

# Advanced Fiber Reinforced Polymer Materials Guidelines for Aircraft Design Certification Process

Presented by:

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WSU-NIAR

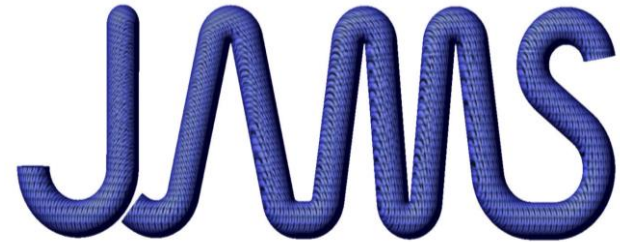


JAMS Technical Review

September 29, 2021



Federal Aviation  
Administration



Joint Centers of Excellence for Advanced Materials



# Introduction

- **Title:** Discontinuous Fiber Thermoplastic Polymer Composite Materials Guidance for Aircraft Design Certification Process and Control
- **Project Participants**
  - John Tomblin – Executive Director
  - Royal Lovingfoss – NCAMP Director
  - Rachael Andrulonis – Sr. Research Engineer
- **FAA Technical Monitor** – Curtis Davies
- **Other FAA Personnel** – Cindy Ashforth (primary), Several others involved
- **Industry Partnerships/Other Collaborations** – University of Washington, Solvay, Sekisui, Several through industry participants and Steering Committees
- Source of matching contribution for the current award – Kansas Aviation Research and Technology (KART)

# Advanced Fiber Reinforced Polymer Materials Guidelines for Aircraft Design Certification Process



WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY

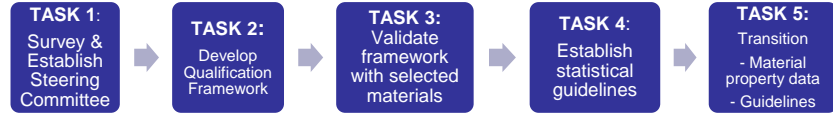
NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR AVIATION RESEARCH

## Overall Goals

- Develop a framework for the qualification of new and innovative **thermoplastic** composite material systems including guidelines and recommendations for their characterization, testing, design and utilization.
- Secondary goal: To transition the test data and guidelines generated in this program into shared databases, such as CMH-17.

## Research Outputs

- Trial tests** provide valuable lessons learned on temperature effects of key mechanical properties, test methods best suited for thermoplastic composites and effects of key process parameters
- First public qualification** of a continuous fiber thermoplastic composite with material and process specifications
- Key aspects of **material and process control** documented
- Lessons learned, guidelines, and data made available to **CMH-17**
- Qualification framework for chopped fiber** thermoplastic composites



## Qualification Program Status

**Material** selected based on industry input:  
*Continuous Fiber Thermoplastic*

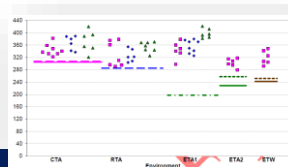
- Toray - TC1225 unidirectional tape
- Thermoplastic semi-crystalline engineered polyaryletherketone resin

### Status:

- Screening trials and full qualification now complete
- All documents have been reviewed by Industry Steering Committee and were released in 2020
- Equivalencies on unsized fiber and continuous compression molding process are underway



Statistical Allowables Generated



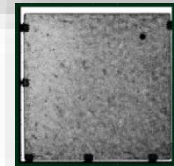
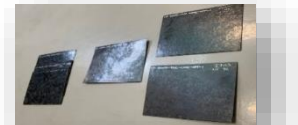
## Discontinuous Fiber Trials Status (Pre-Qualification)

### Objectives:

- Coordinate with industry experts to develop a set of trial tests for multiple chopped fiber forms
- Develop a framework for future qualification of chopped fiber composites

### Status:

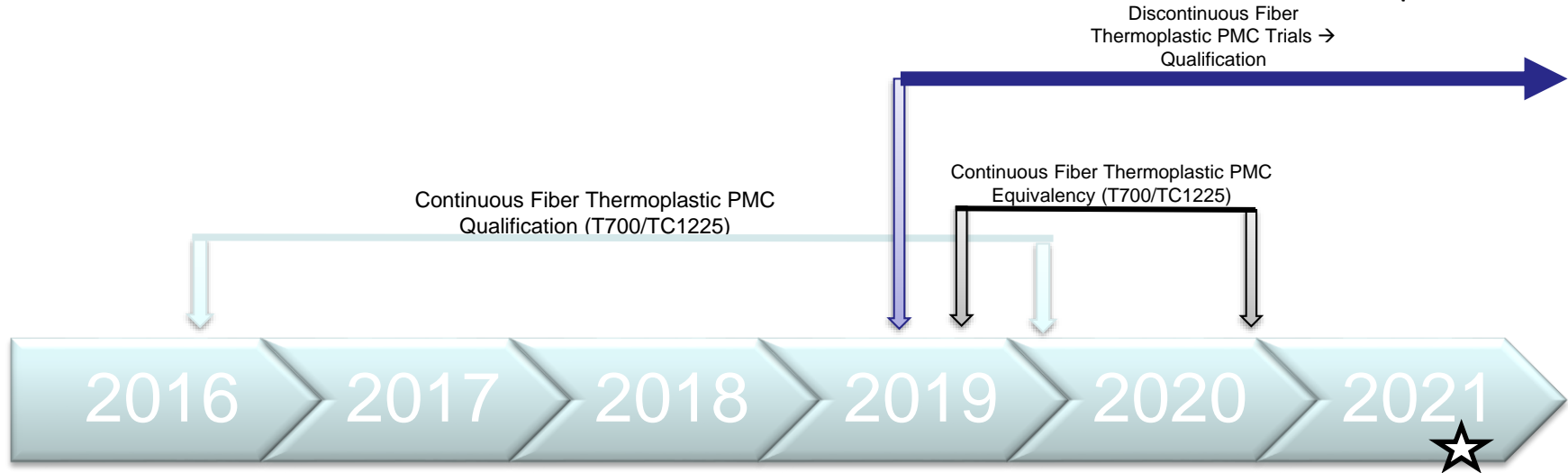
- Preliminary screening trials were completed
- Multiple thicknesses and chip sizes included in the trials
- Additional trials are currently being scoped



Trial panels and C-Scan example



# Calendar Year Schedule



# Technical Approach

- Develop a framework to advance thermoplastic DFC materials into the aerospace industry.
- Utilize the experience and framework of the NCAMP composite program as an example of process sensitive material characterization.
  - For more info on NCAMP:

