

IEEE Guide for the Electromagnetic Characterization of Conductive Gaskets in the Frequency Range of DC to 40 GHz

IEEE Electromagnetic Compatibility Society

Developed by the
Standards Development Committee

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Abstract: Information to assist users of gaskets in evaluating gasket measurement techniques to determine which exhibit the properties critical to the intended application, to highlight limitations and sources of error of the competing measurement techniques, and to provide a basis for comparing the techniques is provided in this guide. Emphasis is placed on those measurement techniques that have been adopted through incorporation into standards, both commercial and military, or that have been used extensively.

Keywords: aperture transmission, electromagnetic shielding, EMI gaskets, IEEE 1302™, measurement techniques, reverberation chamber, shielding effectiveness, stirred mode, transfer impedance

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Introduction

This introduction is not part of IEEE Std 1302-2019, IEEE Guide for the Electromagnetic Characterization of Conductive Gaskets in the Frequency Range of DC to 40 GHz.
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An EMI gasket is a conductive material used to improve the electrical bonding between metallic parts of an electronic chassis, equipment enclosure, or electromagnetic shield. A wide variety of materials and techniques is used to produce EMI gaskets. The effectiveness of gaskets in the closing of seams and joints is dependent upon the properties of the gasket and the method of installation. Several techniques are available to measure the electromagnetic properties of EMI gaskets. Unfortunately, measurement results are often inconsistent between techniques.

This guide provides guidance on the use of recognized techniques for the electromagnetic performance characterization of EMI gaskets. It does not recommend one technique over another. It is recognized that some or all of the “alternative” techniques may, at some time in the future, become widely accepted and practiced. At such time, the guide will be revised to reflect their adoption. It is also recognized that efforts are currently underway to revise the measurement techniques currently covered in this guide. These revisions will be included in future updates of this document.

The theory of gasket behavior given in this guide is highly simplified and is intended to illustrate primary principles only. For a greater understanding of the electromagnetic interactions occurring in a gasketed joint, the reader is advised to consult the many excellent mathematical treatments in books and papers available through the IEEE and other technical publishers.

Contents

1. Overview.....	12
1.1 Scope.....	12
1.2 Purpose.....	12
1.3 Word usage.....	12
1.4 Background.....	13
2. Normative references.....	14
3. Definitions, acronyms, and abbreviations.....	15
3.1 Definitions.....	15
3.2 Acronyms and abbreviations.....	16
4. Factors affecting gasket performance.....	16
5. Gasket measurement techniques.....	19
6. Standardized gasket measuring techniques.....	20
6.1 Transfer impedance.....	20
6.2 Relative aperture transmission.....	23
6.3 Stripline method SAE ARP 6248-2016.....	26
7. Alternative techniques, derived from standardized methods.....	28
7.1 General.....	28
7.2 Effective transmission aperture.....	28
7.3 Slot aperture.....	29
7.4 (Nested) reverberation chambers.....	30
8. Alternative, non-standardized methods.....	32
8.1 General.....	32
8.2 Far-field TEM- <i>t</i> fixture.....	33
8.3 Near-field H- <i>t</i> fixture.....	34
8.4 DC resistance measurement.....	35
9. Selecting a gasket measurement technique.....	35
9.1 General.....	35
9.2 Measurement reference.....	36
9.3 Sample configuration.....	36
9.4 Frequency range.....	37
9.5 Dynamic range.....	37
9.6 Other considerations.....	38
10. Repeatability and measurement uncertainty.....	39
10.1 Repeatability.....	39
10.2 Measurement uncertainty.....	40
11. Test plan.....	40
11.1 General.....	40
11.2 Test plan parameters to be defined.....	40
11.3 Calibration.....	41
11.4 Reference level and dynamic range.....	41

12. Technical report.....	41
12.1 General	41
12.2 Status letter	41
12.3 Full test report.....	42
Annex A (normative) Summary of measuring techniques for gasket.....	43
Annex B (normative) Introduction to the electromagnetic behavior of gasketed joints.....	46
Annex C (informative) Detailed tabulation of standardized aperture transmission methods.....	52
Annex D (informative) Some in-depth discussion on the use of reverberation chambers.....	55
Annex E (informative) VIRC (Vibrating Intrinsic Reverberation Chamber) as an alternative	58
Annex F (informative) Test methods for on-board gasket applications	60
Annex G (informative) Bibliography	62

