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United States Advanced Battery Consortium Battery Test Manual for Electric Vehicles

REVISION 4

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Battery Test Manual for Electric Vehicles

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October 2025

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U.S. Department of Energy
Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE)
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FOREWORD

This battery test procedure manual was prepared for the United States Department of Energy (DOE), Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE), Vehicle Technologies Office. It is based on technical targets for commercial viability established for energy storage development projects aimed at meeting DOE goals for Electric Vehicles (EVs). The specific procedures defined in this manual support the performance and life characterization of advanced battery devices under development for EV applications.

Due to the complexity of some of the procedures and supporting analysis, future revisions including some modifications and clarifications of these procedures are expected. As in previous EV test procedure manuals, this version of the manual defines testing methods at the cell level. Cell volume and weight can be used to scale to the module or pack scale.

The DOE-United States Advanced Battery Consortium (USABC), Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) supported the development of the manual. Technical Team points of contact responsible for its development and revision are Haiyan Croft (DOE), Justin Purewal (Ford Motor Company), Asim Iqbal (Stellantis), and Meng Jiang (General Motors). Lee Walker from Idaho National Laboratory was the primary author for the manual.

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ACRONYMS

BSF	Battery Size Factor
BOL	Beginning-of-Life
DOD	Depth-of-Discharge
EOL	End-of-Life
EV	Electric Vehicle
FreedomCAR	Freedom Cooperative Automotive Research
HPPC	Hybrid Pulse Power Characterization
OCV	Open-Circuit Voltage
PNGV	Partnership for a New Generation of Vehicles
RPT	Reference Performance Test
SOC	State-of-Charge
UE	Useable Energy
UE_{target}	Useable Energy Target
USABC	United States Advanced Battery Consortium

GLOSSARY

- Available Energy (AE) [Wh]* – the cumulative amount of energy removed by discharge from $V_{\max op}$ to $V_{\min 0}$ at the C/3 rate.
- Useable Energy (UE) [Wh]* – the discharge energy evaluated at the power target.
- Useable Energy Target (UE_{target}) [Wh]* – the Useable Energy that corresponds to the USABC targets in an application specific gap table (e.g. Table 1). It is determined by the Useable Energy Density, Useable Specific Energy, or 80% of the Beginning-of-Life Useable Energy
- Battery Size Factor (BSF)* – an integer that is the minimum number of cells or modules expected to be required to meet all the performance and life targets.
- Beginning-of-Life (BOL)* – the point at which characterization of the test article begins. The BOL HPPC is used to determine the Useable Energy Target or confirm the test article meets or exceeds Table 1 energy goals.
- C/3 Rate [A]* – a current corresponding to the manufacturer’s rated capacity (in ampere-hours) for a three-hour discharge at BOL and 30°C between $V_{\max 100}$ and $V_{\min 0}$. For example, if the battery’s rated capacity is 40Ah, then the C/3 rate is 13.3A. Alternatively, the current can be based on the operating capacity between $V_{\max op}$ and $V_{\min 0}$.
- Charge* – any condition in which energy is supplied to the device rather than removed from the device. Charge includes both recharge and regen conditions. Charge is indicated in this manual as a negative value (from the perspective of the battery).
- Default rest [h]* – a fixed rest period determined at BOL, it is at least one hour, or the time needed to achieve thermal and voltage equilibrium (e.g., rate of change less than 1°C/hour or less than 5 mV/h).
- Depth-of-Discharge (DOD) [%]* – the percentage of a device’s operating capacity (Ah) removed by discharge relative to a fully charged condition, normally referenced to a constant current discharge at the C/3 rate.
- Device* – a cell, module, sub-battery, or battery pack, depending on the context. The generic term “device” is normally used in test procedures except where a specific type of device is meant. (Most test procedures are intended to apply to any of these types.)
- Discharge* – any condition in which energy is removed from the device rather than supplied to the device. Discharge is indicated in this manual as a positive value (from the perspective of the battery).
- End-of-Life (EOL)* – a condition reached when the device under test is no longer capable of meeting the targets such as the Power Target and Useable Energy Target. This is normally determined from HPPC Test results and may not coincide exactly with the inability to perform the life test profile.
- End of Test* – a condition where life testing is halted, either because criteria specified in the test plan are reached, or because it is not possible to continue testing.
- Fully Charged* – the condition reached by a device when it is subjected to the manufacturer’s recommended charge protocol. In this manual, a device is considered “fully charged” at $V_{\max op}$, though the manufacturer has the option to make $V_{\max op}$ equal to $V_{\max 100}$.
- Hybrid Pulse Power Characterization (HPPC) Test* – a Reference Performance Test procedure that is used to determine the pulse power and energy capability under no-load conditions as a function of aging for direct comparison with the targets in a Gap Analysis.
- Maximum Rated Pulse Discharge Current ($I_{\max D}$) [A]* – the maximum discharge current that a manufacturer will permit to be sustained by a device for 30 seconds or less. (This value need not be achievable over the full operating range).

Maximum Rated Pulse Regen Current (I_{maxR}) [A] – the maximum regen current that a manufacturer will permit to be sustained by a device for 10 seconds or less. (This value need not be achievable over the full operating range).

Operating Capacity [Ah] – the available capacity at a C/3 discharge rate over the full operating range of the device between $V_{max_{op}}$ to V_{min_0} . The operating capacity should be provided by the manufacturer, or it is established at BOL and remains fixed during life aging.

