



Standard Specification for Dimensional Tolerance of Thermosetting Glass-Reinforced Plastic Pultruded Shapes¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D 3917; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

^{e1} NOTE—Editorially revised 1.3 and 2.1.5 in March 2002.

1. Scope *

1.1 This specification defines tolerances applicable to standard rods, bars, and shapes pultruded from thermosetting glass-reinforced plastics.

1.2 These dimensional tolerances apply to all shapes specified as “standard” by the pultrusion industry.

1.3 Custom shapes and products designed for special applications shall carry specific tolerances that may vary from the standard because a change in type or amount of reinforcement used in a composite directly affects dimensions. The tolerances may be wider or tighter than associated with “standard” shapes.

1.4 The following safety hazards caveat pertains only to the test methods portion, Section 4, of this specification: *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

NOTE 1—There is no similar or equivalent ISO standard.

2. Terminology

2.1 Definitions:

2.1.1 *Class 1 hollow shape*—one whose void is round and 1 in. (25 mm) or more in diameter and whose weight is equally distributed on opposite sides of two or more equally spaced axes.

2.1.2 *envelope diameter*—the diameter of the smallest circle that will completely enclose the cross section of the pultruded product.

2.1.3 *flange bow*—the deviation where the flange of the section contacts the horizontal plane.

2.1.4 *flange camber*—the deviation from the flange surface to the reference straight line.

2.1.5 *mean wall thickness*—the average of two or more wall thickness measurements.

2.1.6 *straightness*—the perpendicular deviation of the surface contacting a horizontal plane.

2.1.7 *web bow*—the deviation where the web of the section contacts the horizontal plane.

2.1.8 *web camber*—the deviation from the web surface to the reference straight line.

2.1.9 *web-flange camber*—the deviation from the free edge of the flange to the reference straight line.

3. Dimensional Criteria

3.1 Dimensional tolerances for cross sections shall be prescribed in Table 1.

3.2 Width/diameter for solid rods and bars and length tolerances for standard rods, bars, and shapes shall be as prescribed in Table 2.

3.3 Straightness tolerances shall be as prescribed in Table 3 (also see 4.2).

3.4 Twist tolerances for bars and shapes shall be as prescribed in Table 4 (also see 4.3).

3.5 Flatness (flat surface) tolerances for bars, solid shapes, and semihollow shapes shall be as prescribed in Table 5.

3.6 Flatness (flat surface) tolerances of hollow shapes shall be as prescribed in Table 6.

3.7 Angularity tolerances for bars and shapes shall be as prescribed in Table 7 (also see 4.4).

3.8 Camber tolerances for shapes shall be as prescribed in Table 8 (also see 4.5).

3.9 The selection, type, and amount of reinforcements, as well as resin system used, directly affect dimensions. Tolerances shall be agreed upon between the supplier and the user.

4. Test Methods

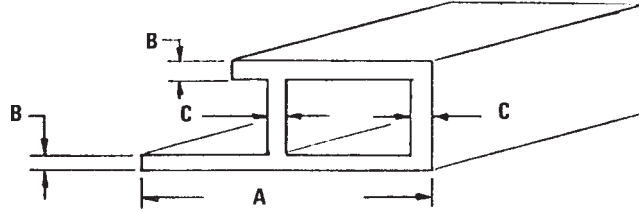
4.1 Obtain the specified tolerances with conventional measuring equipment. Measuring procedures, gages, and fixtures shall be agreed upon between the supplier and the user.

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D20 on Plastics and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D20.18 on Reinforced Thermosetting Plastics.

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*A Summary of Changes section appears at the end of this standard.

