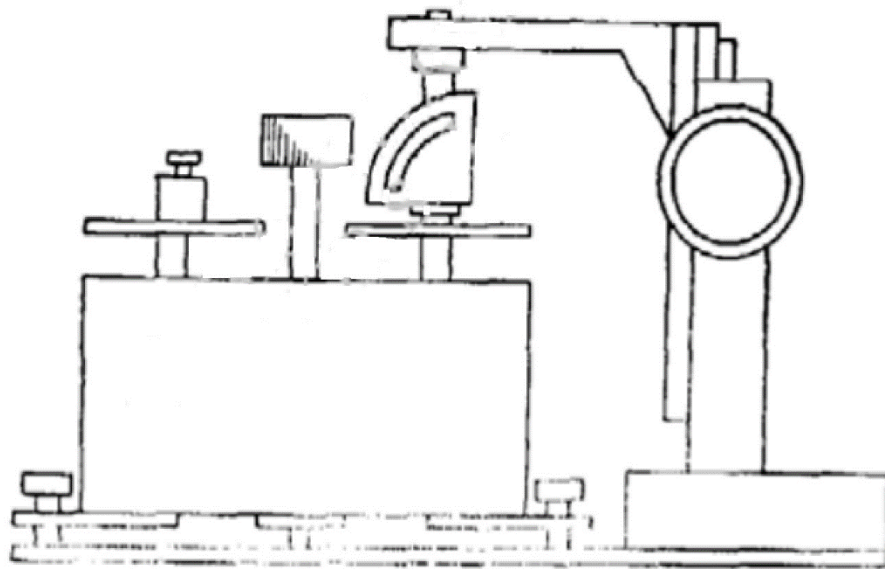


FIG. 2 APPARATUS FOR CALIBRATION OF DUROMETER SPRING

#### **B-4 CONDITIONING OF TEST PIECE**

Test shall be made at  $27 \pm 2$  °C and relative humidity of  $65 \pm 5$  percent (*see* IS 196).

Before testing the test pieces, the durometer and test pieces shall be conditioned at the temperature and humidity of test for a minimum of 40 h for test pieces of 7 mm or under in thickness and for a minimum of 88 h for test pieces over 7 mm in thickness. Provide adequate air circulation on all sides of the test specimens by placing them in suitable racks, hanging them from metal clips or laying them on wide-mesh, wire screen frames with at least 25 mm between the screen and the surface of the bench. If for any particular material or test, a specific longer time of conditioning is required, the time shall be agreed upon by the interested parties. Shorter conditioning times may be used for thin test pieces provided equilibrium is substantially reached.

#### **B-5 PROCEDURE**

Place the test piece on a hard horizontal, plane surface. Hold the durometer in a vertical position with the point of the indenter at least 12 mm from any edge of the test piece, unless it is known that identical results are obtained when measurements are made with the indenter at a lesser distance. Apply the presser foot to the test piece as rapidly as possible, without shock, keeping the foot parallel to the surface of the test piece. Apply just sufficient pressure to obtain firm contact between presser foot and test piece (*see* NOTE below). After the presser foot is in firm contact with the test piece, the scale reading is to be taken within 1 s or after any period of time agreed upon between supplier and user unless the durometer has a maximum indicator, in which case the maximum reading is taken. The hardness reading may progressively decrease with time delay. Make one measurement at each of three or five different points distributed over the test piece at least 6 mm apart using the median of these measurements for the hardness value.

**NOTES**

- 1** This test is not applicable for foam gaskets.
- 2** Better reproducibility may be obtained by using a mass centered on the axis of the indenter. Recommended mass is 1 kg for the type A durometer. Durometer stands using the masses above as a constant load and a controlled descent speed, without shock, produce maximum repeatability.

**B-6** This test is not applicable for foam gaskets.

**ANNEX C**  
*(Clause 11.4)*

**COMPRESSION SET**

**C-1 CONTINUOUS COMPRESSION**

Tests include tensile and elongation retention after exposure to 70 °C. Dimensional changes after oil immersion are also evaluated.

**C-2 PERIODIC RECOMPRESSION**

In addition to continuous compression (above), a compression set test is cycled at room temperature, 70 °C and -30 °C. Impact testing is also performed at -30 °C only.

**C-3** This test is not applicable for foam gaskets.