Peak Power Test – a Reference Performance Test procedure that is used to determine the discharge pulse power and energy capability under load conditions as a function of aging for direct comparison with the targets in a Gap Analysis.

Power Fade [W] - the change in Peak Discharge Power from RPT0 measured at the DOD corresponding to $V_{min_{op}}$ to the value determined at some later time, expressed as a percentage of the BOL value. (Similar definitions apply to Capacity Fade and Available Energy Fade, although these are not included in this glossary).

Power Margin [W] – for a given Peak Discharge Power, the difference between the calculated peak discharge power and the corresponding power target for a given application.

Power Target [W] – End-of-Life power value. Established from Peak Discharge Power Density or Peak Discharge Specific Power in the application specific gap table, or a power value established at the beginning of the program and approved by the technical program manager. This power value is used to establish Useable Energy Target

Profile – a connected sequence of pulses used as the basic ‘building block’ of many test procedures. A test profile normally includes discharge, rest and charge steps in a specific order, and each step is normally defined as having a fixed time duration and a particular (fixed) value of current or power.

Rated Capacity [Ah] – the useable capacity at a C/3 rate over the full electrochemical range of the device between $V_{max_{100}}$ and V_{min_0} . The rated capacity should be provided by the manufacturer, or it is established at BOL and remains fixed during life aging.

Recharge – a charge interval corresponding to the sustained replenishment of energy by a continuous current or power source (such as an engine-generator or off-board charger).

Reference Performance Test (RPT) – periodic interruptions during calendar and cycle life aging to gauge degradation in the test article (see Section 3.11). Degradation rates are established by comparing results from the RPTs during life testing with respect to the initial RPT performed immediately prior to the start of life testing (usually referred to as RPT0).

Regen – a charge interval corresponding to the return of vehicle kinetic energy to a device (typically from braking). Because of physical limitations, high rates of regen can only persist for a few seconds at a time. Regen in this manual is indicated as a negative value (from the perspective of the battery).

Rest – the condition in which energy is neither supplied to the device nor removed from the device. Rest is indicated by zero current.

State- of-Charge (SOC) [%] – an estimate of the device charge capability expressed as a percentage of the BOL rated or operating capacity and typically reached by obtaining specified voltages.

Voltage limits [V] – numerous voltage limits are defined in the manual as follows:

$V_{max_{pulse}}$ [V] – the regen voltage limit; maximum voltage allowed during regen pulses of 10s or less.

$V_{max_{100}}$ [V] - manufacturer’s specified voltage and the basis for the rated capacity.

$V_{max_{op}}$ [V] – corresponds to the upper end of the intended operating window, as specified by the manufacturer. This is the relevant upper voltage used in all testing unless otherwise specified and

the basis for the operating capacity. This voltage cannot exceed 420 V (scaled) based on the established performance requirements.

$V_{min_{op}} [V]$ – (optional) corresponds to the lower end of the intended operating window. It is a variable parameter that will generally decrease as the test article ages and the minimum value is typically specified by the manufacturer.

$V_{min_0} [V]$ – manufacturer's specified voltage corresponding to the minimum operating voltage (V_{min_0}). This voltage cannot be less than 220 V (scaled) based on the established performance requirements.

$V_{min_{pulse}} [V]$ – minimum voltage allowed during discharge pulses of 30s or less.

$V_{min_{Low\ T}} [V]$ – the minimum voltage allowable at less than or equal to 0°C set by the manufacturer and the technical program manager.

$V_{nominal} [V]$ – The nominal electrochemical voltage between $V_{max_{100}}$ and V_{min_0} . It is determined by the ratio between the total discharge energy and discharge capacity from the static capacity test (see Section 3.2).

Battery Test Manual for Electric Vehicles

1 PURPOSE AND APPLICABILITY

This manual defines a series of tests to characterize aspects of the performance or life behavior of batteries for electric vehicles (EV) applications. Tests are defined based on the Vehicle Technologies Office targets for electric vehicles, and it is anticipated that these tests may be generally useful for testing energy storage devices designed for this purpose. The test procedures in this manual are directly applicable to both the complete battery systems as well as cell-level devices. Much of the rationale for the test procedures and analytical methodologies utilized in this manual evolved from Revision 3 of the USABC Electric Vehicle Battery Test Procedure Manual (Reference 1), the PNGV Battery Test Manual (Reference 2), the FreedomCAR Battery Test Manual for Power-Assist Hybrid Electric Vehicles (Reference 3) and the Battery Test Manual for Plug-In Hybrid Electric Vehicles (Reference 4). Deviations from the test or analysis procedures defined in this manual must be approved by the USABC technical program manager.

1.1 Energy Storage Targets for Electric Vehicles

The Department of Energy’s Vehicle Technologies Office Energy Storage Targets for EVs are the primary driving force for the test procedures and methods defined in this manual. The targets outlined in Table 1 have been determined by the USABC members to aid in their development of battery electric vehicles. Establishing or verifying battery performance in comparison to these targets is a principal objective of the test procedures defined in this document. Unless otherwise stated, these targets all pertain to devices operating at 30°C. This manual defines a charge depleting operational mode, which is intended to allow the vehicle to operate in an all-electric mode (propulsion and accessories powered by the electric drive and onboard electric energy storage), with a net decrease in battery state-of-charge (SOC).

