# PLASTIC MEDIA FOR SOFT SANDBLASTING IN AEROSPACE MAINTENANCE



# AVIOCHEM

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Registration No. 60



### **CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION**

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Trading of products and equipment for aeronautical and industrial

EA 29

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Date First Registered: 6th January 2003

Date Certificate Issued: 6th January 2006

Date Certificate Expires: 6th January 2009

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### **Index**

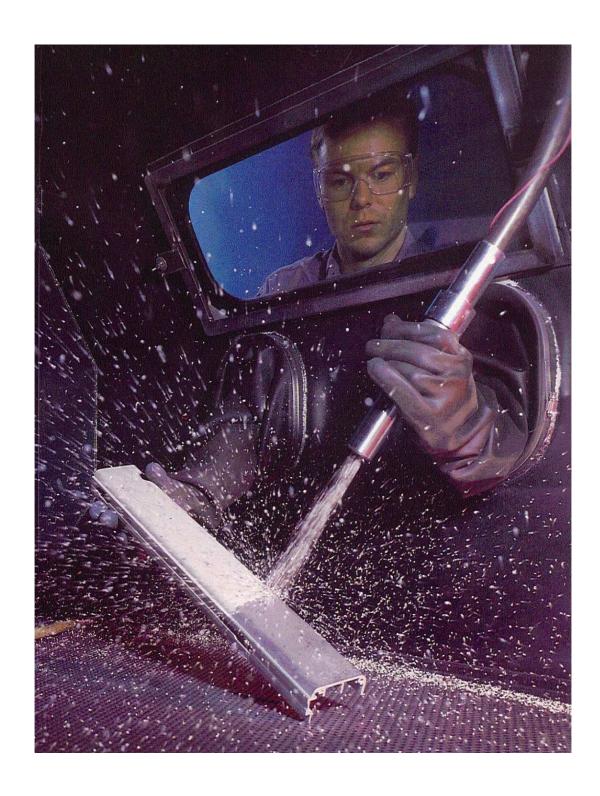
Page 6	Different media comparison in density and hardness
Page 7	Types and applications of the different plastic media by usage and consumption
Page 8	Examples of paint and coating removal
Page 10	Graph displaying the wide array of plastic media sizes and their relative hardness
Page 11	MC Technical Data Bulletin
Page 12	MB Technical Data Bulletin
Page 13	AC Technical Data Bulletin
Page 14	MS Technical Data Bulletin
Page 15	EG Technical Data Bulletin
Page 16	AEROBLAST
Page 19	Metallic Erosion Test report : "PLASTIC MEDIA" VS glass beads



### **PLASTIC MEDIA FOR:**

- PAINT STRIPPING
- DEOXIDATION
- SOFT SAND BLASTING
- ORGANIC COATINGS REMOVAL
- SPECIAL TREATEMENTS





Paint stripping of an aluminium shape using an "MB" type media.



# DIFFERENT MEDIA COMPARISON IN DENSITY AND HARDNESS

PART DESIGNATION	MATERIAL	<b>DENSITY</b> gr/cc	HARDNESS Barcol	HARDNESS Rockwell/MoHS
	walnut	1.00		3.00
AC	acrylic	1.10 – 1.2	46 to 54	3.50
EG	polystyrene	1.15 – 1.25	34 to 42	3.00
МВ	urea beads	1.47 – 1.52	54 to 62	3.50
МС	melamine beads	1.47 – 1.52	64 to 72	4.00
MS	polycarbonate media	1.28 - 1.33	30 to 40	3.0





# TYPES AND APPLICATIONS OF THE DIFFERENT PLASTIC MEDIA BY USAGE AND CONSUMPTION

Туре	Des	cription
Paint stripping Maxi Clean (hard) Multi Blast (medium) Enduro Grade (soft) Acrylic	MC MB EG AC	granulated granulated granulated granulated
Transportation vehicles cleaning and renovation  Multi Blast (medium)  Maxi Clean (hard)	MB MC	granulated granulated
Steel and chrome plated mould cleaning Maxi Clean (hard) Multi Blast (medium) Maxi Six	MC MB MS	granulated granulated granulated
Aluminum mould cleaning Multi Blast (medium) Enduro Grade (soft) Maxi Six Acrylic	MB EG MS AC	granulated granulated granulated granulated



## EXAMPLES OF PAINT AND COATING REMOVAL

### <u>Application</u> <u>Comments</u>

#### **Auto Bodies**

- Fiberglass and rigid plastic
- Sheet metal
- Flexible plastic bumpers and panels
- Accessories

### Uncontaminated plastic will strip paint from these surfaces without etching adjacent chrome, rubber or glass (masking is still recommended).

