



Standard Practice for Evaluating the Service Life of Chromogenic Glazings¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This practice is intended to provide guidance to architects, specifiers, manufacturers, and other parties who have an interest in evaluating the service life of chromogenic glazings.

1.2 This practice is intended to cover the main factors about service life that must be considered when evaluating glazings for performance until the failure time is reached. However, users of this practice must be aware that other factors must be considered, such as the effect of the interaction of materials, the use of the glazings, and to the environment in which a chromogenic glazing is exposed over its service life. Users of this practice are specifically cautioned to be aware that failure of the plastic polyurethane thermal barrier in an aluminum window containing a chromogenic glazing can cause a spreading or outward rotation of the glazing legs, called “hinging” or “clamping,” which reduces the edge pressure on an insulated glazing (IG) unit, causing edge seal failure of the IG unit and allowing water to enter the IG unit and the glazing pocket.

1.3 The test methods referenced herein are laboratory tests conducted under specified conditions. These test methods are intended to simulate and, in some cases, to also accelerate actual in-service use of the chromogenic glazings. Results from these test methods cannot be used to predict the performance with time of units in the field unless actual corresponding field tests have been conducted and appropriate analyses have been conducted to show performance can be predicted from accelerated aging test methods.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:

C 168 Terminology Relating to Thermal Insulating Materials²

E 632 Practice for Developing Accelerated Tests to Aid Prediction of the Service Life of Building Components and Materials³

G 113 Terminology Relating to Natural and Artificial

Weathering Tests of Nonmetallic Materials³

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—Refer to the terminology given in Terminologies C 168 and G 113 and Practice E 632 for definitions of general terms.

3.2 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

3.2.1 *accelerated aging test*—an aging test in which the rate of degradation of building components or materials is intentionally accelerated over that expected in actual service.

3.2.2 *chromogenic glazing*—a glazing consisting of one or more layers of chromogenic materials, which are able to alter their optical properties in response to a change in ambient conditions such as illumination intensity, temperature, applied electric field, and so forth. The changeable optical properties include transmittance, reflectance, absorptance, and emittance.

3.2.3 *durability*—the capability of maintaining the serviceability of a product, component, assembly, or construction over a specified time.

3.2.4 *serviceability*—the capability of a building product, component, assembly, or construction to perform the function(s) for which it was designed and constructed.

3.2.5 *service life (of a building component or material)*—the period of time after installation during which all properties exceed minimum acceptable values when routinely maintained.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 This practice is important because producers of chromogenic glazings cannot wait for real-time in-service use to assess the product lifetime. Thus, a procedure is needed to estimate failure times based on accelerated weathering and related factors and tests. This practice does not provide guidance for how to follow the steps outlined as follows, but it provides as much information as is practical in an ASTM practice.

5. Background

5.1 Observations and measurements have shown that some of the performance characteristics of chromogenic glazings have a tendency to deteriorate over time. In selecting materials and glazings for any application, the ability of that glazing to perform over time is an indication of that glazing’s durability. The ability of the product to perform over time, at or better

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² *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 04.06.

³ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 14.04.

than specified requirements, is an indication of the service life of the glazings. While these two indicators are related, the purpose of this practice is to address the service life of chromogenic glazings.

5.2 Chromogenic glazings perform a number of important functions in a building envelope including: providing for architectural expression, human comfort (heat gain/heat loss), security, ventilation, illumination and glare control, passive solar energy gain, minimization of the solar energy heat gain, (possibly) acoustical performance, and a visual connection with the outside world. These are some of the functions that may deteriorate in performance over time.

5.3 It is possible, but difficult to predict the time-dependent performance of a chromogenic glazing product from accelerated aging tests because of the reasons listed as follows. Users of this practice should be aware of these limitations when reviewing published performance results and their connection to durability or service life.

5.3.1 The degradation mechanisms (internal factors) of chromogenic materials or glazings, or both, are complex. In some cases, however, these mechanisms may be determined and quantified.

5.3.2 The external factors that affect chromogenic glazing performance are numerous and may be difficult to quantify. However, in some cases, the use, the environmental factors, and other information that influence performance may be known.

5.3.3 The fenestration units with a chromogenic glazing tested may be different from those planned for use in-service. Some companies have a database of in-service performance that can be compared to laboratory results.

