



Test Monitoring Center

203 Armstrong Drive, Freeport, PA 16229, USA

www.astmtmc.org
412-365-1000

ASTM D6557 Ball Rust Test Informational Letter No. 26-1
Sequence No. 5
March 30, 2026

ASTM consensus has not yet been obtained on this information letter. An appropriate ASTM ballot will be issued in order to achieve such consensus.

TO: Ball Rust Test Mailing List
SUBJECT: Addition of Generation 3 (Gen 3) Image Analysis System to the Procedure

After numerous teleconferences and discussions, the Ball Rust Test Surveillance Panel approved the use of a fourth image analysis system to be available for the ASTM D 6557 (Ball Rust Test) procedure. The newest image analysis system is described as Generation 3 (Gen 3) in the procedure and includes these components:

1. INVERTED METALLURGICAL MICROSCOPE WITH DARK FIELD ILLUMINATION
(NIKON EPIPHOT 200 or NIKON ECLIPSE MA200)
2. DIGITAL VIDEO CAMERA (TELEDYNE LUMENERA INFINITY5-5C)
3. COMPUTER WITH
 - A. INPUT FOR DIGITAL CAMERA (USB or HDMI)
 - B. OPERATING SYSTEM (WINDOWS 11 64 BIT)
 - C. IMAGE ANALYSIS SOFTWARE (MEDIA CYBERNETICS IMAGE-PRO V11)
 - D. BRT GEN 3 SOFTWARE (CUSTOM APP FOR IMAGE-PRO V11)

The surveillance panel voted to make this change effective December 5, 2025.

Joe Franklin
Chair
Ball Rust Test Surveillance Panel

Jeffrey A. Clark
Executive Director
ASTM Test Monitoring Center

Attachment

c: Sean Moyer, TMC
John Loop, TMC
[TMC Website](#)

Distribution: Email

Revises ASTM D 6557-18e1

6.8 *Image Analysis System*—A specific imaging analysis system^{10,7} is required. ~~Three~~ **Four** image analysis systems are approved for use in this test: Generation 1 (Gen 1), Generation 2 (Gen 2), ~~and~~ a hybrid of these two systems Generation 2H (Gen 2H), ~~and~~ **Generation 3 (Gen 3)**. ~~This~~ The hybrid system is composed of the equipment described in 6.8.1.1 through 6.8.1.20, 6.8.2.4 through 6.8.2.6, and 6.8.3.3 through 6.8.3.4. ~~The Gen 3 system is composed of equipment described in 6.8.1.21 through 6.8.1.33, 6.8.2.7 through 6.8.2.9 and 6.8.3.5 through 6.8.3.6.~~

6.8.2 *Image Capture Hardware and Software*—The required image capture hardware and software are shown below. The Gen 1 system components are described in 6.8.2.1 through 6.8.2.3. The Gen 2 and Gen 2H system components are described in 6.8.2.4 through 6.8.2.6. ~~The Gen 3 system components are described in 6.8.2.7 through 6.8.2.9.~~

6.8.2.7 Research grade, high resolution camera system, Teledyne Infinity5 -5.

6.8.2.8 Infinity Capture Software.

6.8.2.9 The host computer system shall meet or exceed the following specifications

(1) Hardware—3.0 GHz or faster 64-bit (×64) processor, 48 gigabyte (GB) RAM (64-bit), 200 GB available Solid-State Drive (SSD), NVIDIA GeForce RTX or above cards with 8GB graphics memory, Keyboard, Mouse, and Computer Monitor (1280 × 1024 resolution or greater – Min VERT RES = 1024)

(2) Software—Microsoft Windows 11 –64-bit, Microsoft Excel 2024.

6.8.3 *BRT Image Analysis Software*—The required BRT image analysis software for each system is shown below. The Gen 1 system components are described in 6.8.3.1 through 6.8.3.2. The Gen 2 and Gen 2H system components are described in 6.8.3.3 through 6.8.3.4. ~~The Gen 3 system components are described in 6.8.3.5 through 6.8.3.6~~

6.8.3.1 BRT macro program, and

6.8.3.2 Optimate image analysis engine.

6.8.3.3 Meyer Instruments BRTGEN2.EXE, and

6.8.3.4 Media Cybernetics IMAGE-PRO PLUS 7 image analysis engine.

6.8.3.5 Alces Imaging and Automation BALL_RUST_TEST_APP_V3C, and

6.8.3.6 Media Cybernetics IMAGE-PRO V11 image analysis engine.

A change to footnote 10 will also be made.

¹⁰ ~~The sole source of supply of the apparatus known to the committee at this time is Meyer Instruments, Inc., 1304 Langham Creek, Suite 235, Houston, TX 77084.~~ The sole source of supply of the apparatus known to the committee at this time is Alces Imaging and Automation, LLC, 2906 Blue Wind Court, Houston, TX 77084.