Auto bodies have been stripped in 2 hours. Rigid plastic can be totally stripped with only minimal etch to the surface

### **Buses, Truck cabs and Trailers**

- Aluminum Step Vans and Trailers
- Fiberglas Cabs and Trailers
- Scuff and paint surface preparation

Strips paint without etching aluminum or sheet metal. Plastic media will not stretch or warp metal when parameters are followed.

### **Aircraft Airframe Skins**

 Alclad or anodised Aluminum; Titanium Excellent replacement for toxic chemicals. Technical training for operators is essential due to sensitivity of the process. Advantages over chemicals include low water usage, environmental safety, reduced disposal costs. Alclad aluminum is textured, providing excellent profile.

### **Aircraft Airframe Skins**

 Magnesium ; Fiberglass and other composites Eliminates hand sanding. No critical softening of plastic resin as seen with chemical stripping. Highly corroded magnesium may perforate during blasting. Composites with "rain erosion" coatings (elastomeric) should not be attempted. Only resin-coated composites should be dry stripped.

### **Aircraft Components**

Aluminum or Magnesium

Wheels, landing gear, brake housings, propellers etc. can be stripped. Able to remove coating without removing anodizing. Removes Teflon lubricant band on props very rapidly. Actuator Assembly stripped in 5 minutes compared to 2.4 hours chemically - no disassembly.

### **Aircraft Components**

 Carbon Graphite, Metal Helicopter Components Removes paint and surface residue without need to disassemble component. Strips rotors without debonding laminates.

### **Aircraft Components**

Copper Armature Wires

Able to remove polyamide coating without damage to copper wiring. Aluminum oxide causes rapid oxidation.



### **Aircraft Engine Components**

 Aluminum and Exotic Alloys and Metals

Will not change tolerances. Removes ceramic thermal protective coatings. Removes light carbon found on jet engine turbines and turbine exhausts.

### **Appliances**

• Painted Sheet Metal (Refrigerators, Stoves, etc.) Can be used for stripping paint- defective appliances. Excellent on popular granular "no fingerprint" type sheet steel.

Aluminium

**Boat Hulls & Superstructures** Cuts through barnacles and marine scale. Removes paint without damaging aluminum

Fiberglas

**Boat Hulls & Superstructures** Works well on non-resilient type paints



# Graph displaying the wide array of plastic media sizes and their relative hardness

#### **GRANULATED**

	Specific	Hardness									
	Gravity	(MoSH)									
Maxi-Clean <sup>™</sup> (Granulated)	1.5	4.0		MC-5	MC-4	МС-3	MC-2	MC-1.5	MC-1		
Multi-Blast ® (Granulated)	1.5	3.5		MB-5	MB-4	MB-3	MB-2	MB-1.5	MB-1	MB-11/14	
Aero-Clean <sup>™</sup> (Granulated)	1.15 - 1.19	3.5		AC-5	AC-4	AC-3	AC-2	AC-1.5	AC-1		
Maxi – Six (Granulated)	1.28 - 1.33	3.0		MS-5	MS-4	MS-3	MS-2	MS-1.5	MS-1		
Enduro-Grade ® (Granulated)	1.15	3.0		EG-5	EG-4	EG-3	EG-2	EG-1.5	EG-1		
Wet Blast Media	1.5	3.5	WBM-6	WBM- 5	WBM-4	WBM-3	WBM-2				
	M	esh	70/170	60/100	40/60	30/40	20/30	16/20	12/16	11/14	