6. Test Specimen

6.1 The test specimen shall be chosen to represent the various products available. They must be dynamically cycled.

7. Procedure

7.1 A general methodology for predicting the service life of chromogenic glazings as a fenestration component requires several steps. For a more complete description of the procedure, see Practice E 632. If a service-life specification is stated, it is recommended that all evaluations be determined in accordance with these guidelines.

7.1.1 There exists a body of accepted fenestration components test methods and specifications (see Appendix X1). To meet the requirements of this practice, a product shall meet the applicable specifications, unless otherwise specified.

NOTE 1—All glazing specifications may not be applicable to all window types.

7.1.2 There exists a body of accepted fenestration assembly test methods (see Appendix X2). To meet the requirements of this practice, a chromogenic glazing, which is a component of the entire assembly, must maintain its functionality and the requirements specified therein, unless otherwise specified.

7.1.3 Use specimens of the final product for which a service life is desired.

7.1.4 Define and quantify the environmental factors to which the material(s), product, or component(s), or combinations thereof, are likely to be exposed in service.

7.1.5 Define the performance or failure criteria, or both, that will be used to establish the end of a components' service life.

7.1.6 Identify sensitive (and relevant) measurement(s) that can be correlated with performance.

7.1.7 Characterize the chromogenic glazing, for example, its physical composition, chemical properties, and microstructure of the material(s) in terms relevant to its degradation and its ability to maintain performance at a level exceeding or equal to the minimum expectations or to the failure criteria.

7.1.8 Subject multiple, replicate specimens of the complete chromogenic glazing to accelerated aging tests and to anticipated in-service exposure conditions and make periodic measurements of appropriate performance parameters. Perform actual field tests.

NOTE 2—Several sites should be selected with diverse environmental factors that span the range of in-service use.

7.1.9 Determine the mechanisms and kinetics of the degradation of the material(s) or components, or both, in sufficient detail to allow prediction of rates of degradation under anticipated in-service exposure conditions.

7.1.10 Develop and validate a model ideally, or models, if necessary for correlating the accelerated aging and in-service testing data for each type of exposure site.

7.1.11 Predict the service life using the model (or models), knowledge of the failure criteria and environmental factors, the physical and chemical properties of the material(s), or the entire chromogenic glazing, or combination thereof, and the correlations in 7.1.10.

7.1.12 Report the predictions for the anticipated in-service range of environmental factors, state how the predictions were made, and give explicit comments about the assumptions on which the predictions are based and the uncertainty associated with the prediction.

8. Limitations

8.1 This practice is divided into two parts: the first is a list of requirements for fenestration assemblies with chromogenic glazings that is based upon a number of existing test methods and standards; in the second part, appendixes are sets of test methods that describe procedures to measure or evaluate entire fenestration assemblies.

8.2 Any test specimen that fails during the testing because of a seal failure shall not be considered a properly qualified fenestration assembly.

9. Report

9.1 Report the following information:

9.1.1 A complete description of the test specimen(s).

9.1.2 The test methods performed on the test specimen(s) and the results of those test methods both before and after accelerated test methods were conducted.

9.1.3 The type of accelerated test methods conducted.

9.1.4 The number of dynamic cycles completed before failure occurs.

10. Keywords

10.1 chromogenic functionality; durability; fenestration; fenestration products; service life

APPENDIXES

(Nonmandatory Information)

X1. FENESTRATION COMPONENT TEST METHODS AND SPECIFICATIONS

X1.1 *Perimeter Sealants:*

X1.1.1 AAMA 808.3 Specifications for Exterior Perimeter Sealing Compounds⁴

X1.1.2 ASTM C 920 Specification for Elastomeric Joint Sealants⁵

X1.1.3 AAMA 803.3 Specification for Narrow Joint Seam Sealers⁴

X1.1.4 ASTM C 1311 Specification for Solvent-Release Sealants⁵

X1.1.5 ASTM C 834 Specification for Latex Sealants⁵

X1.2 *Glazing Compounds:*

X1.2.1 ASTM C 669 Specification for Glazing Compounds for Back Bedding and Face Glazing of Metal Sash⁵

X1.2.2 ASTM C 797 Practices and Terminology for Use of Oil- and Resin-Based Putty and Glazing Compounds⁵

X1.2.3 ASTM C 741 Test Method for Accelerated Aging of Wood Sash Face Glazing Compound⁵

