

News and Updates

How to get a New Method Published

When can a new method be added as an ASTM or an ISO Standard? Let us assume the researcher has been working on a new accelerated test methodology and it looks like it gives pretty good results. The test developer has performed all the necessary steps to prove it is a good test, which is repeating the experimental work, analyzing the variability, comparing it to the real world and/or outdoor exposures, and now we want to have the test method published as an international standard. Organizations such as ASTM and ISO are consensus standards bodies, which means most of the people on the committee must agree on the content of the standard. If you are writing a new method, you must convince most of the other folks that the standard is needed. I would recommend starting with ASTM, the process is much more user-friendly.

How does someone go about that and what steps are necessary? Firstly, find the committee and the subcommittee that has the scope which covers your requirements. Approach the committee chairperson and present your idea. If your idea is a fit to the work of that group and you agree to be the author, the chair will invite you to present your idea to the members of the committee at their next meeting.

Test Specimens

“EXPOSE AS MANY SPECIMENS AS YOU CAN IN ANY TEST, SO INCLUDE AS MANY REPLICATES AS YOU HAVE OR YOU CAN AFFORD. MAKE SURE YOUR TEST SPECIMENS ARE WELL MADE AND REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FINAL PRODUCT. THE TEST IS MEANT TO BE PREDICTIVE OF THE END USE, SO CHECK FOR PRE-DEFECTS, CORRECT FILM THICKNESS, EDGE PROTECTION ETC.”

Once the committee has approved the new work item, the first decision is whether the standard will be a Test Method or a Practice. A Method is more specific to test conditions, material being tested, and evaluations. A Practice is more of an operations manual and is more open to multiple cycles and materials, and the evaluations are only recommended. A test method will need a Precision and Bias section including round robin data, which requires an ASTM E691 program.

Use one of the templates that is available from ASTM, which will already contain blanks of all the necessary sections. The most important of these are the Scope and the Significance and

Use. These set the tone for the rest of the standard, while the other sections such as Specimens, Apparatus, Procedure and Evaluations are just like any research report. The Scope tells the reader what the standard covers and what it does not cover, and who should use it. Significance and Use is about why this standard is important, including what are the features and benefits.

When you have your first draft, I recommend another presentation to the committee. This is the first chance to get feedback, but the best place to get input is when the first draft goes to ballot. I personally would not recommend spending too much time on collaborative sites, just get the draft on ballot. After that, it is just about negotiating through the inputs, either comments or negatives.

When to stop the clock on a test.

When you are running a weathering or corrosion test in the laboratory, there are times when the test must be interrupted. This could be for equipment maintenance, specimen repositioning, reference material changes, and performance evaluations. Most equipment has timers that are on when the equipment is running, but it is up to the lab to determine if any lost hours are made up or ignored. When the test is stopped, the timer stops and no duration is accumulated. When the test is restarted, the clocks begin as soon as the door is closed and the tester is turned on. But what about the time it takes for the conditions in the chamber to ramp back up to the set point? Typically, the time taken to ramp is part of the test. It would be onerous to keep track of the initial ramp time. All labs should follow this methodology to ensure reproducibility.

One specific test that is currently being discussed about stoppages in the old B117 Salt Fog corrosion test. Older equipment did not have timers, but also did not have means to purge the fog before opening the lid. For a quick in and out to remove the collection funnels, the test did not stop. In maybe the 20 seconds it took to remove the funnels some fog was lost, but the conditions did not change much. Newer equipment purges the chamber before you can open it. Committee G01 on Corrosion is discussing when the clock should start running, and how to satisfy the older equipment and the newer equipment. As soon as the test is begun, the fogging will wet the specimens within seconds, but the temperature may take 30 minutes to reach 35 °C. So, when exactly is the test back to “normal?” I think it is perfectly reasonable to add time back for interruptions, however short, but not for the time to reach steady state conditions.

Standards Information

A new standard in D01 on Paint for the Reporting of Evaluation results from Weathering Tests has just been approved. ASTM D8599 details the manner in which evaluations shall be conducted and reported. We have codified the ASTM 10 to Zero scale, and included descriptive terms that correspond to the values. There are scales for Qualitative (Good or Bad) and for Quantitative (Many or Few) plus surface area coverage and other special scales in D01 standards such as D660, D661, D662, D714, D772, D1654, and D4214. This will help us to have uniform reporting requirements for all our natural and accelerated weathering exposure standards. There is a table comparing the ASTM 10 to 0 scale against the ISO 0 to 5 scale.

Benchmark is the name of our website, and is derived from the basis that “**Florida outdoor weathering is the Benchmark by which all other weathering tests are compared.**” You can find **BENCHMARK** at either of these URLs bestweathertest.com or bestcorrosiontest.com

CALENDAR

SAE Lighting Materials Committee
December 2, 2025
Troy, MI

ISO/TC 35/SC 9/WG 31
December 5, 2025
Web Meeting

SAE Glazing Materials Committee
December 11, 2025
Troy, MI

ASTM April Committee Week 2026
Committees D01, D20, G01, G03
March 23 to 26, 2026

BENCHMARK