Table 1. Energy Storage System Performance Targets for Electric Vehicles

End of Life Characteristics at 30°C	Units	High Energy EV Cell Level	EV Cell Level	Low Cost/Earth Abundant
Peak Discharge Power Density (30 sec)	W/L	1600	1500	1200
Peak Discharge Specific Power (30 sec)	W/kg	800	700	600
Peak Regen Specific Power (10 sec)	W/kg	300	300	300
Useable Energy Density	Wh/L	850	700	500
Specific Useable Energy	Wh/ kg	450	300	220
Calendar Life	Years	15	15	15
DST Cycle Life	Cycles	750 (25% fast charge)	1000 (100% fast charge)	2000 (100% fast charge)
Cell Cost	\$/kWh	60	60	50
Fast Charge	Minutes	80% UE_{Target} in 10 min	80% UE_{Target} in 10 min	80% UE_{Target} in 10 min
Minimum Operating Voltage	V	N/A	$>0.55 \cdot V_{max_{op}}$	$>0.55 \cdot V_{max_{op}}$
Operating Environment	°C	-30 to +65	-30 to +65	-30 to +65
Unassisted Operating at -20°C	%	$>70\%$ Specific UE_{Target}	$>70\%$ Specific UE_{Target}	$>70\%$ Specific UE_{Target}
Survival Temperature Range, 24 hr	°C	-40 to +75	-40 to +75	-40 to +75
Maximum Self-Discharge	%/month	< 1	< 1	< 1
Max Allowable Stack Pressure	MPa	2	N/A	N/A
Fast Chage at -10C (80% UE_{Target})	Minutes	N/A	30	30

Notes:

- i. Values correspond to End-of-Life (EOL) at 30°C.
- ii. Targets correspond to USABC goals for the specified application at the time of publication of this manual. Goals are periodically updated; updated goals can be found at <https://uscar.org/usabc/>

2 TEST PROFILES DERIVED FROM TARGETS

The test procedures described in this manual are intended for use over a broad range of devices at various stages of developmental maturity. The approach taken for these procedures is to define a small set of test profiles based on the overall vehicle characteristics, independent of the size or capability of the device to be tested. These test profiles are specified in terms of the characteristics of vehicle power demand. They can be used in various combinations, with the appropriate scaling factors, to define specific performance, calendar or cycle life tests for cells, modules, or battery systems.

3 TEST PROCEDURES

3.1 General Test Conditions and Scaling

In general, testing is divided into three broad phases, characterization, life, and reference performance tests. Characterization testing establishes the baseline performance and includes static capacity, hybrid pulse power characterization (HPPC), self-discharge, and thermal performance tests.¹ Life testing establishes behavior over time at various temperatures, states of charge and other stress conditions and includes both cycle life and calendar life testing. Reference Performance Tests (RPT) establish changes in the baseline performance and are performed periodically during life testing, as well as at the beginning- and end-of-life testing. A generic test plan for testing is outlined in Appendix A; this outline can be used as a starting point for device-specific test plans.

3.1.1 Voltage Limits

Several voltage limits are defined in this manual for the purposes of testing and analysis (see Appendix C). The electrochemical voltage range between 100% SOC and 0% SOC are referred to as $V_{\max_{100}}$ and $V_{\min_0}$, respectively. V_{nominal} is the nominal electrochemical voltage between $V_{\max_{100}}$ and $V_{\min_0}$, this is calculated by dividing total energy by capacity. For example, if the total discharge capacity is 2 Ah and discharge energy is 7 Wh from the initial static capacity test, then $V_{\text{nominal}} = (\text{Wh/Ah}) = 3.5\text{V}$. Since energy storage devices in EV applications may not operate at 100% SOC, the test protocols defined in this manual also assume a maximum operating voltage, $V_{\max_{\text{op}}}$ which corresponds to the upper limit of the intended operating window. Note that in many cases for EV applications, $V_{\max_{\text{op}}}$ can equal $V_{\max_{100}}$. For the purposes of this manual, a “fully charged device” is when the device has been charged to $V_{\max_{\text{op}}}$ using the manufacturer’s recommended procedure, unless otherwise specified. All tests should be conducted within the operating window between $V_{\max_{\text{op}}}$ and $V_{\min_0}$. Note that if $V_{\max_{\text{op}}}$ is not the same as $V_{\max_{100}}$, the manufacturer should also supply the operating capacity of the device (defined between $V_{\max_{\text{op}}}$ and $V_{\min_0}$) in addition to the rated capacity (defined between $V_{\max_{100}}$ and $V_{\min_0}$). As with the rated capacity, the operating capacity is defined during the initial characterizations tests and is fixed during aging. It is used to establish the device’s depth-of-discharge (DOD) condition from a fully charged state at $V_{\max_{\text{op}}}$.

¹. In this manual, unless specifically stated otherwise, the desired test condition is typically established as a percentage of the operating capacity, which is always reached by removing the appropriate fraction of the rated capacity from a fully charged device (normally at a constant C/3 discharge rate.)

3.1.2 Temperature Control

Unless otherwise specified in a device-specific test plan, the ambient temperature for all tests should be controlled at a default nominal temperature of 30°C. Also, to the extent possible, all testing should be conducted using environmental chambers. For characterization and reference tests, a rest of no less than 60 minutes should be observed after each charge and each discharge prior to proceeding with further testing. Allowing devices to reach stable voltage and temperature conditions. Thermal and voltage equilibrium are important for characterization and reference tests due to the sensitivity of the cell resistance measurement. Shorter rest durations should be considered where longer rests could introduce unwanted aging effects. A longer rest may be required for modules or packs.