<https://www.wichita.edu/research/NIAR/Research/ncamp.php>

May 2020 → Q2 2022 → Q2 2023 → Q3 2023

Establish Steering Committee

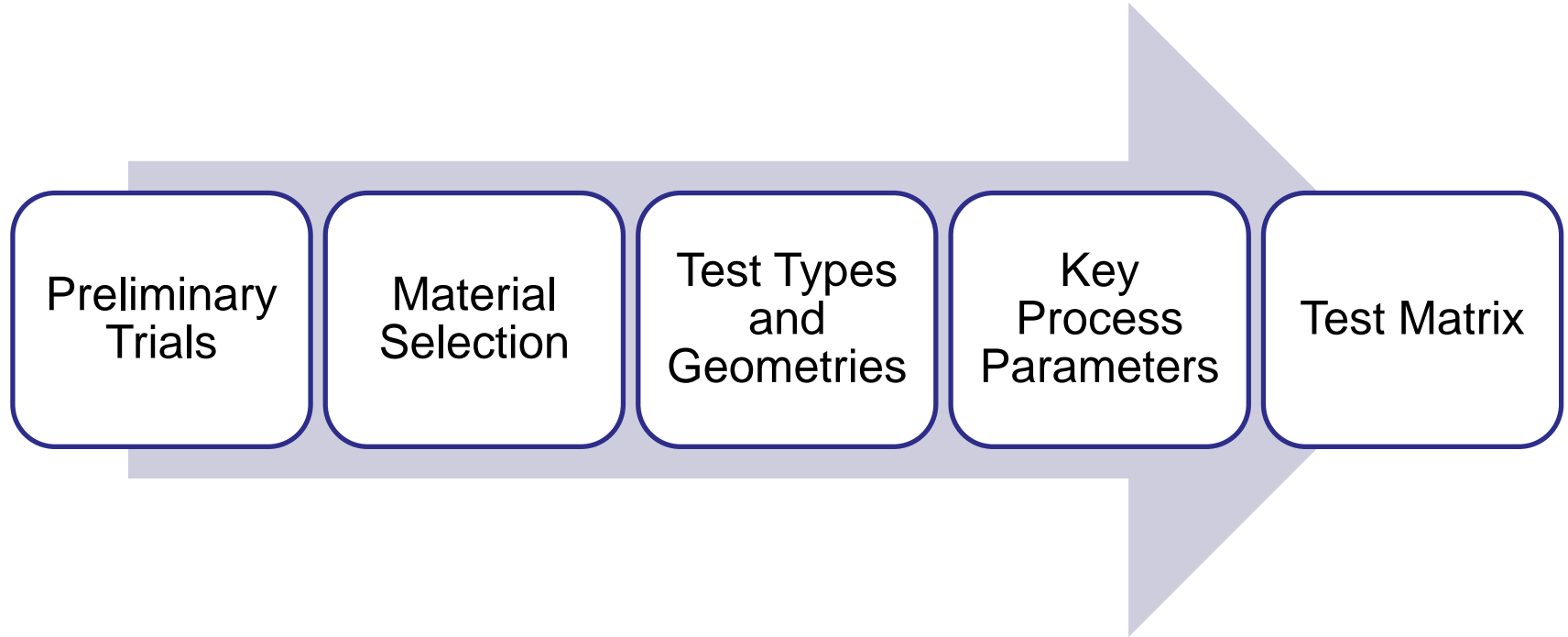
**Develop Qualification Framework (trials)**

Perform Qualification

Establish statistical guidelines

Transition  
- Material property data  
- Guidelines

# DFC Trials



# Preliminary Trials

- **Three Suppliers**
- **Thermoplastic discontinuous composites**
- **All using Chip size: 0.5" x 0.5"**
- **12" x 12' panels**
- **C-Scan**
- **Density and void content**
- **Mechanical Properties at CTA, RTA, 250F/A and 180F/W**
  - Tension
  - Compression
  - In-Plane Shear
  - Short Beam Shear
  - Flexure
  - Bearing
  - Compression After Impact

# Example Results - Tension

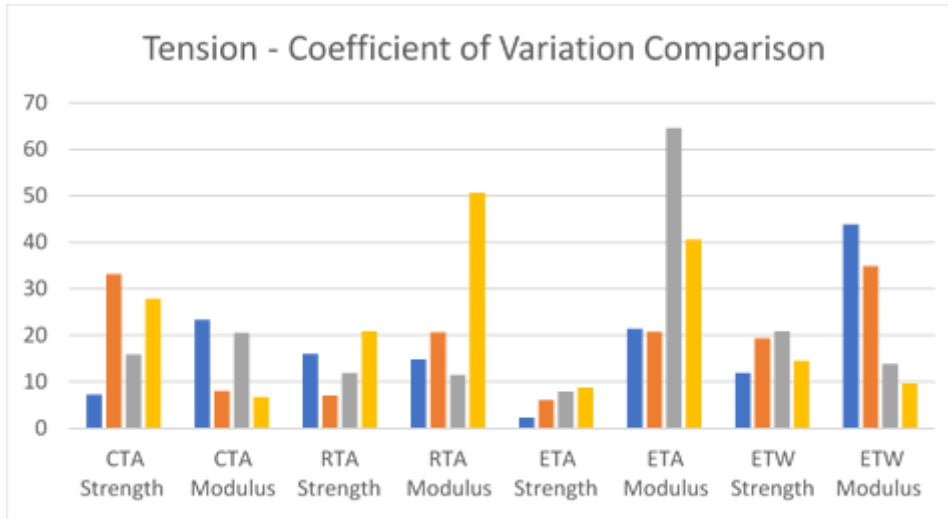
## TENSION - ASTM D3039-17

### TENSILE PROPERTIES OF POLYMER MATRIX COMPOSITE MATERIALS

		CTA		RTA		250F/A		180F/W		
		Ultimate Strength [ksi]	Modulus [Msi]	Ultimate Strength [ksi]	Modulus [Msi]	Ultimate Strength [ksi]	Modulus [Msi]	Ultimate Strength [ksi]	Modulus [Msi]	
Supplier 1	TRIAL 1	Mean	29.237	6.371	30.063	6.138	31.535	5.685	28.998	5.356
		CV	7.276	23.339	16.024	14.822	2.312	21.448	11.915	43.934
Supplier 1	TRIAL 2	Mean	33.201	8.003	40.866	5.957	36.459	5.256	36.262	6.027
		CV	15.990	20.479	7.096	20.705	6.125	20.803	19.394	34.920
Supplier 2	TRIAL 1	Mean	27.907	6.749	33.631	5.184	27.857	7.827	22.787	4.797
		CV	22.625	37.866	11.911	11.507	7.961	64.662	20.844	13.905
Supplier 3	TRIAL 2	Mean	25.270	5.958	23.959	6.832	28.575	6.791	29.477	5.020
		CV	9.669	19.948	20.849	50.676	8.774	40.646	14.536	9.614

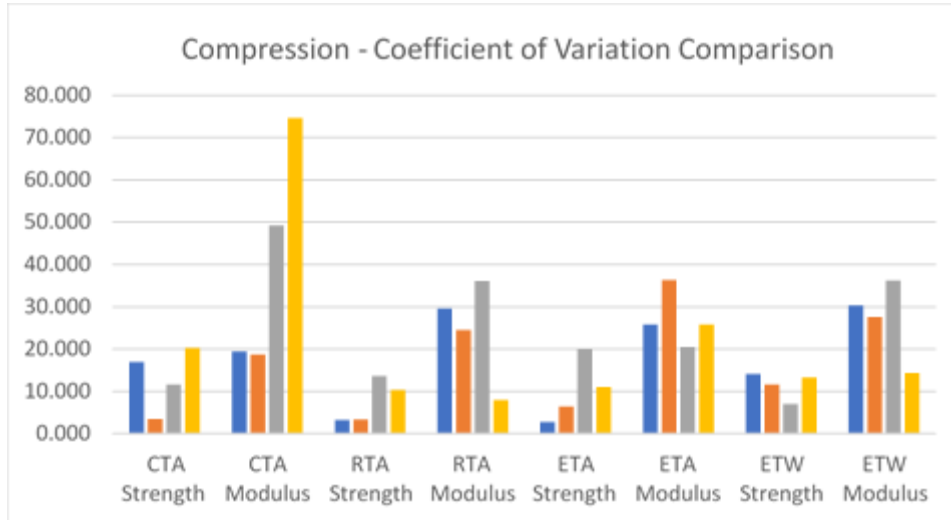


# Tension Results



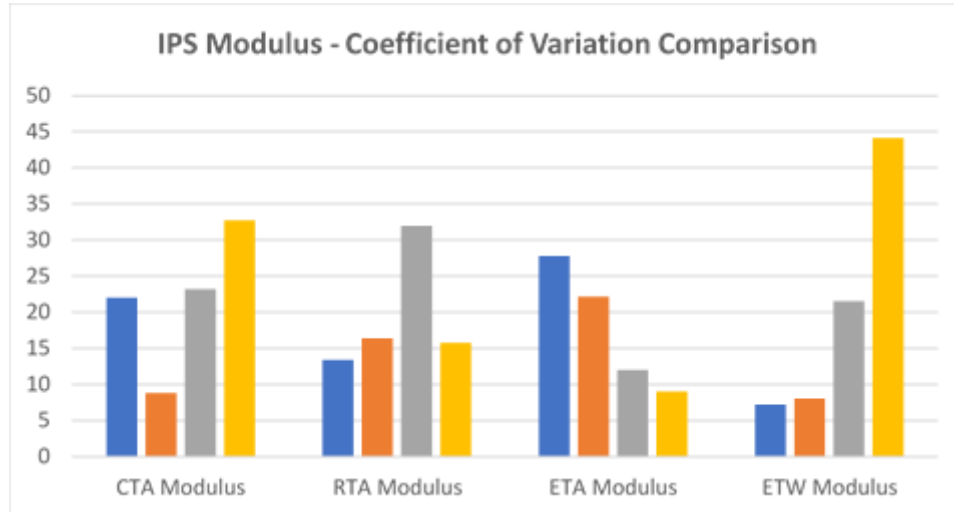
Supplier & Trial	Average CV [%]
Supplier 1 Trial 1	<b>17.634</b>
Supplier 1 Trial 2	<b>18.781</b>
Supplier 2	<b>20.907</b>
Supplier 3	<b>22.469</b>