10



### **MAXI-CLEAN**

### Hard Grade Granulated Plastic Blast Cleaning Media

Part	U.S. Standard	PARTICLE SIZES <sup>1</sup>			
Designation	Sieve	<u>Inches</u>	<u>Millimeters</u>		
MC - 1	12/ 16	.066047	1.68-1.19		
MC -1.5	16/ 20	.047033	1.19 - 0.84		
MC -2	20 / 30	.033023	0.84 - 0.58		
MC – 3	30 / 40	.023017	0.58 - 0.42		
MC – 4	40 / 60	.017010	0.42 - 0.25		
MC – 5	60 / 100	.010006	0.25 - 0.15		

Hardness: 4 Mohs

Specific Gravity 1.47 - 1.52

Packaging - 125 Kg. Drums or 20 Kg. Bags

Conforming to MIL - 85891A Ty III



#### **FEATURES AND BENEFITS**

- Cleans metal surfaces with no abrasion or effect on critical tolerances saving money on tooling expense.
- Lasts significantly longer than glass bead increasing the value of your investment.
- Sharp, granular edges produce guick cleaning action in less time, saving money.
- Causes no abrasion to blast cabinet, nozzles, windows or fixtures eliminating the need for frequently replacing costly parts.
- Media is non-toxic and produces no silicosis hazards contributing to a safer work environment.
- Leaves no residue deposits eliminating costly and time-consuming post-washing or other treatment of parts.
- Media is treated with anti-static solution which helps keep dust levels low, reduces static and keeps parts cleaner.

- Cleaning steel and chrome-plated moulds.
- Cleaning sealant and adhesives from metal surfaces.
- Stripping ground vehicles of paint and various coatings.
- Deflashing and resin bleed removal from moulded electronic components.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Irregular Shapes May Yield Up To 15 Percent Size Deviation www.aviochem.it

### MULTI-BLAST<sup>TM</sup>

### Medium Grade Granulated Plastic Blast Cleaning Media

Part	U.S. Standard	PARTICLE SIZES <sup>1</sup>			
<u>Designation</u>	Sieve	<u>Inches</u>	<u>Millimeters</u>		
MB - 8/12	8 / 12	.093066	2.36 - 1.70		
MB - 11/14	11 / 14	.078055	2.00 - 1.40		
MB – 1	12 / 16	.066047	1.68 - 1.19		
MB - 1.5	16 / 20	.047033	1.19 - 0.84		
MB – 2	20 / 30	.033023	0.84 - 0.58		
MB – 3	30 / 40	.023017	0.58 - 0.42		
MB 4	40 / 60	.017010	0.42 - 0.25		
MB – 5	60 / 100	.010006	0.25 - 0.15		

Hardness: 3.5 Mohs Specific Gravity 1.47 – 1,52 Water absorption less than 1%

Packaging - 125 Kg. Drums or 20 Kg. Bags

Conforming to MIL - 85891A Ty II



#### **FEATURES AND BENEFITS**

- Produces far less dust than walnut shells or glass bead allowing for a clean, easily visible work atmosphere.
- Properly used, will not abrade sensitive surfaces, prolonging the life of expensive moulds, tools and parts.
- Deburrs and deflashes aluminium, zinc and magnesium parts without damaging part surfaces or altering critical tolerances.
- Sharp, granular edges produce quick cleaning action in less time, saving money.
- All media is an inert substance, non-toxic, not classified as dangerous, not burning and produces no silicosis hazards contributing to a safer work environment.
- Can be used in air and wheel-blast equipment eliminating the need to acquire new equipment in most cases.

