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Thermal Contraction of Electrical Insulators

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The thermal contraction from room temperature to 4 K of electrical insulation materials has been measured using a modified Invar 36 rod-in-tube dilatometer. The test assembly permitted independent measurement, simultaneously, of two samples. This permitted the use of a reference and an insulation sample for each thermal run. Materials that were measured included a conventional epoxy resin, Kapton film, and a series of glass/epoxy resin, glass/polyimide resin, and glass/ epoxy resin/Kapton laminates. The glass contents of the glass/epoxy resin laminates were varied to obtain the dependency of thermal contraction on volume percent glass. Data are compared to previous measurements and the laminate data are presented as a function of temperature and volume percent glass.

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