# Compression Results



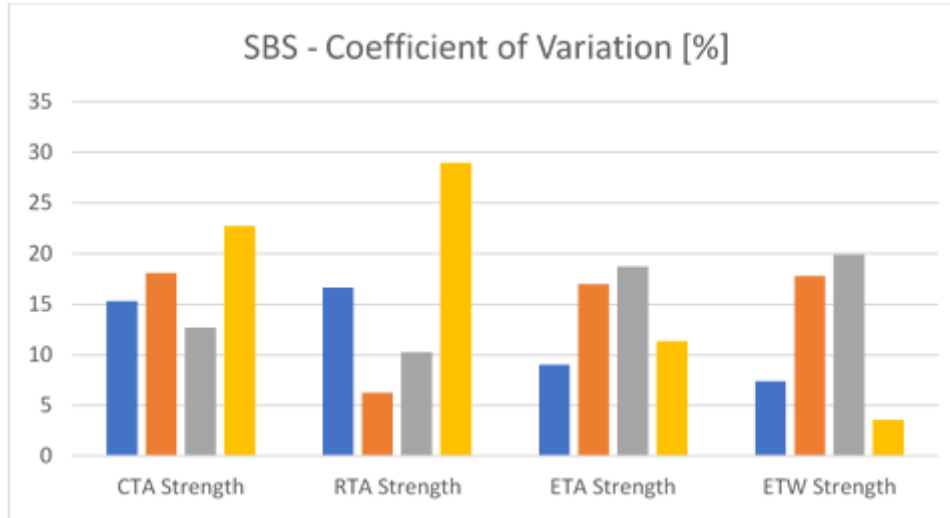
Supplier & Trial	Average CV [%]
Supplier 1 Trial 1	17.772
Supplier 1 Trial 2	16.513
Supplier 2	24.264
Supplier 3	22.222

# In-Plane Shear Results



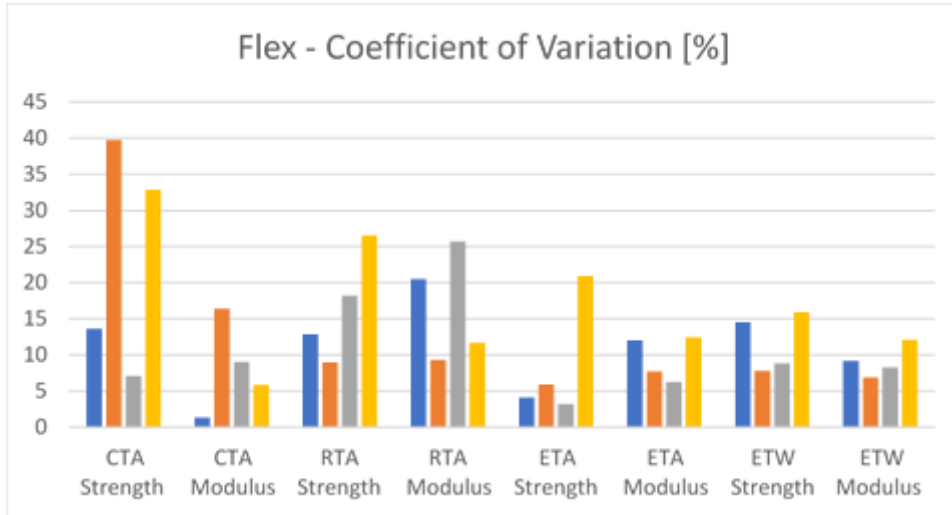
Supplier & Trial	Average CV [%]
Supplier 1 Trial 1	17.597
Supplier 1 Trial 2	13.860
Supplier 2	22.184
Supplier 3	25.402

# Short Beam Shear Test Results



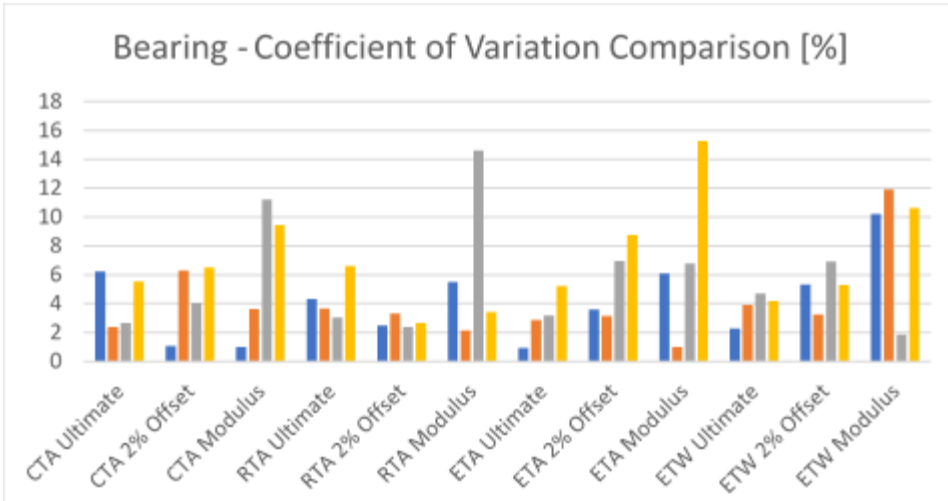
Supplier & Trial	Average CV [%]
Supplier 1 Trial 1	<b>12.099</b>
Supplier 1 Trial 2	<b>14.776</b>
Supplier 2	<b>15.397</b>
Supplier 3	<b>16.670</b>

# Flexure Test Results

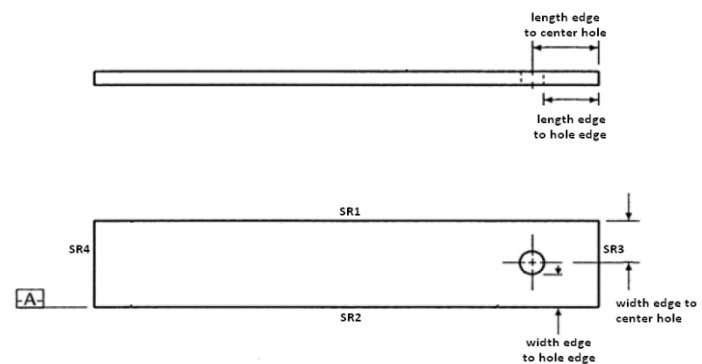


Supplier & Trial	Average CV [%]
Supplier 1 Trial 1	<b>11.008</b>
Supplier 1 Trial 2	<b>12.840</b>
Supplier 2	<b>10.816</b>
Supplier 3	<b>17.297</b>

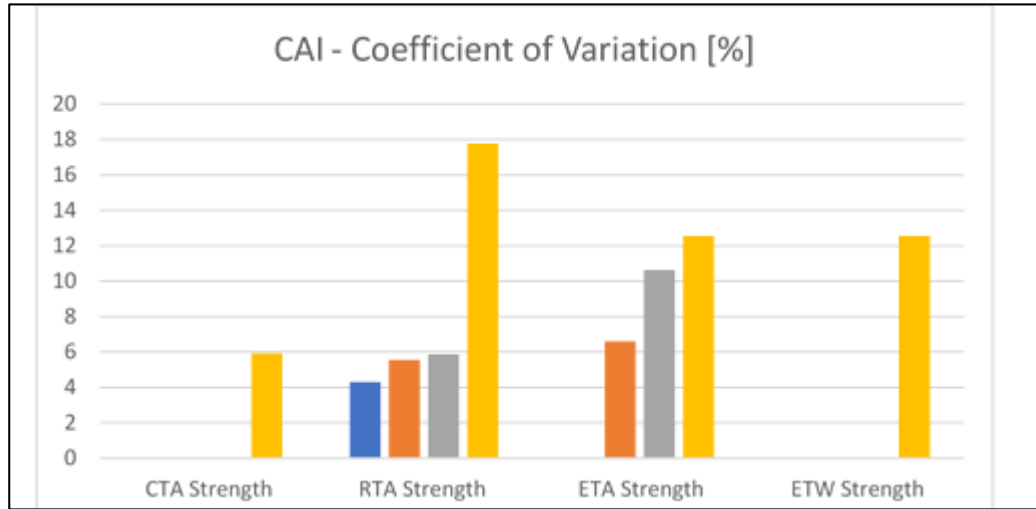
# Bearing Test Results



Supplier & Trial	Average CV [%]
Supplier 1 Trial 1	4.079
Supplier 1 Trial 2	3.959
Supplier 2	5.697
Supplier 3	6.962



