

# Long term UV tests on Ultracur3D® EL 150

This document is intended to provide guidance for manufacturers regarding ageing of the 3D printed materials under Ultraviolet radiation or UV. BASF3D Printing Solutions GmbH has performed specific ageing tests for the material Ultracur3D® EL 150. Indications on material changes that can occur during the ageing process were studied. It remains the responsibility of the device manufacturers and/or end-users to determine the suitability of all printed parts for their respective application.

## Material

Material
Ultracur3D® EL 150

## Norm

The Ageing tests were performed at BASF lab as per the ISO Norm ISO 4892-2:2013 Method A. The specimens were kept under UV light in the range of 300 – 400 nm and intensity of 60 W/cm<sup>2</sup>. The parts were kept at 38°C with 50% relative humidity. The parts were kept inside the chamber for up to 1000 hours. This method refers to artificial weathering condition where water is sprayed on the specimens at regular intervals. In addition to the UV exposure, the parts were exposed to 18 minutes of water spray followed by 102 minutes of dry phase. The table below describes the testing conditions.

*Table 1 Testing conditions for ISO 4892-2 method A*

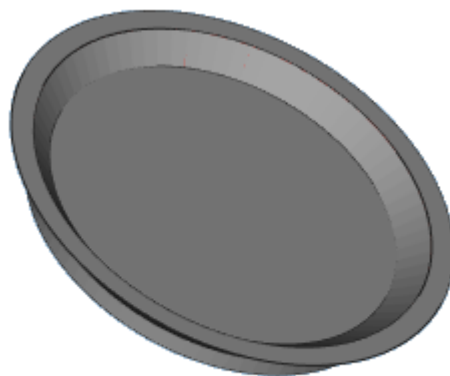
Cycle No.	Exposure period	Irradiance		Black standard temperature in °C	Chamber temperature in °C	Relative humidity in %
		Broadband (300 nm to 400 nm) in W/m <sup>2</sup>	Narrowband (340 nm) in W/(m <sup>2</sup> nm)			
1	102 min dry	60 ± 2	0.51 ± 0.02	65 ± 3	38 ± 3	50 ± 10
	18 min water spray	60 ± 2	0.51 ± 0.02	-	-	-

## Test Specimens

25 tensile bars and 15 color cones were printed with the material and were kept under high intensity UV light for longer period. The parts were also exposed to periodic water sprays as described above. After the tensile bars were inside the UV oven for a stipulated time, the change in color as well as the mechanical properties like E modulus, Tensile strength and Elongation at break were measured. The tensile bars were used for mechanical testing and color cones were used to determine the color after Prolonged UV exposure.



*Figure 1 Tensile bar*



*Figure 2 Color cone*

## Mechanical testing

When looking at the mechanical properties of the material, the performance is very stable up to 600 hours. After that, the ultimate tensile strength reduces to 75% and the elongation at break reduces to 33% of the original value.