3.1.3 Pressure Control

Unless otherwise specified in a device-specific test plan, pouch or prismatic cell pressure should be established by placing the device between two plates with four to six bolts around the edges that are tightened using torque specifications provided by the manufacturer (or finger tightened if no specification is provided). Preferably, spacers between the two plates should be used to ensure a sufficient gap between the plates. As a general practice, once the pouch pressure has been set, the device should be placed in an environmental chamber and left undisturbed for the duration of the test period. The devices should be visually inspected periodically for any signs of swelling or leaking.

3.1.4 Battery Size Factor

The Battery Size Factor (BSF) is a legacy of system level targets in prior manuals. BSF is not used in this manual. This portion of the manual has been moved to appendix F, Archived Test Procedures/Analysis, for reference.

3.1.5 Charging Procedure

The manufacturer is responsible for defining a reasonable charging procedure with the assistance of the technical program manager. This charging procedure should specify default rest periods before and after (at least 1 hour is recommended) charging is performed. During cycle life testing, a rest period of 15 minutes can be used to accelerate testing before and after charging. This is a default value and can be adjusted based on the needs of the chemistry. Additionally for programs with fast charge focus, a fast charge procedure must be provided by the manufacturer and with agreement from the technical program manager.

3.2 Static Capacity Test

This test measures device capacity in ampere-hours at a C/3 constant current discharge rate corresponding to the rated capacity. Discharge begins following a default rest from a fully charged state (V_{max100}) and is terminated on a manufacturer-specified discharge voltage limit (V_{min0}). The discharge is followed by a default rest at open-circuit voltage. If the measured capacity is significantly different from the rated (*i.e.*, more than $\pm 10\%$), notify the

technical program manager before continuing testing and determine if the capacity needs to be re-rated.² The static capacity test is to be performed until three consecutive discharge capacities are stable within $\pm 2\%$ up to a maximum of 10 discharges. If the device is unable to reach stability after 10 discharges, the technical program manager should be notified.

In the case where the operating voltage limit is different from the electrochemical voltage range (*i.e.*, $V_{\text{max}_{\text{op}}} < V_{\text{max}_{100}}$), the static capacity test shall be repeated to verify the operating capacity, which should also be specified by the manufacturer.³ Discharge begins following a default rest from a fully charged state ($V_{\text{max}_{\text{op}}}$) and is terminated on a manufacturer-specified discharge voltage limit (V_{min_0}). The discharge is followed by a default rest at open-circuit voltage. If the measured capacity is significantly different from the specified operating capacity (*i.e.*, more than $\pm 10\%$), notify the technical program manager before continuing testing and determine if the operating capacity needs to be rerated. The static capacity test is to be performed until three consecutive discharge capacities are stable within $\pm 2\%$ up to a maximum of 10 discharges. If the device is unable to reach stability after 10 discharges, the technical program manager should be notified.

3.3 Fast Charge

The Fast Charge test verifies the ability of the test article to provide a portion of the Useable Energy Target based on a constant current charge, or other manufacturer charge protocol, within a targeted period of time. The manufacturer should supply the current level or protocol to be applied for this test, but if it is not available, a rate will be determined that gives the targeted amount of energy in the targeted period of time.⁴ The test sequence is as follows:

The Fast Charge Test is intended to determine the amount of time required to return the targeted percentage of the Useable Energy Target. The following procedure is written to reflect the goal at the time of publication of this manual, 80% of the Useable Energy Target in 10 minutes or less.

1. Starting from a fully charged state, $V_{\text{max}_{\text{op}}}$. Discharge at the C/3 rate until 20% of the Useable Energy Target has been removed.
2. Continue discharge at the C/3 rate until an additional 80%⁵ of the Useable Energy Target has been removed. Note the capacity (Ah) during this step as this capacity is directly related to 80% Useable Energy Target and will be used in subsequent steps.
3. Rest for 1 hour.

². If initial Static Capacity Tests indicate that the manufacturer’s rated/operating capacity is clearly not representative of the device’s actual capacity, the value to be used as the rated/ operating capacity may be re-defined by USABC program management before testing continues. Use of a reasonably representative capacity value is important for high quality HPPC test results.

³. If the operating voltage limit is less than $V_{\text{max}_{100}}$, all subsequent testing shall be based on the BOL operating capacity which remains fixed during life aging.

⁴ If the developer believes the devices may be damaged from the fast charge, use devices that are not designated for calendar or cycle life aging instead. The static capacity test (Section 3.2) should also be repeated to confirm the status of the devices.

⁵. The combined energy removed from step 1 and step 2 should be 100% of the Useable Energy Target. 80% of the Useable Energy Target was the requirement at the time of the publication of this manual, a different value may be used when appropriate and approved by the Technical Program Manager.

- 4. Perform the fast charge protocol until the capacity (Ah) noted in step 2 has been returned.⁶
- 5. Rest for 1 hour.⁷
- 6. Discharge at the C/3 rate the capacity (Ah) noted in step 2.

There is an additional metric in table 1 related to fast charge and that is for Fast Charge at Low Temperature. The test procedure is similar to the Fast Charge Test outlined above but requires additional time for temperature changes and soak time. The following procedure is written to reflect the goal at the time of publication of this manual, 80% of the Useable Energy Target in 30 minutes or less starting at an ambient temperature of -10°C.