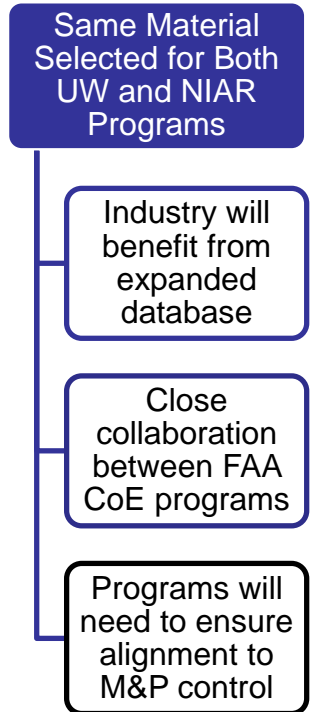
# CAI Results



Supplier & Trial	Average CV [%]
Supplier 1 Trial 1	1.079
Supplier 1 Trial 2	3.043
Supplier 2	4.125
Supplier 3	12.202

# Material Selection Considerations

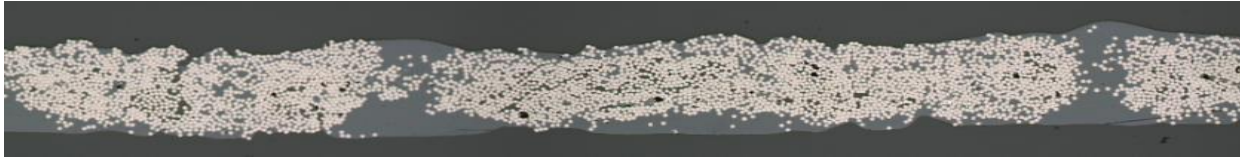
- **Synergy with JAMS partner UW**
  - Characterizing the same material will provide a more complete data set and opportunities for developing guidelines documents
- **Consistent quality**
  - C-Scan results
- **Coefficient of variation**
  - Very high across all materials for many test methods
  - Supplier 1 overall had lower CV
- **Industry relevance**
  - Material used for aerospace parts





## Unique processing characteristics

APC Cross Section



**APC:** Aromatic Polymer Composite tapes have unique characteristics, including:

- Resin rich surface, which is a great assistance in processing
- Improved melt flow
- High level of impregnation
- Superior toughness and damage tolerance
- Excellent environmental resistance
- Capable of oven consolidation
- Extensive qualification database



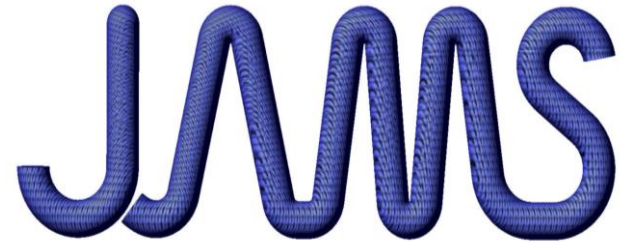
APC has unique characteristics for cost efficient part manufacturing processes



**Federal Aviation  
Administration**

# **Chopped Fiber Thermoplastic Processing**

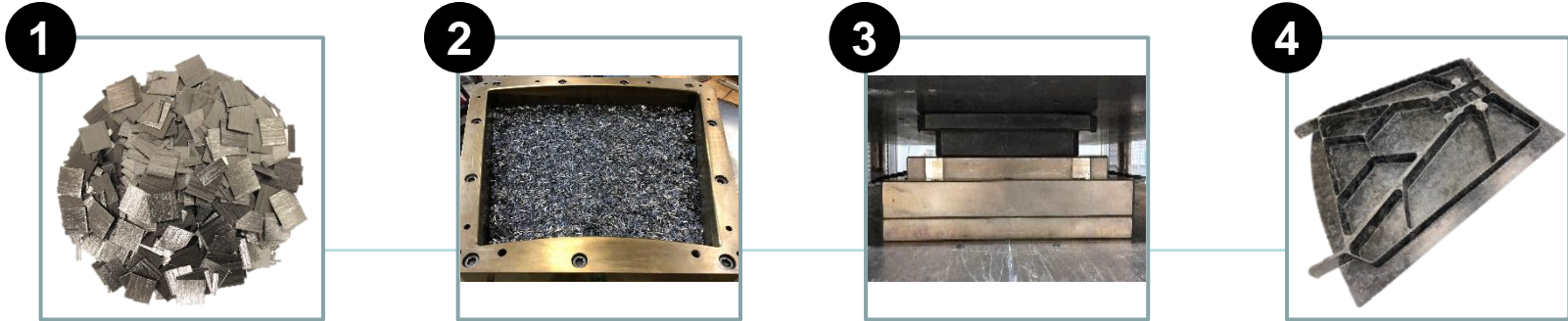
**Industry Partner: Sekisui**



**Joint Centers of Excellence for Advanced Materials**



# QForge® Molding Process



Preparation of Charge

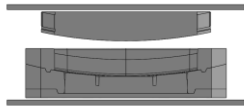
Load Material

Consolidation

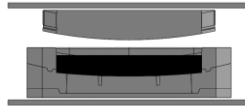
Finished Part



Preparation of Charge



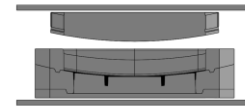
Preparation of Mold



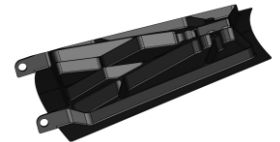
Place Charge Material



Consolidation Cycle  
(400 C, 45 bar)