- Depainting airframes and aircraft components.
- Cleaning aluminium and steel moulds in the rubber and plastics industry.
- Stripping powder coated part rejects.
- Depainting automobile bodies, boat surfaces and components.
- Depainting vacuum-metallized part rejects.
- Deburring machine parts.
- Deflashing electronic components.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Irregular Shapes May Yield Up To 15 Percent Size Deviation www.aviochem.it

### **AERO-CLEAN**<sup>TM</sup>

### Thermoplastic Acrylic Granulated Blast Cleaning Media

Part	U.S. Standard	PARTICLE SIZES <sup>1</sup>			
<u>Designation</u>	Sieve	<u>Inches</u>	<u>Millimeters</u>		
AC - 1	12 / 16	.066047	1.68 - 1.19		
AC - 1.5	<b>AC - 1.5</b> 16 / 20		1.19 - 0.84		
AC - 2	20 / 30	.033023	0.84058		
AC - 3	30 / 40	.023017	0.58 - 0.42		
AC - 4	<b>AC - 4</b> 40 / 60		0.42 - 0.25		
AC - 5	60 / 100	.010006	0.25 - 0.15		

Hardness: 3.5 Mohs Specific Gravity 1.10 - 1.20

Package - 125 Kg. Drums or 20 Kg. Bags Conforming to MIL-P- 85891A Ty V



#### **FEATURES AND BENEFITS**

- Produces far less dust than walnut shells allowing for a clean, easily visible work atmosphere.
- Properly used, will not abrade or warp sensitive surfaces, allowing parts to be salvaged and money saved.
- Media is treated with anti-static solution which reduces dust, static, and keeps parts cleaner.
- Sharp, granular edges produce quick cleaning action in less time, saving money.
- All media is non-toxic and produces no silicosis hazards contributing to a safer work environment.
- Can be used in air and wheel-blast equipment eliminating the need to acquire new equipment on most cases.
- Offers excellent longevity reducing finishing costs.
- Will not remove plating, anodise, and conversion coatings when properly used, allowing for very controlled blasting on delicate substrates.

- Dry stripping: Aluminium body ground vehicles
   Fiberglas body vehicles / Aluminium extrusions / Aircraft components (wheels, brakes, landing gear) / Airframes
- Deflashing thermoset plastic parts
- Deburring steel, aluminium and zinc parts
- Deflashing electronic components and assemblies
- Cleaning steel and aluminium moulds.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Irregular Shapes May Yield Up To 15 Percent Size Deviation www.aviochem.it 13

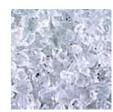
### MAXI - VI®

### Soft Grade Granulated Plastic Blast Cleaning Media

Part	U.S. Standard	PARTICLE SIZES <sup>1</sup>			
<u>Designation</u>	Sieve	<u>Inches</u>	<u>Millimeters</u>		
MS - 1	12 / 16	.066047	1.68 - 1.19		
MS - 1.5	16 / 20	.047033	1.19 - 0.84		
MS - 2	20 / 30	.033023	0.84058		
MS - 3	30 / 40	.023017	0.58 - 0.42		
MS - 4	40 / 60	.017010	0.42 - 0.25		
MS - 5	60 / 100	.010006	0.25 - 0.15		

Hardness: 3.0 Mohs Specific Gravity 1.28 - 1.33

Package - 125 Kg. Drums or 20 Kg. Bags Conforming to MIL - P - 85891 A Type VI



### **FEATURES AND BENEFITS**

- Less aggressive than Multi Blast® (MB) media with similar cutting action
- Very low dust and static levels.
- Sharp, granular edges produce quick cleaning action in less time, saving money.
- Causes no abrasion to blast cabinet, nozzles, windows or fixtures eliminating the need for frequently replacing costly parts.
- Media is non-toxic and produces no silicosis hazards contributing to a safer work environment.
- Leaves no residue deposits eliminating costly and time-consuming post-washing or other treatment of parts.
- Media is treated with anti-static solution which helps keep dust levels low, reduces static and keeps parts cleaner.
- Recommended for suction blast equipment or low pressure blasting applications.