X1.2.4 AAMA 802.3 Specification for Ductile Back Bedding Compound⁴

X1.2.5 AAMA 805.2 Specification for Bonding Type Bedding Compound⁴

X1.2.6 AAMA 804.3; 806.3; 807.3 Specifications for Back Bedding Mastic Type Glazing Tapes⁴

X1.2.7 ASTM C 1281 Specification for Performed Tape Sealants for Glazing Applications⁵

X1.2.8 AAMA 810.1 Specification for Expanded Cellular Glazing Tapes⁴

X1.3 *Gaskets:*

X1.3.1 ASTM C 509 Specification for Elastomeric Cellular Preformed Gasket and Sealing Material⁵

X1.3.2 ASTM C 864 Specification for Dense Elastomeric Compression Seal Gaskets, Setting Blocks, and Spacers⁵

X1.4 *Spacers:*

X1.4.1 SIGMA A-200 Voluntary Test Methods and Voluntary Performance Quality Assurance Criteria for Spacers for Sealed Insulating Glass Units⁶

X1.5 *Insulating Glass Units:*

X1.5.1 ASTM E 774 Specification for Classification of the Durability of Sealed Insulating Glass Units⁷

X1.6 *Glass:*

X1.6.1 ASTM C 1036 Specification for Flat Glass⁸

X1.6.2 ASTM C 1048 Specification for Heat-Treated Flat Glass—Kind HS, Kind FT Coated and Uncoated Glass⁸

X1.6.3 ASTM C 1172 Specification for Laminated Architectural Flat Glass⁸

X1.6.4 ASTM E 1300 Practice for Determining Load Resistance of Glass in Buildings⁷

X1.7 *Desiccant:*

X1.7.1 SIGMA A2801 Recommended Voluntary In-Plant Test Methods and Performance Criteria for Desiccants for Sealed Insulating Glass Units⁶

⁴ Available from AAMA, Suite 104, 1827 Walden Office Square, Schaumburg, IL 60173-4268.

⁵ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 04.07.

⁶ Available from SIGMA.

⁷ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 04.11.

⁸ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 15.02.

X2. FENESTRATION ASSEMBLY TESTS

X2.1 A number of fenestration tests currently exist for determining performance criteria. These tests include Water Penetration (ASTM E 547 or ASTM E 331); Thermal Transmission (ASTM C 1199 or AAMA 1503.1); Structural Strength (ASTM E 330); and Chromogenic Functionality (ASTM-TBD). Chromogenic functionality will include but not be limited to maximum controllability in the colored and bleached

states, their visual appearance, switching time, and photopic contrast ratio between the colored and bleached states.

X2.2 To meet the requirement of this practice, a product shall be tested to meet the requirements of a nationally recognized product performance standard (see AAMA/NWWDA 101/IS2-97) in the following sequence.

X2.2.1 The test specimen shall be tested in accordance with ASTM E 283.

X2.2.2 The specimen shall be tested in accordance with ASTM E 547 (or E 331).

X2.2.3 If specified, the specimen shall be tested in accordance with ASTM C 1199 (or AAMA 1503).

X2.2.4 The specimen shall be tested in accordance to ASTM E 330 (at designated pressures for design classification).

X2.2.5 The test specimens shall be chosen in accordance with Section 6.

X2.2.6 The test specimen must pass a qualification test, which simulates a sudden rain storm (water-spray) when the device is operating, by maintaining its chromogenic functionality.

X2.3 The specimen shall then be exposed to the following accelerated tests (in sequence).

X2.3.1 The specimen shall be exposed to one half of the specified cycles as referenced in AAMA 910-93 “Voluntary Life Cycle Specifications and Test Methods for Architectural Grade Windows and Sliding Glass Doors.”

X2.3.2 The specimen shall be tested for 100 cycles at 0.75 (75 %) of the designated pressure for the design classification in accordance with ASTM E 1233 “Standard Test Method for Structural Performance of Exterior Windows, Curtainwalls, and Doors by Cyclic Static Air Pressure.”

X2.3.3 The specimen shall be exposed to the remaining one half of the specified motion cycles as referenced in AAMA 910-93, “Voluntary Life Cycle Specifications and Test Methods for Architectural Grade Windows and Sliding Glass Doors.”

X2.4 Upon completion of the accelerated tests, the test specimen shall be tested in accordance with X2.2.1, X2.2.2, and X2.2.3.

X2.4.1 The results of these tests shall be reported in Section 9.

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