Demold

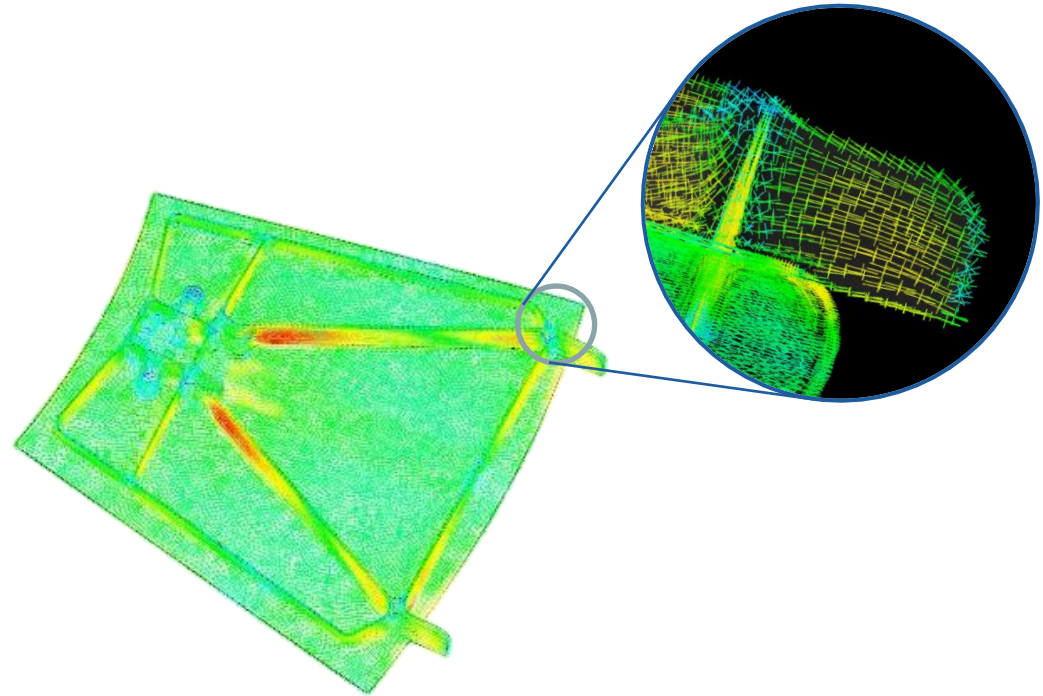


Finished Part

## Molding Cycle (PEKK)

# Tool Design and Fiber Alignment

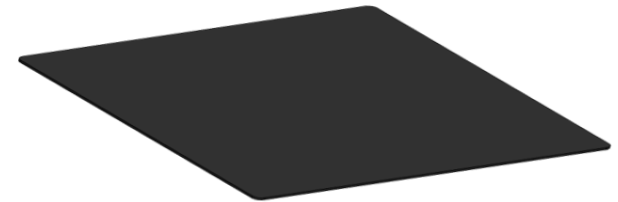
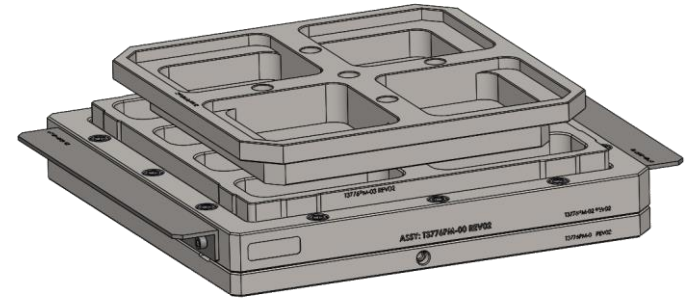
- Melt flow control can be achieved through tool design
- Able to tailor specific strengths at key structural locations by encouraging fiber alignment
- Achieve quasi-isotropic properties and encourage anisotropy where desirable based on prescribed loading conditions



# Low Flow Tool

## Flow Characteristics: Low Flow

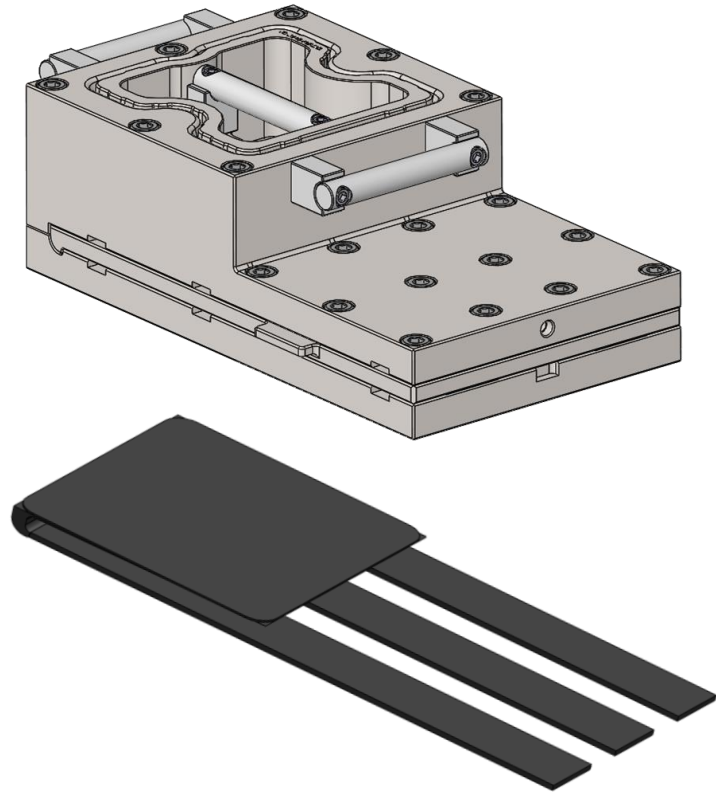
- Platelets typically remain intact throughout the consolidation cycle
- The relative movement of platelets from cycle-start to -finish is negligible
  
- **Panel Size: 12.125" x 12.125"**
- **Max. Thickness: .300"**
- **Min. Recommended Thickness: .070"**



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- Platelets are forced from the charge cavity into the part or mold cavity
- Fibers constituting individual platelets typically disperse during pressure application and fiber alignment is dependent on the flow type (convergent or divergent)
- Coupon Size: 13.85" x 1.50" or 7" x 7"
- Min./Max. Thickness: .150"
- The addition of shims into coupon cavity can allow for thinner coupons



# Goals of Trials

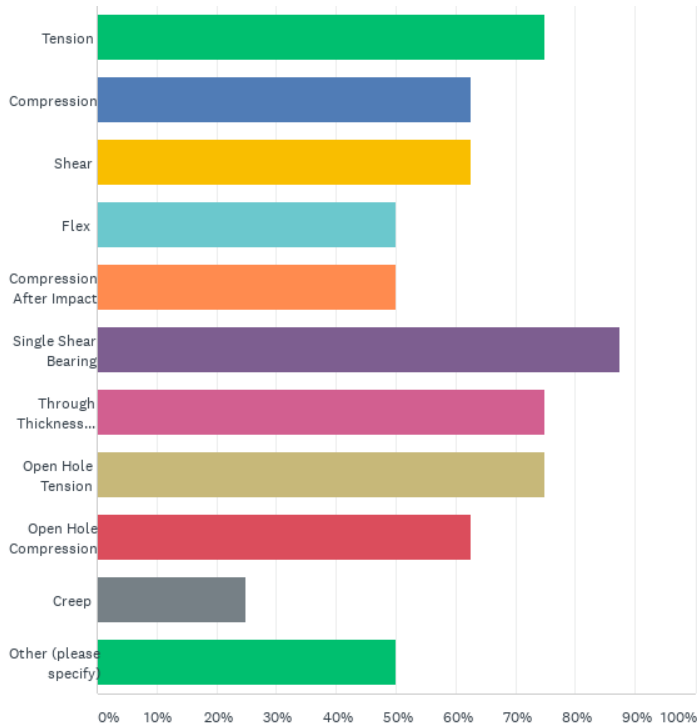
- Critical for success of subsequent qualification that provides value to industry
- Understand the effects of key processing parameters to establish a robust processing specification
- Understand variability and how many specimens are needed
- Understand failure modes and size effects
- Test methods – which ones will give appropriate failure modes consistently, which ones need to be modified
- Test temperatures – does moisture conditioning degrade properties? what is the max use temperature and what temperatures should allowables be derived?
- What information should be included in a material specification and process specification?

# DFC Trial Test Matrix – Survey Results

- **Wednesday, May 19, 2021**



# Q1: Please check off properties of interest for the trial test matrix:



Further characterization of size effects ( $W/D$ ), where  $D$  is hole or other damage size metrics, and inhomogeneous microstructure.

Also consider DIC investigations that show how stress concentrations are interacting with specimen geometry.

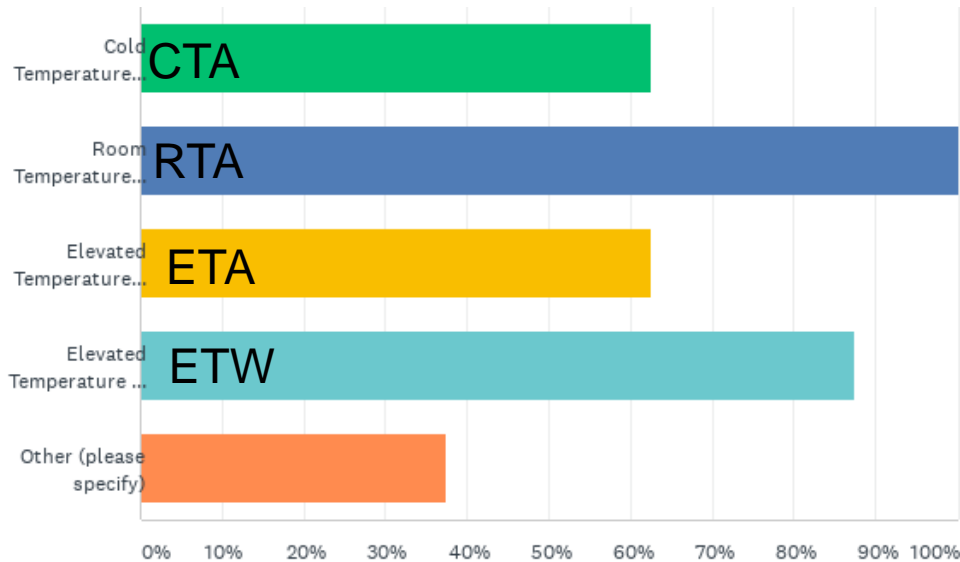
- Thru-Thickness Tension should be done with the curved beam ASTM D6415 type test

- Also need some tension tests for a) range of thicknesses, b) comparing specimen machined from larger panel vs net molded specimens

Ensure all specimens have width at least 1.5 times largest platelet dimension (including diagonal).

finite hole size effects, e.g., OHT at  $D = 0.375, 0.50, 0.75, 1.00$ , etc.