- 7. Starting from a fully charged state, $V_{max_{op}}$.
- 8. Discharge at the C/3 rate until 20% of the Useable Energy Target has been removed.
- 9. Continue discharge at the C/3 rate until an additional 80% of the Useable Energy Target has been removed. Note the capacity (Ah) during this step as this capacity is directly related to 80% Useable Energy Target and will be used in subsequent steps.
- 10. Lower the device ambient temperature to the target value of -10°C.
- 11. Soak at the target temperature until the battery reaches thermal equilibrium (typically 4-16 hours)
- 12. Perform the fast charge protocol for low temperature until the capacity (Ah) noted in step 2 has been returned.
- 13. Raise the device’s ambient temperature to the reference value of 30°C.
- 14. Soak at the target temperature until the battery reaches thermal equilibrium (typically 4-16 hours)
- 15. Discharge at the C/3 rate the capacity (Ah) noted in step 2.

3.4 Hybrid Pulse Power Characterization Test

The Hybrid Pulse Power Characterization (HPPC) Test is intended to determine dynamic power capability over the device’s useable energy window using a test profile that incorporates both discharge and regen pulses. The first step of this test is to establish, as a function of capacity removed (a) the voltage and current limited discharge power capability at the end of a 30-s discharge current pulse and (b) the voltage and current limited regen power capability at the end of a 10-s regen current pulse. These power and energy capabilities are then used to derive other performance characteristics such as Peak Power and Useable Energy for direct comparison with the targets specified in Table 1.

Additional data from the HPPC test includes the voltage response curves, from which the fixed (ohmic) cell resistance and cell polarization resistance as a function of capacity removed can be determined assuming sufficient resolution to reliably establish cell voltage response time constants during discharge, rest, and regen operating regimes. This data can be used to evaluate resistance degradation during subsequent life testing and to develop electric vehicle battery performance models for vehicle systems analysis.

⁶ If the upper temperature limit is reached during the fast charge before the required capacity is returned the battery is assumed to have failed this test.

⁷ The duration of this rest may need to be increased to allow the battery to return to thermal equilibrium.

3.4.1 Hybrid Pulse Power Characterization

The objective of this test is to determine the 30-second discharge-pulse and the 10-second regen-pulse power capabilities at each 10% depth of discharge increment relative to the BOL operating capacity for the EV Targets (e.g., for a 2 Ah cell, power capabilities are assessed at 0.2 Ah increments between $V_{max_{op}}$ and V_{min_0}). Between the set of discharge and regen pulses, the device is discharged to the next 10% increment based on operating capacity using the C/3 rate. The pulse profile is shown in Table 2 and Figure 1.

Note that the current values are relative, not absolute. The actual current values are determined as defined at the end of Section 3.4.2. Also, note that this manual uses positive values for discharge current and power, and negative values for charge or regen.

Table 2. Hybrid Pulse Power Characterization Test Profile.

Time Increment (s)	Cumulative Time (s)	Relative Currents
30	30	1.00
40	70	0
10	80	-0.75

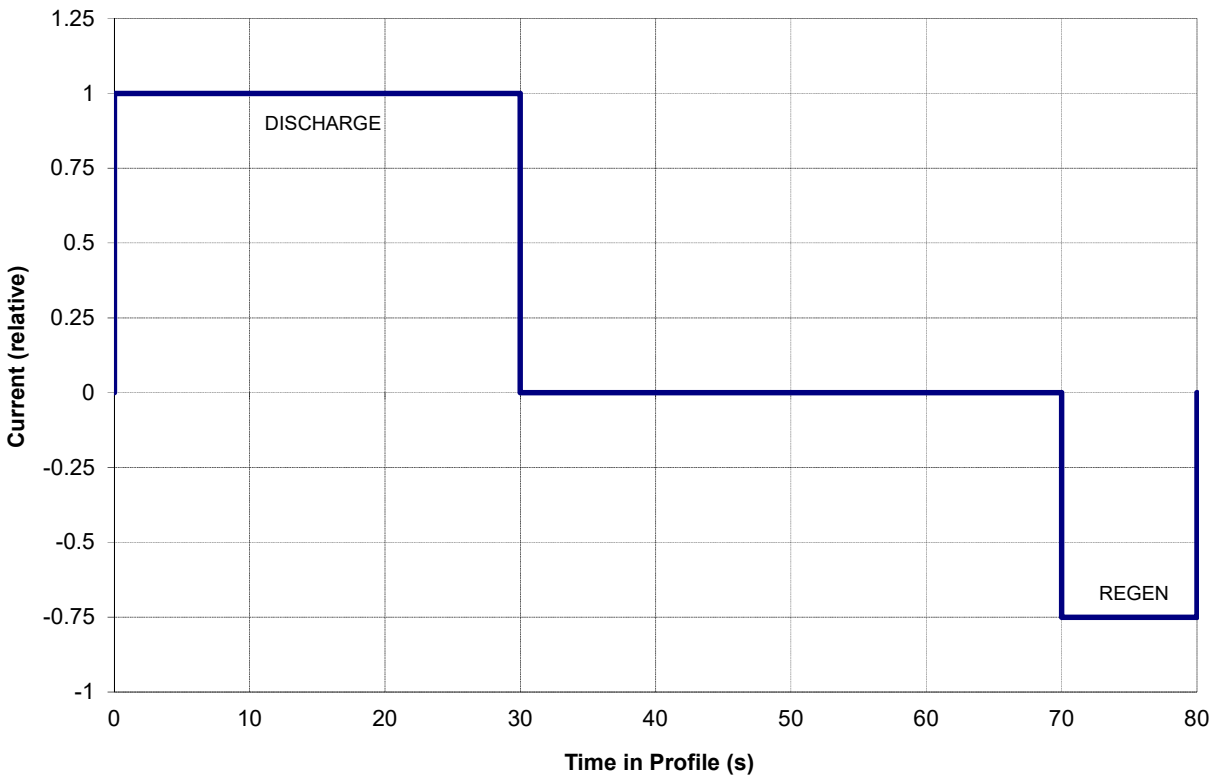


Figure 1. Hybrid Pulse Power Characterization Test Profile.