TABLE 1 Cross-Sectional Dimensions—Standard Rods, Bars, and Shapes



Standard Pultruded Section with Envelope Dimension up to 10-in. (254-mm) Diameter

Specified Dimension, in. (mm)	Solid Dimensions, ±in. (mm) ^{A,B}		
	A Parallel to the Layered Construction (Perpendicular to Roving in all Products)	B Perpendicular to the Layered Construction (Mat and Mat-roving Products Only) ^{C,D}	C Wall Thickness Completely Enclosing Space 0.11 in. ² (0.64 cm ²) and Over (Eccentricity) ^{E,F,G}
Up to 0.124 (3.15) incl	0.006 (0.15)	0.013 (0.33)	±20 % of specified dimension but not exceeding either
0.125 to 0.249 (3.18 to 6.32) incl	0.007 (0.18)	0.018 (0.46)	±0.100 (2.54) max or ±0.010 (0.25) min
0.250 to 0.499 (6.35 to 12.67) incl	0.008 (0.20)	0.027 (0.69)	
0.500 to 0.749 (12.70 to 19.02) incl	0.009 (0.23)	0.038 (0.97)	
0.750 to 0.999 (19.05 to 25.37) incl	0.010 (0.25)	0.034 (0.86)	
1.000 to 1.499 (25.40 to 38.07) incl	0.012 (0.30)	...	±20 % of specified dimension but not exceeding either
1.500 to 1.999 (38.10 to 50.77) incl	0.014 (0.36)	...	±0.100 (2.54) max or ±0.010 (0.25) min
2.000 to 3.999 (50.80 to 101.57) incl	0.024 (0.61)	...	
4.000 to 5.999 (101.60 to 152.37) incl	0.034 (0.86)	...	

^A The tolerances applicable to a dimension composed of two or more component dimensions is the sum of the tolerances of the component dimensions if all of the component dimensions are indicated.

^B Allowable deviation from specified dimension where 75 % or more of the dimension is composite.

^C At points less than 0.250 in. (6.35 mm) from base of leg, the tolerances of Dimension A are applicable.

^D When more than 25 % of the specified dimension is space, the tolerances shall be agreed upon between the purchaser and the supplier at the time the contract or order is entered.

^E For hollow or semihollow shapes, when the nominal thickness of one wall is three times or greater than that of the opposite wall, the wall thickness tolerance shall be agreed upon between the purchaser and the supplier at the time the contract or order is entered.

^F Where dimensions specified are outside and inside, rather than wall thickness itself, the allowable deviation (eccentricity) given in Column C applies to mean wall thickness.

^G Tolerances in Column C take precedence over A dimension tolerances for walls which completely enclose 0.11 in.² (0.64 cm²) and over.

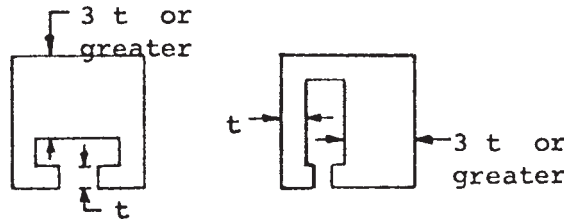


TABLE 2 Length—Standard Rods, Bars, and Shapes

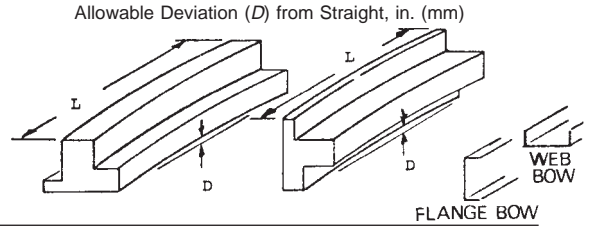
Specified Diameter (Rods) Specified Width (Bars) Envelope Diameter (Shapes)	Allowable Deviation from Specified Length, +in. (+mm), except as noted		
in. (mm)	Up to 12 ft (3.65 m) in Length, incl	Over 12 to 30 ft (3.65 to 9.14 m) in Length, incl	Over 30 to 50 ft (9.14 to 15.24 m) in Length, incl
Up to 0.499 (12.67) incl	±1/8 (±3.18)	±1/4 (±6.35)	±3/8 (±9.52)
0.500 to 1.249 (12.70 to 31.72) incl	±1/8 (±3.18)	±1/4 (±6.35)	±3/8 (±9.52)
1.250 to 2.999 (31.75 to 76.17) incl	1/8 (3.18)	1/4 (6.35)	3/8 (9.52)
3.000 to 7.999 (76.20 to 203.17) incl	3/16 (4.76)	5/16 (7.94)	7/16 (11.11)

4.2 Measure departure from straightness by placing the section on a level table so that the arc or departure from straightness is horizontal. Measure the depth of the arc with a feeler gage and a straightedge.