## Q2: The following conditions are planned for the next set of trials. Please indicate which conditions are of interest:

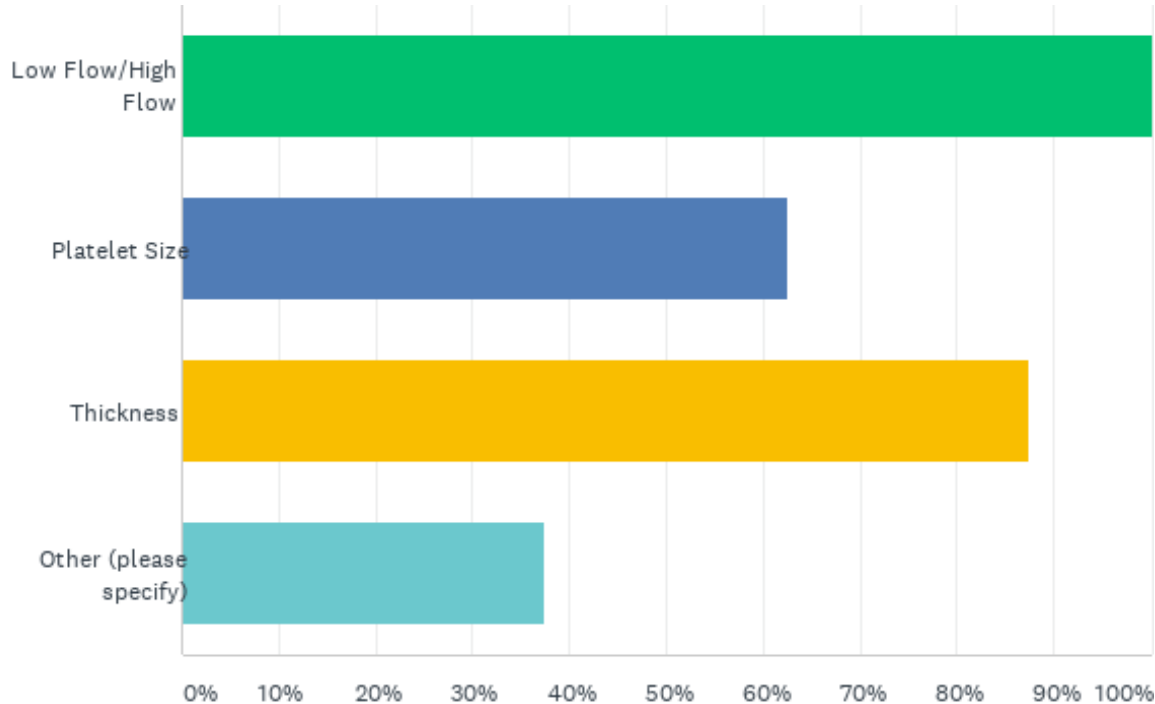


add -65F if a property is more critical vs RTA;  
add 240F/amb, 300F/amb; add 240F/wet and  
300F/wet if previous data shows wet effect is  
significant

250°F ambient - Needed for engine applications

ETW at  $T = \text{wet } T_g - 50F$

### Q3: Please indicate which parameters you would like to see evaluated in the trials:



Comparisons of properties from specimen machined from larger panel vs properties from net molded specimens.

Platelet size of 0.5"x0.5" seems most common in industry and should be selected for all trials.

molded 90-deg flanges; tension-fitting sub-elements; lug sub-elements

# Other Survey Comments

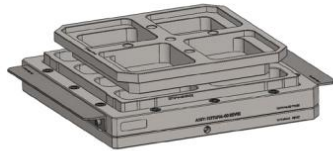
As stated before, need to come up with some generic-ish 3D geometry parts that can be used to validate analysis methods using material properties from flat coupons. Tee-joint fittings; bathtub fittings, etc.

For high flow condition, need to investigate through thickness variation in fiber alignment due to skin-core-skin effects (flow shear effects) & effect of thickness on this.

## Low Flow Tool

Flow Characteristics: Low Flow

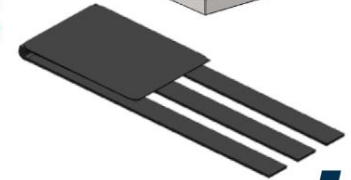
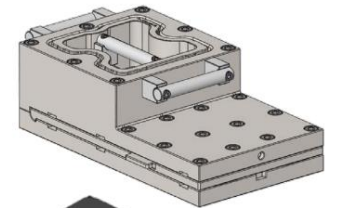
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# Discussion Topics

- **Tension: ASTM D3039/D638**
  - For D3039 vs D638, it seems that industry recommends D638 for discontinuous fiber composites as strain gauges are not of much value for discontinuous fiber.
  - D638 – will need to use extensometers to gather modulus data, the only drawback is that we can't get ultimate strain with an extensometer.
  - Consider D3039 with DIC
- **Through Thickness Tension: D6415**
  - There are many differences between high and low flow, but one major difference is the fiber orientation through the thickness of the coupon/component; with low flow being resin dominate through thickness and high flow being more “isotropic”.
  - There may be other standards for quantifying this difference.
- **Creep**
  - Elevated temperature creep in tension properties – this has been a question for multiple potential applications.
  - This test can also be added as additional information, but not for deriving B-basis allowables.
  - Not much interest in the survey

# Discussion Topics

- **Coupon Widths**
  - Coupons widths to accommodate a “flakes” full length (fiber direction) should only be of concern for low flow coupons where the flakes and fibers maintain their original shape during the consolidation cycle.
  - Best to treat low flow and high flow with the same methods.
- **Platelet Size**
  - Stick with industry standard 0.5 x 0.5 inch for trials?
  - Options: 0.5 x 1/16 in. or 0.5 x 0.5 in. square
- **Thickness**
  - The thickness effect saturates after 0.15". Recommend 0.1" and 0.15" range.
  - UW tested a 0.065" thickness, which showed lower strength and higher variability.

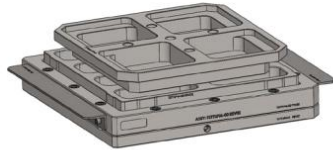
# Parameters of Interest

- Flow
- Platelet Size
- Thickness

## Low Flow Tool

Flow Characteristics: Low Flow

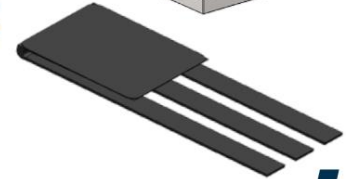
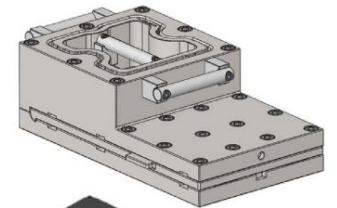
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SEKISUI

# Test Iterations

Iteration	Flow	Thickness	Platelet Size
1	High	Thickness 1	Platelet Size 1
2	High	Thickness 1	Platelet Size 2
3	High	Thickness 2	Platelet Size 1
4	High	Thickness 2	Platelet Size 2
5	Low	Thickness 1	Platelet Size 1
6	Low	Thickness 1	Platelet Size 2
7	Low	Thickness 2	Platelet Size 1
8	Low	Thickness 2	Platelet Size 2

Cannot do this combination  
 Reduced Matrix  
 Full Matrix

Thickness 1 = 0.250 in

Thickness 2 = 0.150 in

Platelet Size 1 = 0.5 x 1/16 in

Platelet Size 2 = 0.5 x 0.5 in

Low Flow - 12" x 12" panel, longitudinal or transverse does not matter, thickness is 0.075 to 0.300 inch.