List of Figures

Figure 1—Typical gasket application.....	17
Figure 2—Equivalent circuit of current path through a gasket	18
Figure 3—Cross section of a gasketed seam with uniform separation between base materials	20
Figure 4—Principle diagram of coaxial transfer impedance test fixture as per SAE ARP 1705-2006 (Rev. A)	21
Figure 5—Simplified representation of the transfer impedance measurement technique.....	21
Figure 6—Principle of SE reference level establishment as described by IEEE Std 299-2006	23
Figure 7—Test setup as used by MIL-DTL-83528G-2017.....	24
Figure 8—Test setup as used by SAE ARP 1173-1975	25
Figure 9—Two coupled transmission lines as the basic principle of the stripline set up.....	26
Figure 10—General view of the stripline set up	27
Figure 11—Detailed view of the stripline (left) and the embedded μ strip (right).....	27
Figure 12—Clamping plate to hold the sample around the embedded μ strip	27
Figure 13—Broadband radial injection system for measurement of transmitted power	29
Figure 14—Gasket fixture for slot aperture	29
Figure 15—Gasket measurement using reverberation chambers	31
Figure 16—Nested stirred-mode method for characterizing EMI gaskets.....	31
Figure 17—Options for mounting the gasket under test	32
Figure 18—Block diagram of the electromagnetic SE test.....	32
Figure 19—(a) External view (one side) of a newly devised electric field SE measuring device (b) Measuring cell plus gasket holder for measuring the electric field	33
Figure 20—Example of gasket holders	34
Figure 21—(a) External view of the test instrument for the magnetic field (b) Internal construction of the test instrument for magnetic field (c) Measuring cell plus gasket holder for measuring the magnetic field.....	34
Figure 22—Figure explaining difference between different cross sections under low pressure	36
Figure B.1—Field impedance as a function of distance from the source.....	47
Figure B.2—Relationship between output voltage and input current in a uniform gasket.....	49
Figure B.3—Cross section of a gasketed seam with uniform separation between base materials.....	50
Figure E.1—Principle of a single VIRC	58
Figure E.2—Setup of the nested reverb room.....	58

Figure E.3—Principle of a dual VIRC..... 59

Figure E.4—Example of a dual VIRC for SE testing of materials (left) and fixing structure of materials under test (right)..... 59

Figure F.1—Principle of setup for characterization of gaskets applied to small enclosure on board of PCBs 60

Figure F.2—Schematic drawing for setup of near-field SE characterization, using terminated loop antennae61

List of Tables

Table A.1—Measurement techniques for SE of conductive gaskets..... 44

IEEE Guide for the Electromagnetic Characterization of Conductive Gaskets in the Frequency Range of DC to 40 GHz

1. Overview

1.1 Scope

The scope of this guide is to provide manufacturers of gaskets and designers of electronic systems appropriate methods for the characterization of gaskets. This document guides the user in the selection of the appropriate test method in order to determine the level of electromagnetic shielding provided in the intended application.

1.2 Purpose

The purpose of this guide is to provide guidance on the strengths and weaknesses of each of the recommended methods, and provide in-depth documentation for each method. Therefore, it identifies limitations and sources of errors of the commonly accepted techniques for measuring gaskets, and provides a basis for comparing the various accepted techniques. It encompasses measurements of the as-installed behavior of gaskets as well as manufacturing-related quality control measurements.

Special attention is also given to test methods for small samples of gaskets (also above 1 GHz), correlation between different methods, and identification of possible measuring methods for near-field characterization of gaskets [as used on printed circuit board (PCB) board applications].

1.3 Word usage

The word *shall* indicates mandatory requirements strictly to be followed in order to conform to the standard and from which no deviation is permitted (*shall* equals *is required to*).^{1, 2}

The word *should* indicates that among several possibilities one is recommended as particularly suitable, without mentioning or excluding others; or that a certain course of action is preferred but not necessarily required (*should* equals *is recommended that*).

¹The use of the word *must* is deprecated and cannot be used when stating mandatory requirements; *must* is used only to describe unavoidable situations.

²The use of *will* is deprecated and cannot be used when stating mandatory requirements; *will* is only used in statements of fact.