3.4.2 Test Procedure Description

The HPPC Test incorporates the pulse power characterization profile as defined in Section 3.4.1. Constant current steps are used in the ratios listed in Table 2. The test is made up of single repetitions of this profile, followed by discharge to the next 10% increment based on operating capacity point using the C/3 rate,⁸ each time followed by a default rest period to allow the cell to return to an electrochemical and thermal equilibrium condition before applying the next profile.

Note that battery developers typically specify a nominal capacity, which corresponds to a pair of voltage limits representing 0% and 100% SOC at beginning of life (BOL). These are defined as V_{min_0} and $V_{max_{100}}$ for the purposes of this manual (see Section 3.1.1 and Appendix C). Separately, a developer will supply (or testing will determine) a recommended voltage range of operation, which may be less than the full 100% SOC span associated with the nominal capacity. The upper voltage limit of the intended operating window is defined as $V_{max_{op}}$; it is fixed at BOL for all subsequent HPPC testing as the “fully charged” condition for operating mode and is used as the basis for determining the percentage of the operating capacity removed (*i.e.*, 0% capacity removed at $V_{max_{op}}$) for the Power vs. Energy curves from which parameters of interest are determined. Note that the manufacturer may also supply an alternative maximum and minimum voltage limit for short-duration pulse conditions (*i.e.*, $V_{max_{pulse}}$ and $V_{min_{pulse}}$).

The HPPC test begins with a charged device up to $V_{max_{op}}$ using the manufacturer recommended procedure. Following a default rest period (nominally a 1-hour rest), an HPPC profile is performed immediately followed by a discharge to the next 10% increment of the rated capacity at the C/3 rate (based on the established operating capacity at BOL) and a default rest. This sequence is repeated until the final profile at or near 90% of the operating capacity removed (or the maximum discharge specified by the manufacturer). The test terminates with a discharge of the device at the C/3 rate to V_{min_0} and a final default rest. If at any point $V_{min_{pulse}}$ is reached during an HPPC pulse then taper the current to finish the pulse.⁹ If V_{min_0} is reached in the C/3 discharge portion, stop the test. The voltages during each rest period are recorded to establish the cell’s OCV (open-circuit voltage) behavior. The sequence of rest periods, pulse profiles, and discharge segments is illustrated in Figures 2 and 3. These figures also illustrate the C/3 discharge to be executed just prior to each HPPC Test.¹⁰

⁸. Note that the capacity of the pulse profile must be accounted for in determining the actual percentage of the operating capacity removed from $V_{max_{op}}$ at which the profile was performed. The profile in Table 2 may remove several percent of the capacity from a typical device. The test should be programmed such that 10% of the operating capacity is removed in each test segment, including that removed by the pulse profile itself.

⁹. The capacity removed during both the HPPC pulse and 10% discharges need to be tracked to ensure that the depth-of-discharge is appropriately monitored and reported for each pulse relative to the operating capacity established at BOL.

¹⁰. This C/3 discharge is required because the HPPC results will eventually be reported as power capability versus energy removed at a C/3 rate. The availability of linked HPPC-Current data facilitates this analysis and reporting; see Section 4.3.

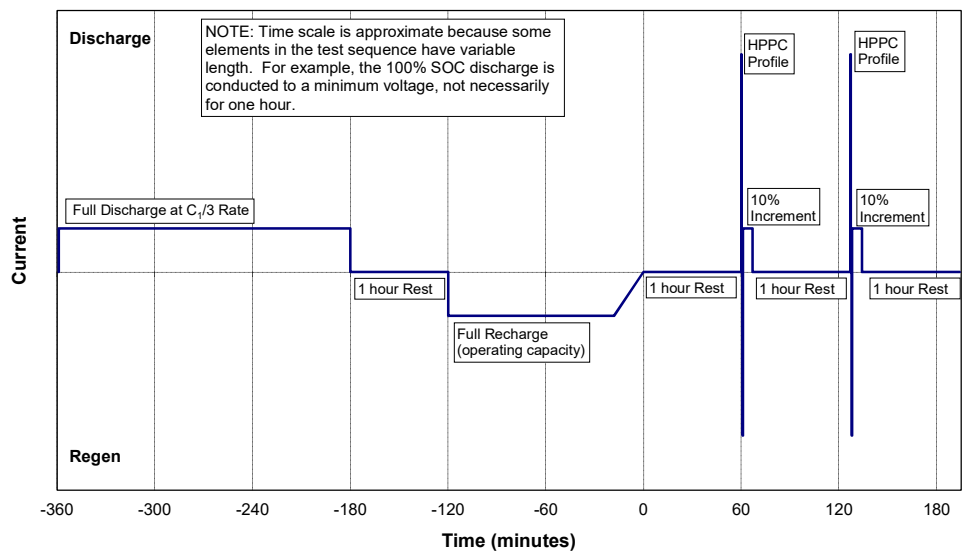


Figure 2. Hybrid Pulse Power Characterization Test (start of test sequence).