- Deflashing electronic components and assemblies
- Stripping coatings from sensitive substrates
- Cleaning aluminium and steel moulds in the rubber and plastics industry.
- Depainting automobile bodies, boat surfaces and components.
- Sealants and adhesive removals from metal surfaces



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Irregular Shapes May Yield Up To 15 Percent Size Deviation www.aviochem.it

### **ENDURO - GRADE®**

### Soft Grade Granulated Plastic Blast Cleaning Media

Part	U.S. Standard	PARTICLE SIZES <sup>1</sup>			
Designation	Sieve	<u>Inches</u>	<u>Millimeters</u>		
EG - 1	12 / 16	.066/.047	1.68 - 1.19		
EG - 1.5	16 / 20	.047/.033	1.19 - 0.84		
EG - 2	20 / 30	.033/.023	0.84058		
EG - 3	30 / 40	.023/.017	0.58 - 0.42		
EG - 4	40 / 60	.017/.010	0.42 - 0.25		
EG - 5	60 / 100	.010/.006	0.25 - 0.15		

Hardness: 3.5 Mohs Specific Gravity 1.15 - 1.25

Package - 125 Kg. Drums or 20 Kg. Bags Conforming to MIL.- P - 85891A Ty I



#### **FEATURES AND BENEFITS**

- Produces far less dust than walnut shells allowing for a clean, easily visible work atmosphere.
- Properly used, will not abrade or warp sensitive surfaces, allowing parts to be salvaged and money saved.
- Media is treated with anti-static solution which reduces dust, static, and keeps parts cleaner.
- Sharp, granular edges produce quick cleaning action in less time, saving money.
- All media is non-toxic and produces no silicosis hazards contributing to a safer work environment.
- Can be used in air and wheel-blast equipment eliminating the need to acquire new equipment on most cases.
- Offers excellent longevity reducing finishing costs.
- Will not remove plating, anodise, and conversion coatings when properly used, allowing for very controlled blasting on delicate substrates.

- Dry stripping: Fiberglass body vehicles
- Aluminium body ground vehicles (i.e., panel trucks) Aluminium extrusions
- Aircraft components (wheels, brakes, landing gear) Airframes
- Deflashing thermoset plastic parts
- Deburring steel, aluminium and zinc parts
- Deflashing electronic components and assemblies
- Cleaning steel and aluminium moulds.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Irregular Shapes May Yield Up To 15 Percent Size Deviation www.aviochem.it

### AEROBLAST MIL-P-85891 A

### PLASTIC MEDIA BLASTING PROCESS FOR AIRCRAFT USE

A choice of different hardness is made possible by manufacturing from different formulations of synthetic plastic compounds. Irregular in shape, the inert (ph neutral) plastic particles retain or re-fracture sharp angular cutting edges during blast stripping. Reclamation and recycling are intended for these durable, static-resistant medias. Their water-resistant nature enables use in wet-blasting applications.

Conforming to: MIL - P - 85891 A as follow:

Table nº 1

TYPE	CHEMICAL TYPE	OUR PRODUCTS
I	Polyester ( Thermoset )	EG (soft)
II	Urea Formaldehyde (Thermoset)	MB (medium)
III	Melamine formaldehyde (Thermoset)	MC (hard)
IV	Phenol formaldehyde ( Thermoset )	-
V	Acrylic (Thermoplastic)	AC
VI	Poly (allyl diglycol carbonate) (Thermoset)	MS

Table n° 2 Categories of Plastic Blast Media

Туре	DESCRIPTION
I	The softest plastic blast media, this grade strips delicate metals quickly, without
	marring their surfaces.
II	A medium-hardness plastic blast media, this grade cleans moulds, tooling, and sensitive substrates without damage, leaving anodised, galvanized, and other base coats intact.
III	The hardest plastic blast media, this grade completely removes sealants and adhesives from metal surfaces, without altering critical tolerances.
V	A low-density/moderate-hardness plastic blast media, this grade is ideal for stripping fiberglass, kevlar, composites, and other soft substrates.



### Specific information on plastic media type:

**EG**: Used when the integrity of the substrate is critical and the coating is not tenacious. The least aggressive of our plastic medias, EG leaves an unmarred surface on soft metals. Faster stripping than walnut shell.

**AC** : Fills a critical niche in its low density/moderate hardness. AC is often ideal in stripping composites like fibreglass or Kevlar. Leaves a smooth surface on soft metals.

**MB**: Harder and denser than the above types, MB provides greater aggressiveness without being too harsh for most delicate metals. Preserves anodised or galvanized subtreatment. Safe for most composites.