4.3 Measure twist by placing the pultruded section on a flat surface and measuring the maximum distance at any point along its length between the bottom surface of the section and the flat surface. From this measurement, subtract the deviation

TABLE 3 Straightness—Standard Bars, Rods, and Shapes

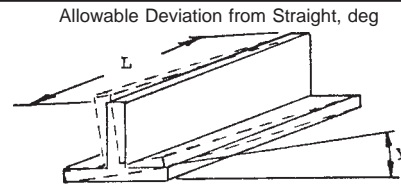
Product	Specified Diameter (Rods)	Specified Thickness (Rectangles)	Allowable Deviation (<i>D</i>) from Straight, in. (mm)	
	Specified Width (Bars)	Minimum Thickness (Shapes)	In 1 ft (0.3 m) or Less of Length	In Total Length of Piece
	Envelope Diameter (Shapes)			
	in. (mm)	in. (mm)		
Rods and square, hexagonal, and octagonal bars	all	...	0.0125 (0.32)	0.0125 (0.32) × length, ft (m)
Rectangular bars	Up to 1.499 (38.07), incl	Up to 0.094 (2.4), incl	0.050 (1.3)	0.050 (1.3) × measured length, ft (m)
	1.500 (38.10) and over	0.095 (2.4) and over	0.040 (1.01)	0.040 (1.01) × measured length, ft (m)
Shapes	Up to 1.499 (38.07), incl	all	0.040 (1.01)	0.040 (1.01) × measured length, ft (m)
		Up to 0.094 (2.4), incl	0.050 (1.3)	0.050 (1.3) × measured length, ft (m)
	0.095 (2.4) and over	0.040 (1.01)	0.040 (1.01) × measured length, ft (m)	
	1.500 (38.10) and over	all	0.050 (1.3)	0.050 (1.3) × measured length, ft (m) ^A



^A Measured when weight of pultrusion minimizes the deviation by contact with flat surface.

TABLE 4 Twist^A—Standard Bars and Shapes

Product	Specified Width (Bars) Envelope Diameter (Shapes)	Specified Thickness (Rectangles) Minimum Thickness (Shapes)	Allowable Deviation from Straight, deg	
			In 1 ft (0.3 m) or Less of Length	In Lengths Up to 20 ft (6 m)
Bars	Up to 1.499 (38.07), incl	all	1 (0.3)	1 × measured length, ft (0.3 × measured length, m) (7 max)
	1.500 to 2.999 (38.10 to 76.17), incl	all	½ (0.15)	½ × measured length, ft (0.15 × measured length, m) (5 max)
	3.000 (76.20) and over	all	⅓ (0.10)	⅓ × measured length, ft (0.10 × measured length, m) (3 max)
Shapes	Up to 1.499 (38.07), incl	0.100 (2.54) and up	1 (0.3)	1 × measured length, ft (0.3 × measured length, m) (7 max)
	1.500 to 2.999 (38.10 to 76.17), incl	0.100 (2.54) and up	½ (0.15)	½ × measured length, ft (0.15 × measured length, m) (5 max)
	3.000 (76.20) and over	0.100 (2.54) and up	⅓ (0.10)	⅓ × measured length, ft (0.10 × measured length, m) (3 max)



^A Measured when weight of pultrusion minimizes the deviation by contact with flat surface.

from true straightness of the section. The remainder is the twist. To convert the standard twist tolerance (degrees) to an equivalent linear value, multiply the tangent of the standard tolerance by the width of the surface of the section that is on the flat surface.

4.4 Measure angles with protractors or gages. A four-point contact system is illustrated in Fig. 1, two contact points being as close to the angle vertex as practical and the others near the ends of the respective surfaces forming the angle. Surface flatness is the controlling tolerance between these points of measurement.

4.5 Measure longitudinal curvature by placing the section on a level table so that the arc or curvature is vertical. Measure the depth of the arc with a feeler gage and a straightedge.