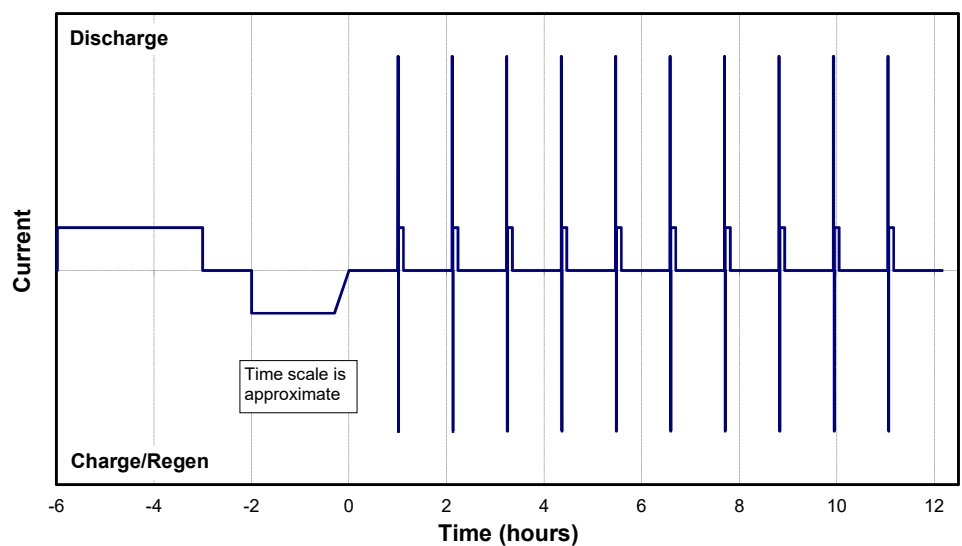


Figure 3. Hybrid Pulse Power Characterization Test (complete HPPC sequence).

The HPPC Test may be performed at the low-current level, the high-current level, or both.¹¹ Each HPPC Test sequence is performed using peak currents scaled to one of the levels. Scaling of the levels is determined by the following criteria.¹²

LOW CURRENT HPPC TEST (L-HPPC)—The pulse profile discharge current is at least a C/1 rate.

¹¹. The low current HPPC test typically results in a more conservative (*i.e.*, larger) estimate of the pulse resistance.

¹² Typically low current HPPC is used for USABC testing since it is less likely to cause additional aging effects during life testing.

HIGH CURRENT HPPC TEST (H-HPPC)—The pulse profile discharge current is selected as 75% of I_{max} (the manufacturer’s absolute maximum allowable pulse discharge current for 30-s at some state-of-charge, which needs not be specified).

3.4.3 HPPC Useable Energy Verification Test

This test will verify the Useable Energy by direct measurement to be compared to the power and energy targets. The Useable Energy Target must be established prior to this test. The HPPC Useable Energy Verification test is performed in six steps.

- 1. Starting from a fully charged state, $V_{\text{max}_{\text{op}}}$, removes 20% of the rated capacity at the C/3 rate.
- 2. Rest for 1 hour at open circuit voltage conditions.
- 3. Perform a 10 second regen power pulse at the Regen Power Target.
- 4. Remove the remaining amount of the Useable Energy Target at the C/3 rate. The initial capacity removed for the regen pulse and the regen pulse must be accounted for when removing the remaining Useable Energy Target.
- 5. Rest for 1 hour at open circuit voltage conditions.
- 6. Perform a 30 second discharge pulse at the Discharge Power Target.

3.5 Peak Power Test

It has been determined that the Peak Power Test provides redundant information. It has been moved to appendix F, Archived Test Procedures/Analysis, and is no longer considered a required test for this manual.

3.6 Self-Discharge Test

This test is intended to determine the temporary capacity loss that results from a cell or battery standing (*i.e.*, at rest) for a predetermined time and temperature (*i.e.*, 30 days at 30°C).

The test consists of the following sequence of activities:

- 1. Measure the actual device capacity from full charge ($V_{\text{max}_{\text{op}}}$) to the discharge voltage limit (V_{min_0}) using a constant current C/3 rate, and charge using the manufacturer’s recommended charge protocol.¹³
- 2. Remove half of the Useable Energy Target. Allow it to stand in an open-circuit condition for a nominal interval of 30 days. All measurement equipment may need to be disconnected from the device during this period to reduce parasitic losses.
- 3. Discharge the device to V_{min_0} for its remaining (residual) capacity at the C/3 rate.

¹³. Note that the measured capacity may be less than the rated value since the operating range may have a smaller voltage window.

4. Charge the device and fully discharge it again at the C/3 discharge rate. If there is a difference in the capacity measured in step (1) and in step (4), additional charge/discharge cycles (up to 10 cycles) may be performed to return the device to its pre-test capacity, accounting for reversible capacity loss.

3.7 Thermal Performance Test

The primary objective of thermal performance testing is to demonstrate the ability to meet some fraction of the Useable Energy Target at a specified temperature. The effects of environment (ambient temperature) on device performance will be measured by performing single iteration of the Static Capacity Test and Hybrid Pulse Power Characterization Test (either the low or high current HPPC)¹⁴ at various temperatures within the operating temperature target range as defined in table 1 or program specific gap chart. Typical temperatures for the thermal performance test consist of +65, 0, -10, -20, and -30°C, different or additional test temperatures can be run with the approval of the technical program manager. At the laboratory cell level, such testing has two targets: to characterize the performance of the technology as a function of temperature and to bound the likely constraints on thermal management of full-size cells or batteries.