High Flow - 13" x 1.5" panel, longitudinal, thickness is only 0.150 inch.

High Flow - 7" x 7" panel, transverse, thickness is only 0.150 inch.



# Full Matrix – High Flow

**Mechanical Test Matrix (Optimized Iteration) - High Flow (0.150") (Platelet 0.5" x 0.5")**

Test Type	Orientation	Test Method (2)	CTA (-65F)	RTA	180F/A	180F/W	350F/A	350F/W
Tension	Long to flow	ASTM D3039 (DIC at RT)	6	6	6	6	6	6
Tension	Transverse to flow	ASTM D3039 (DIC at RT)	6	6	6	6	6	6
Compression	Long to flow	ASTM D6484 with no hole /D3410	6	6	6	6	6	6
Compression	Transverse to flow	ASTM D6484 with no hole / D3410	6	6	6	6	6	6
Shear	Long to flow	ASTM D7078 / D5379		6				
Shear	Transverse to flow	ASTM D7078 / D5379		6				
Flex	Long to flow	ASTM D7264		6				
Flex	Transverse to flow	ASTM D7264		6				
Open Hole Tension	Long to flow	ASTM D5766, hole size 1 (TBD)		6				
Open Hole Tension	Transverse to flow	ASTM D5766, hole size 1 (TBD)		6				
Open Hole Tension	Long to flow	ASTM D5766, hole size 2 (TBD)		6				
Open Hole Tension	Transverse to flow	ASTM D5766, hole size 2 (TBD)		6				
Open Hole Tension	Long to flow	ASTM D5766, hole size 3 (TBD)		6				
Open Hole Tension	Transverse to flow	ASTM D5766, hole size 3 (TBD)		6				
Open Hole Compression	Long to flow	ASTM D6484		6				
Open Hole Compression	Transverse to flow	ASTM D6484		6				
Interlaminar Tension	Long to flow	ASTM D6415		6				
Interlaminar Tension	Transverse to flow	ASTM D6415		6				
Single Shear Bearing	Long to flow	ASTM D5961 procedure C, 0.25"d		6				
Single Shear Bearing	Transverse to flow	ASTM D5961 procedure C, 0.25"d		6				
CAI	Long to flow	ASTM D7136/D7137		6				
CAI	Transverse to flow	ASTM D7136/D7137		6				

**Notes**

- (1) Test matrices to be repeated as shown in separate tab
- (2) Scale/oversize coupon so 2 or more platelet across width (may required test method deviation/modification)

# High Flow – Reduced Matrix



**Mechanical Test Matrix (Iteration 3) High Flow (0.150") (Platelet 0.5" x 0.0625")**

Test Type	Orientation	Test Method (2)	CTA (-65F)	RTA	180F/A	180F/W	350F/A	350F/W
Tension	Long to flow	ASTM D3039 (DIC at RT)		6	6		6	
Tension	Transverse to flow	ASTM D3039 (DIC at RT)		6	6		6	
Compression	Long to flow	ASTM D6484 with no hole		6				
Compression	Transverse to flow	ASTM D6484 with no hole		6				
Shear	Long to flow	ASTM D7078		6				
Shear	Transverse to flow	ASTM D7078		6				
Open Hole Tension	Long to flow	ASTM D5766, hole size 1 (TBD)		6				
Open Hole Tension	Transverse to flow	ASTM D5766, hole size 1 (TBD)		6				

# Low Flow – Reduced Matrix



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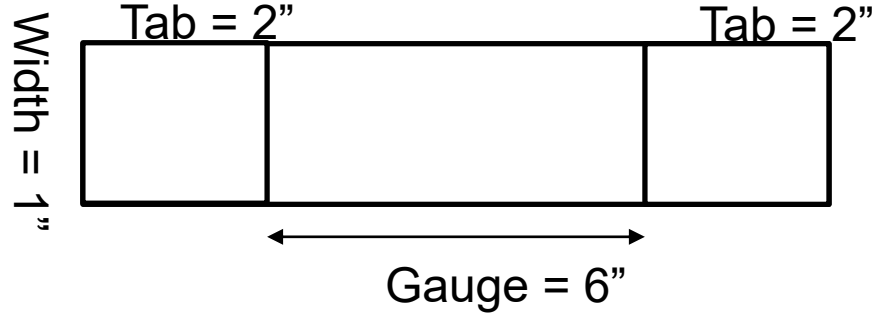
**Mechanical Test Matrix (Iteration 5) Low Flow (0.250") (Platelet 0.5" x 0.0625")**

Test Type	Test Method (2)	CTA (-65F)	RTA	180F/A	180F/W	350F/A	350F/W
Tension	ASTM D3039 (DIC at RT)		6	6		6	
Compression	ASTM D6484 with no hole		6				
Shear	ASTM D7078		6				
Open Hole Tension	ASTM D5766, hole size 1 (TBD)		6				