**MC**: The most aggressive of our plastic blast medias, AB succeeds in tough cleaning jobs like sealant or adhesive removal. Its rapid stripping of tenacious coatings will generally offset the slightly higher friability

Table n° 3: characteristics

	Vegetal	I	II	III	V	Glass	Silica	AlO <sub>2</sub>
		(EG)	(MB)	(MC)	(AC)	beads	sand	beads
Mohs	2,5 - 3,5	3,0	3,5	4,0	3,5	5,5	6,0	9,0
Barcol		34-42	54-62	64-72	46-54			
Spec. Gravity		1,15-	1,47-	1,47-	1,20-			
		1,25	1,52	1,52	1,10			
Ignition		440°	530°	530°	390°			
Temperature (°C)								
Friability		5	4	7	3			
(10=sand)								
Water Absorption		0.13%	0.5%	0.25%	0.1%			
(24h, 25°C)								
Chemical nature		inert	inert	inert	inert			

Table n° 4: chemical type and advantages

Туре	I	II	III	V
chemical	Polyester	Urea	Melamine	Acrylic
type	(thermoset)	(thermoset)	formaldehyde	(Thermopla
				stic )
Advantages	Thin or delicate	Most metal and	Removing hard	Excellent
	surfaces and soft	composite surfaces; e.g.	coating from steel;	on steel
	metals; e.g. composite	die cast aluminium and	e.g. heavy gauge	moulds
	aircraft components,	brass parts, steel sheet	steel sheet metal,	chromate
	glass comp. And	metal and Fiberglas	forged and cast	and non
	aluminium steel metals	automobile bodies	steel parts	chromate



Table n° 5 : **sieve size** 

Tipo	Sieve Size	Inches	Millimeters
1	12 / 16	0.066 - 0.047	1.68 - 1.19
1,5	16 / 20	0.047 - 0.033	1.19 - 0.84
2	20 / 30	0.033 - 0.023	0.84 - 0.58
3	30 / 40	0.023 - 0.017	0.58 - 0.42
4	40 / 60	0.017 - 0.010	0.42 - 0.25
5	60 / 100	0.010 - 0.006	0.25 - 0.15

Table n° 6 : Comparative aggression

-								
I	LOW	Walnut	EG	MB	AC	MC	Glass	HIGH
		Shell					Beads	



# METALLIC EROSION TEST REPORT PLASTIC MEDIA VS GLASS BEADS

SCOPE: establish the confront rate for metal removal in applications with plastic media in confrontation to glass beads Test were run on aluminium and steel test panels, i.e. the most common alloys used in the production of rubber moulds.

TEST PANELS: "Freemax 45" of hot rolled steel and brought to the dimension of  $0.32 \times 5.08 \times 7.72 \text{ cm}$  ( $1/8 \times 2 \times 3 \text{ inches}$ ). Hardness: Rockwell 26B, Brinell 65 (500 kg load).

"K 100" of aluminium brought to the dimension of 0,65 x 6,35 x 8,25 cm (1/4 x 2 1/2 x 3 1/4 inches). Hardness: Rockwell 86B, Brinell 145 (500 kg load).

### **TEST PARAMETERS:**

Sand Blasting cabinet: SB3630/DC100 with separated vessel

Nozzle: 2" 1/8"

Aspiration hose: open at 50% for *plastic media* MB ed MC and at

90% for glass beads

Sand blasting gun: 5/16" nozzle made of carburated and airjet

accessories of 0,4 cm (5/32")

Sand blasting pressure: 80 psi

Sand blasting angle: 80°, nozzle at 15,24 cm (6 inches) away from the

test panel

#### **TEST PROCEDURE**

- 1) Load the vessel with 22,68 kg (50 lb) of brand new material
- 2) Weigh the test panel with a 0,0001g precision and note the value before start blasting
- 3) Put the test panel into the machine and fix it with an adequate system. This will result in a flat side facing the nozzle to have a defined sand blasting pattern.
- 4) Sand Blast the test panel for 20 minutes; weigh and note the value. Repeat operation after 40 and 60 minutes.
- 5) After 20 minutes, suspend testing, weigh the media in the separate vessel, subtract the result from the initial load, multiply by 2 to determine the average flow in the hour. Note the value



- 6) Reload the vessel with the recycled media.
- 7) Measure the depth of the erosion after 60 minutes and note the value.