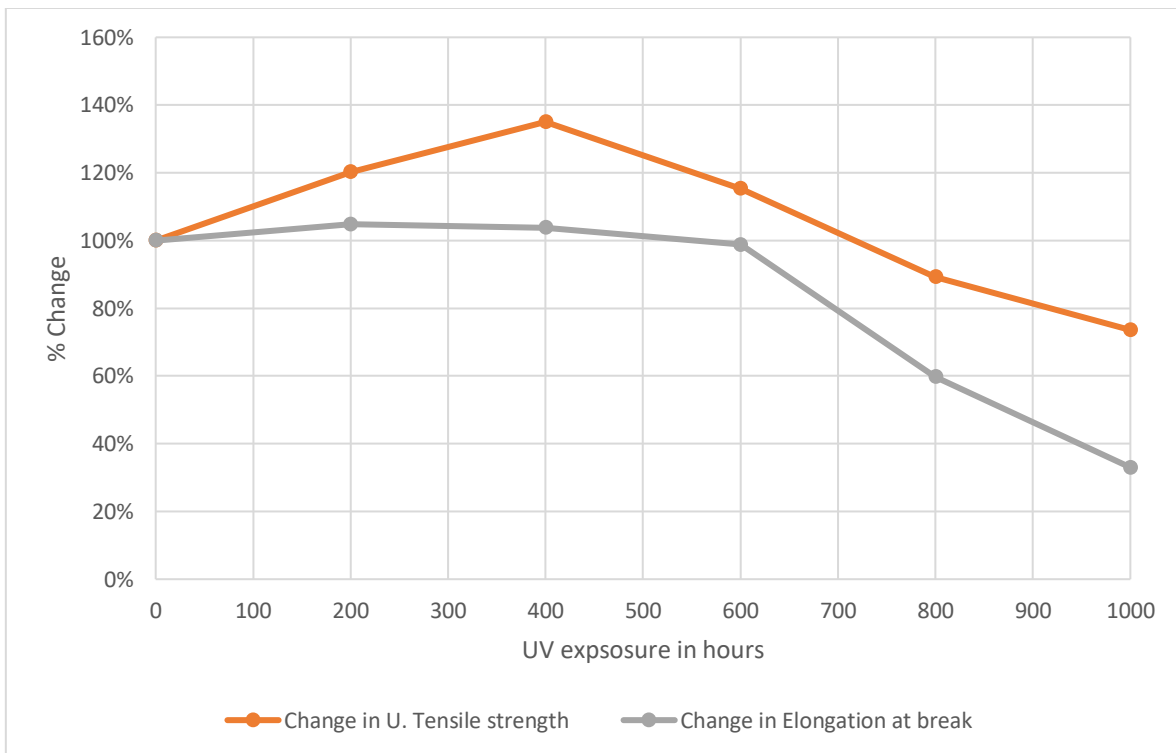


Figure 3 Change in mechanical properties over the course of 1000 hours of UV exposure

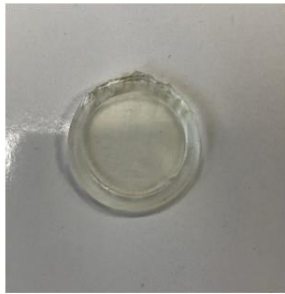
After around 1000 hours of long-term UV exposure, the final values can be seen in the table below:

Table 2 Mechanical properties before and after 1000 hours of UV exposure as per ISO 4892:2 method A

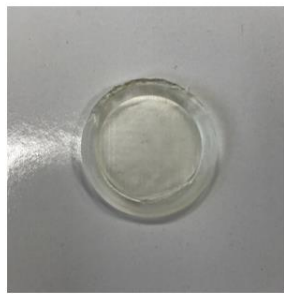
Property	Before Long term UV exposure	After 1000 hours of UV exposure
Ultimate tensile strength	6.5 MPa	4.8 MPa
Elongation at break	141 %	47 %

## Coloration

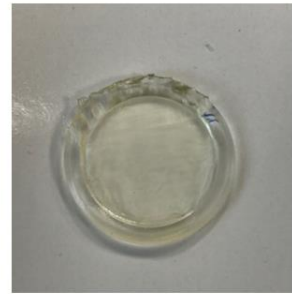
The material Ultracur3D® EL 150 when printed and post cured shows a little bit of a yellow coloration. After being exposed up to 1000 hours, there was no significant change in color.



200 hours



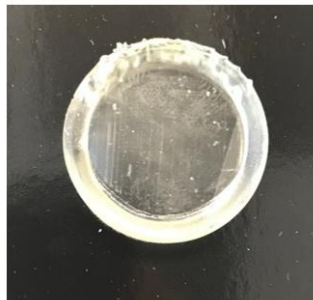
400 hours



800 hours



200 hours



400 hours



800 hours

*Figure 4 Effect of UV exposure on color of the specimens*

## Conclusion

The results of the performed tests on **Ultracur3D® EL 150** can be summarized in the table below.

Long term UV test behind the glass window	Ultracur3D® EL 150
Coloration	☹️ The material gets yellow shade
Mechanical properties	☹️ Elongation at break reduces after prolonged exposure to UV radiation
	☹️ The ultimate tensile strength reduces slightly after prolonged exposure to UV radiation

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