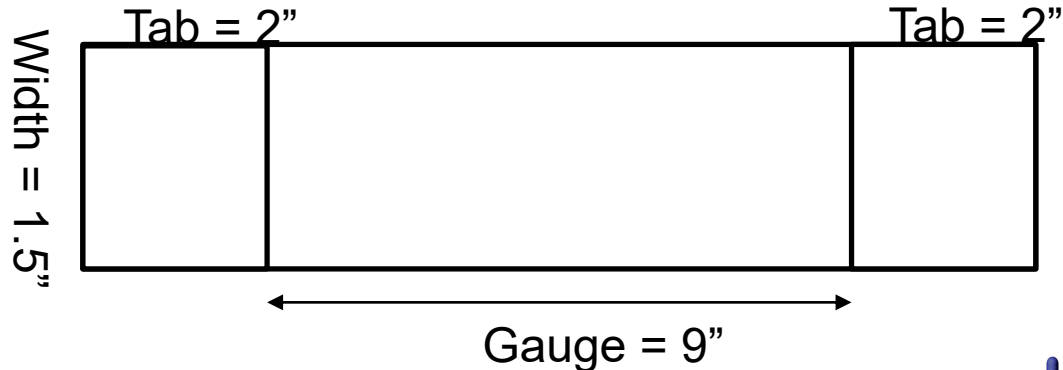
# Recommended Geometries

# Unnotched Tension (ASTM D3039)

## UW tested UNT coupon geometry

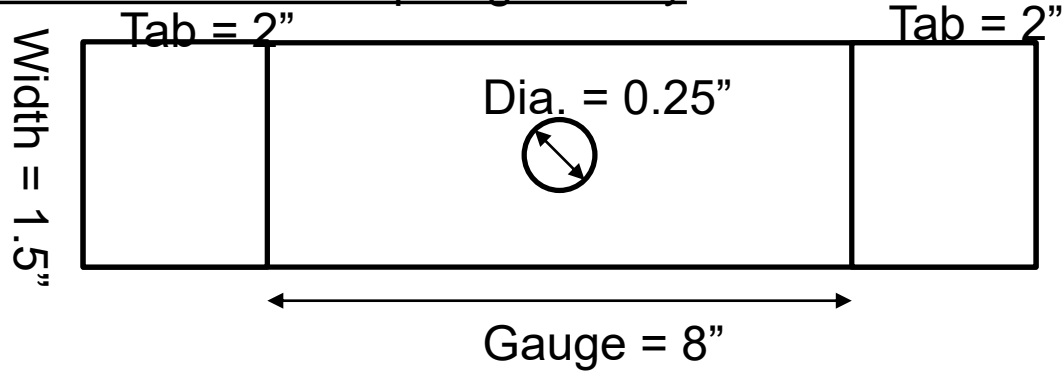


## Recommended UNT coupon geometry

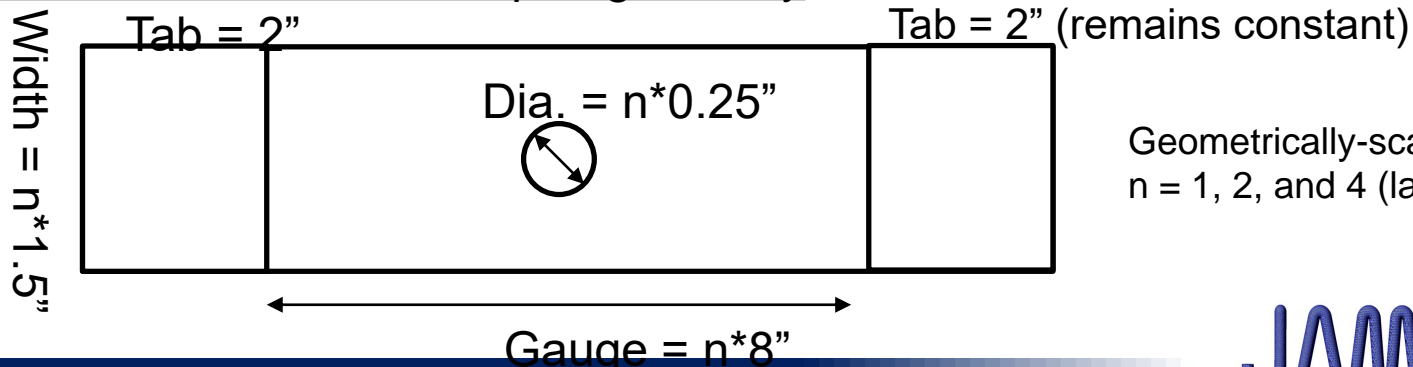


# Open Hole Tension (ASTM D5766)

## UW tested OHT coupon geometry



## Recommended OHT coupon geometry



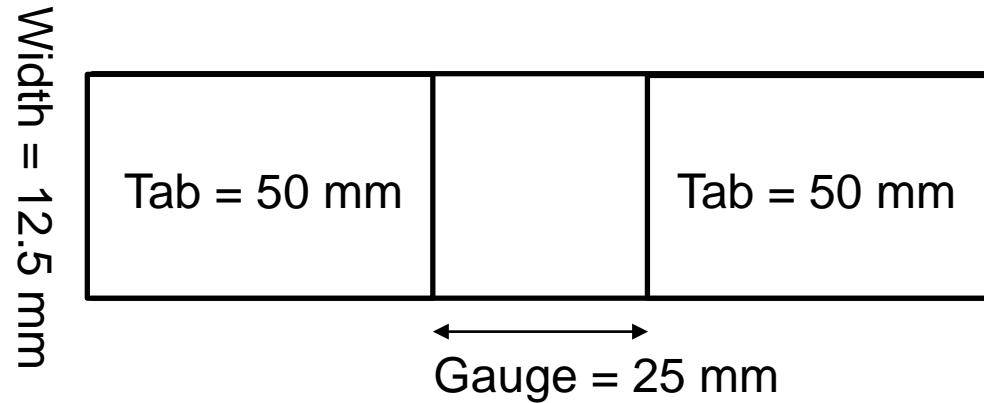
Geometrically-scaled coupons:  
 $n = 1, 2, \text{ and } 4$  (larger the better)

# Compression

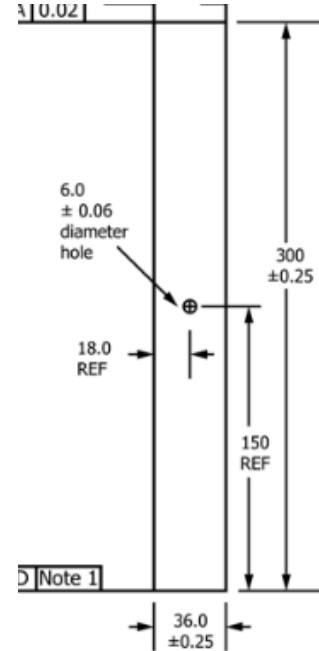
ASTM D3410 - UW tested compression coupon geometry .

Adjusted coupon geometry to fit into our existing compression fixture.

Tested thickness = 3 ~ 4 mm



## D6484 Geometry

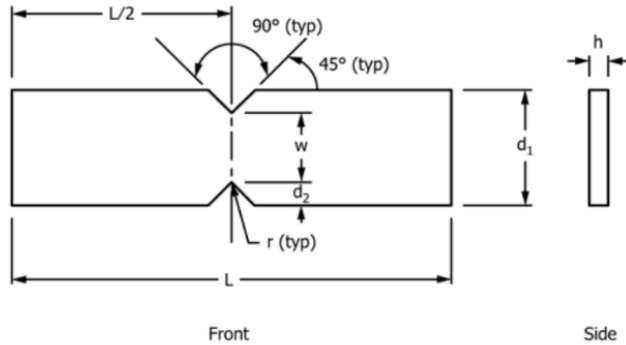


Discussion:

- The D3410 is smaller and is similar to D6641.
- NIAR has had many slippage issues with the way the fixture is designed.
- D6484 is wider and we can make sure we get at least one unit cell into the gage width.

# In-plane Shear (ASTM D5379)

## UW tested D5379 shear coupon geometry.



### Nominal Specimen Dimensions

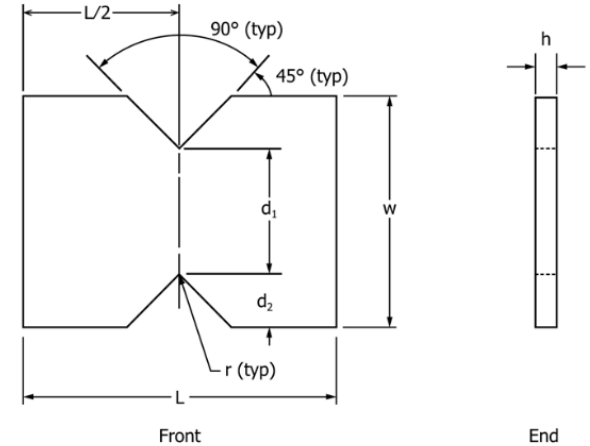
- $d_1$  = 19 mm [0.75 in.]
- $d_2$  = 3.8 mm [0.15 in.]
- $h$  = as required
- $L$  = 76 mm [3.0 in.]
- $r$  = 1.3 mm [0.05 in.]
- $w$  = 11.4 mm [0.45 in.]

UW tested  $h = 3$  mm.

Clamps were needed at the tabs to have a desired failure mode



## D7078



### Nominal Specimen Dimensions

- $d_1$  = 31.0 mm [1.20 in.]
- $d_2$  = 12.7 mm [0.50 in.]
- $h$  = as required
- $L$  = 76.0 mm [3.0 in.]
- $r$  = 1.3 mm [0.05 in.]
- $w$  = 56.0 mm [2.20 in.]



# Flexure (ASTM D7264)

## 3-pt bending coupon geometry

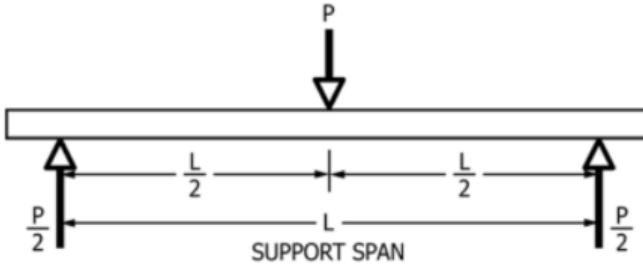


FIG. 1 Procedure A—Loading Diagram

- 32:1 span to thickness ratio
- Total length =  $1.2 * \text{span length}$
- Tested 3, 6, 9 mm thicknesses.
- For 3 and 6 mm thickness, width = 13 mm, supporting pins =  $\frac{1}{8}$ " radius.
- For 9 mm thickness, width = 26 mm, supporting pins =  $\frac{3}{8}$ " radius (due to crushing at the pins).

# Next Steps and Planned Work

- Continue to finalize test specimen geometry with University of Washington
- Work with Sekisui and Solvay to finalize trial test matrix
- Fabricate test panels
- Perform pre-qualification testing for all test requirements within:
  - NDI
  - Physical Testing
  - Mechanical Testing
  - Mechanical Design Guidance Testing
- Data reduction and reporting
- Develop framework for qualification

# Questions?

## Thank you!