5. Keywords

5.1 dimensional tolerance; pultruded shapes; thermosetting plastic

TABLE 5 Flatness (Flat Surfaces)—Standard Bars, Solid Shapes, and Semihollow Shapes

Surface Width, in. (mm)	Maximum Allowable Deviation (<i>D</i>), in. (mm)
Up to 1 (25.4), incl	0.008 (0.20)
Over 1 (25.4)	0.008 (0.20) × <i>W</i> , in. or mm
In any 1 in. (25.4 mm) of width	0.008 (0.20)

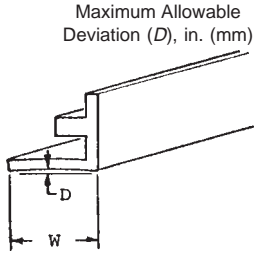
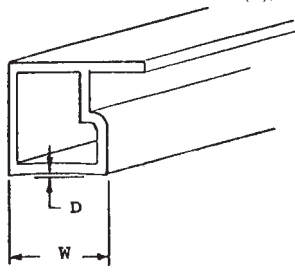


TABLE 6 Flatness (Flat Surfaces)—Standard Hollow Shapes

Minimum Thickness of Composite Forming the Surface, in. (mm)	Maximum Allowable Deviation (<i>D</i>), in. (mm)	
Up to 0.187 (4.7), incl	0.012 (0.30)	0.012 (0.30) × <i>W</i> , in. or mm
0.188 (4.8) and over	0.008 (0.20)	0.008 (0.20) × <i>W</i> , in. or mm

Maximum Allowable Deviation (*D*), in. (mm)

Minimum Thickness of Composite Forming the Surface, in. (mm)



Widths up to 1 in. (25.4 mm), incl, or any 1-in. (25.4-mm) Increment of Wider Surfaces

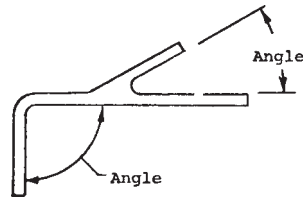
Widths over 1 in. (25.4 mm)

TABLE 7 Angularity—Standard Rods, Bars, and Shapes

Minimum Specified Leg Thickness, in. (mm)	Allowable Deviation from Specified Angle, ±°	
	Angles 90° or less	Angles more than 90°
Up to 0.749 (19.02), incl	1½	1½

Minimum Specified Leg Thickness, in. (mm)

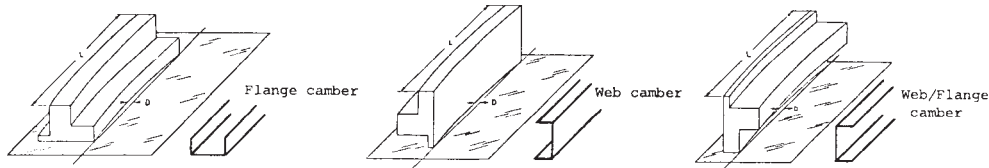
Allowable Deviation from Specified Angle, ±°



Angles 90° or less

Angles more than 90°

TABLE 8 Camber—Standard Shapes



Product	Envelope Diameter (Shapes)	Minimum Thickness (Shapes)	Allowable Deviation (<i>D</i>) from Straight, in. (mm)	
	in. (mm)	in. (mm)	In 1 ft (0.3 m) or less of length	In total length of piece
Shapes	Up to 1.499 (38.07), incl	Up to 0.094 (2.4), incl	0.040 (1.01)	0.040 (1.01) × measured length, ft (m)
	1.500 (38.10) and over	0.095 (2.4) and over	0.031 (0.794)	0.031 (0.794) × measured length, ft (m)
		All	0.031 (0.794)	0.031 (0.794) × measured length, ft (m)

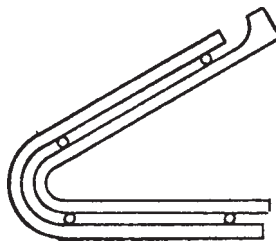


FIG. 1 Four-Point Contact System for Angular Measurement

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

This section identifies the location of selected changes to this specification. For the convenience of the user, Committee D20 has highlighted those changes that may impact the use of this specification. This section may also include descriptions of the changes or reasons for the changes, or both.

D 3917 - 96 (02)^{e1}:

(I) Editorially revised paragraphs 1.3 and 2.15.

D 3917 - 96:

(I) Sections 1 and 3 were revised as was Footnote F in Table 1.

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