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**Fine ceramics (advanced ceramics,  
advanced technical ceramics) —  
Rockwell indentation test for evaluation  
of adhesion of ceramic coatings**

*Céramiques techniques — Évaluation de l'adhérence des revêtements  
céramiques par l'essai de pénétration de Rockwell*



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## Foreword

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ISO 26443 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 206, *Fine ceramics*.

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# Fine ceramics (advanced ceramics, advanced technical ceramics) — Rockwell indentation test for evaluation of adhesion of ceramic coatings

## 1 Scope

This International Standard specifies a method for the qualitative evaluation of the adhesion of ceramic coatings up to 20 µm thick by indentation with a Rockwell diamond indenter. The formation of cracks after indentation may also reveal cohesive failure. The indentations are made with a Rockwell hardness test instrument.

The method described in this International Standard may also be suitable for evaluating the adhesion of metallic coatings.

The test is not suitable for elastic coatings on hard substrates.

## 2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 6508-1, *Metallic materials — Rockwell hardness test — Part 1: Test method (scales A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, K, N, T)*

ISO 6508-2, *Metallic materials — Rockwell hardness test — Part 2: Verification and calibration of testing machines (scales A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, K, N, T)*

## 3 Principle

An indentation is made into the coated surface of the specimen to be tested, whereby the coating near the indent can be damaged. The indentation and surrounding area are examined for cracks and/or flaking with the aid of an optical microscope.

## 4 Apparatus

The indentations shall be made in accordance with ISO 6508-1, following the procedure for a Rockwell hardness indentation.

The Rockwell hardness testing machine shall conform with the requirements of ISO 6508-2.

The contour of the diamond indenter shall be checked regularly by optical means (magnifying glass, optical microscope, stereomicroscope or projection screen). This check shall be made for at least four different axial sections. The indenter shall be replaced if this examination reveals any damage to the indenter (e.g. chipping). A magnification of at least  $\times 200$  is recommended to detect ring cracks or microwear.