### **RESULTS**

Test n°1

Test panel: "K 100" (aluminium)

Media: mix 50/50 of MB-2 ed MB-3

Average flow: 39 kg (86 lb) an hour

Test panel weight	Time	Period loss	Total loss
100,9533	0		
100,8521	20 min	0,1012	0,1012
100,7996	40 min	0,0525	0,1537
100,7564	60 min	0,0432	0,1969

Depth of eroded area: less than 0.00254 cm

Test n°2

Test panel: "K 100" (aluminium)

*Media*: mix 50/50 of glass beads 100/170 e 170/325

Average flow: 41,28 kg (91 lb) an hour

Test panel weight	Time	Period loss	Total loss
98,9242	0		
98,2885	20 min	0,6357	0,6357
97,5415	40 min	0,7470	1,3827
96,7773	60 min	0,7642	2,1469

Depth of eroded area: 0,18 cm





Test n°3

Test panel: "Freemax 45" (steel)

*Media*: mix 50/50 of MC-2 ed MC-3

Average flow: 40,82 kg (90 lb) an hour

Test panel weight	Time	Period loss	Total loss
98,0912	0		
98,0883	20 min	0,0029	0,0029
98,0881	40 min	0,0002	0,0031
98,0863	60 min	0,0018	0,0049

Depth of eroded area: less than 0.00254 cm

Test n°4

Test panel: "K 100" (aluminium)

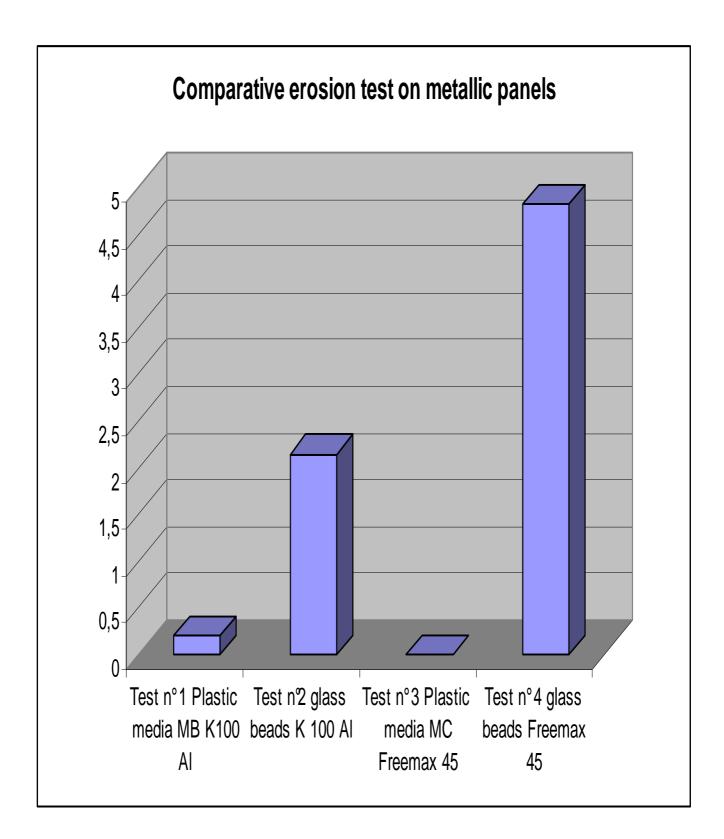
Media: mix 50/50 of glass beads 100/170 e 170/325

Average flow: 41,28 kg (91 lb) an hour

Test panel weight	Time	Period loss	Total loss
98,1363	0		
96,5753	20 min	1,5610	1,5610
94,9369	40 min	1,6384	3,1994
93,3230	60 min	1,6139	4,8133

Depth of eroded area: 0,112 cm











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