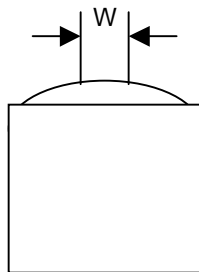


Annex A (Informative)

Effects of wear on Test Heads

The radius and geometry of the test head as defined in this standard is critical to calibration of the test head for conformance testing. Test heads tend to develop a “flat-spot” as the equipment is used over time. The flat spot will affect test results. It is imperative that test heads be maintained or replaced on a regular basis depending on the frequency of use. The flat spot will grow to some stage at which the test results can no longer be relied on for compliance testing. Users should monitor the flat spot wear and replace the head when dimension W exceeds the test equipment manufacturer recommendation. If a recommendation for dimension W is not given, 2mm is a recommended default for W.

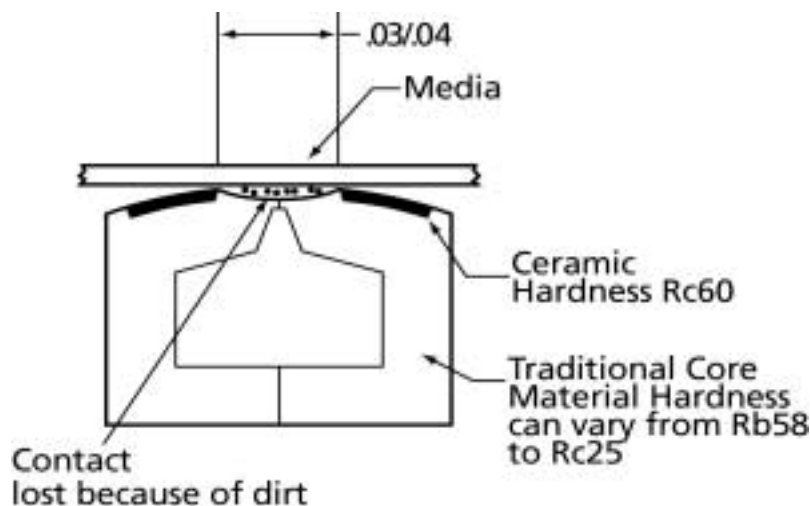
Figure 1: Dimension W wear flat dimension



Wear coated test heads

Discrepancies in magnetic stripe signal amplitude measurements with wear resistant coating on test heads of greater than 7% have been recognized from magnetic stripes on ID1 cards that are compliant to ISO/IEC 7811-2 and ISO/IEC 7811-6. Wear resistant coated test heads should not be used to measure signal amplitude requirements of magnetic stripes in conformance with this standard.

Figure 2: Wear profile of a wear resistant coated test head used to test thin flexible paper cards.



The uneven wear pattern on pole tips of wear resistant coated test heads is a rapidly occurring problem for paper card and paper ticket manufacturers.