Unless otherwise specified in a device-specific test plan, charging should be performed at 30°C during thermal performance testing. This implies the following test sequence: (1) fully charge the device to $V_{max_{op}}$ at 30°C; (2) raise or lower the device ambient temperature to the target value; (3) wait a suitable soak period for thermal equilibrium, typically 4 to 16 hours depending on size and mass; and (4) execute the desired performance test. If self-discharge is a major concern during the soak period, the device can be clamped at a voltage during this period; however, this requires knowledge of the device OCV versus temperature behavior to ensure that the SOC is not changed inadvertently.

It may be necessary to adjust the rest intervals in the HPPC Test to ensure that thermal stability as well as voltage equilibrium is reached before each repetition of the HPPC profile.

Thermal performance testing is conducted at BOL and if practical, EOL. Additional thermal performance tests can be run at interim points during life testing. It is recommended to run the interim test at a single temperature of -20°C, or the lowest temperature at which the battery passed at BOL.

3.7.1 Survival Temperature Test

The survival temperature test is generally performed on a group of devices that will not be used for calendar and cycle life testing. This test may drastically affect or reduce the performance of the device. The effects of survival temperature on device performance will be measured as required within the USABC temperature target range (-40 to +75°C) or as specified in a program specific gap chart. Unless otherwise specified in a device-specific test plan, charging should be performed at the reference temperature ($30 \pm 3^\circ\text{C}$). The device should generally be at beginning of life (BOL) conditions for this test, and other tests shall not be performed at these storage temperature limits.

The cold storage test is performed as follows:

1. From a fully charged state at $V_{max_{op}}$ and at the reference temperature ($30 \pm 3^\circ\text{C}$), perform a C/3 discharge followed by a L-HPPC.

¹⁴. Only one of the two HPPC test (low or high) should be used over a series of temperature tests for comparison with the targets. The HPPC current level will be invariant at all temperatures but the lower temperature tests may require lower voltage, but may not violate the appropriate minimum voltage value.

2. From a fully charged state at $V_{\max_{op}}$, bring the device to the voltage corresponding to V_{nominal} at 30°C using the C/3 constant-current rate. Taper the current at V_{nominal} following the manufacturer's recommended procedure.
3. Ramp the thermal temperature chamber to the specified minimum survival temperature within 1-hr and then soak the device at open circuit for a 24-hr period.
4. Return to 30°C and rest for at least 4 to 16 hours (depending on the size of the device).
5. From a fully charged state at $V_{\max_{op}}$, perform a C/3 discharge and charge test followed by a L-HPPC.

The hot storage test is performed as follows:

1. From a fully charged state at $V_{\max_{op}}$, perform a C/3 discharge and charge test followed by a L-HPPC.
2. From a fully charged state at $V_{\max_{op}}$, bring the device to the voltage corresponding to V_{nominal} at 30°C using the C/3 constant-current rate. Taper the current at V_{nominal} following the manufacturer's recommended procedure.
3. Ramp the thermal temperature chamber to the specified maximum survival temperature within 15-min and then soak the device at open circuit for a 24-hr period.
4. Return to 30°C and rest for at least 4 to 16 hours (depending on the size of the device).
5. From a fully charged state at $V_{\max_{op}}$, perform a C/3 discharge and charge test followed by a L-HPPC.

Note that if the intent of the testing is to verify both the cold and hot storage, the HPPC test at the end of the cold storage test and/or the HPPC test at the start of the hot storage testing can be omitted.

3.8 Life Testing

Life testing consists of cycle-life and calendar-life aging to ensure the device can meet the targets specified in Table 1. Cycle-life testing consists of repeating a test profile continuously for a sustained period until the appropriate amount of energy has been removed (Section 3.9). Calendar-life testing (Section 3.10) generally consists of resting the device under test at OCV using elevated test temperatures with a pulse profile applied once per day.

The life testing regime is interrupted approximately once per month, 32 days for calendar life and number of cycles equivalent to 32 days for standard cycle life testing, fast charge cycle life testing will match the cycle count to the standard cycle life test. Devices are returned to reference operating temperature (*i.e.*, 30° C) for the reference performance tests (Section 3.11) to gauge degradation as a function of aging. Key parameters, *e.g.*, Pulse Power and Useable Energy, should be monitored. The corresponding end-of-life criteria for these parameters are when the Pulse Power and Useable Energy are less than target energy or power.

Wherever possible, devices subjected to the same test conditions should be contained in the same test chamber or other environment, preferably using calibrated test channels with identical characteristics, and test intervals should be time-synchronized.

All devices that are part of a common test matrix should be subjected to reference testing at the same intervals if possible. Minimizing the fraction of time not spent at target temperatures is important for testing at elevated temperatures. However, in some cases rapid degradation may take place at very high temperatures; in such cases, the use of uniform test intervals will lead to a reduced number of data points for predicting trends over life. The reference test intervals have been selected to balance these conflicting needs but may need adjustment in special cases.

The general life test procedure is as follows (specific test sequences are provided in the sections below):

1. Characterize the device using the Static Capacity Test (Section 3.2) and the Hybrid Pulse Power Characterization Test (Section 3.4) and other reference tests as detailed in a device-specific test plan.
2. Conduct the baseline reference performance test (RPT 0) immediately prior to the start of life testing using the tests identified in Table 5 of Section 3.11. These tests establish the baseline performance from which degradation can be tracked.
3. Perform prescribed life test from the device specific test plan. Conduct the life aging sequence for ~32 days as specified in Sections 3.9 for cycle life and 3.10 for calendar life below.
4. Conduct the RPT as specified in Table 5 in Section 3.11.
5. Repeat steps 3 and 4 until end of test or end of life.

The end-of-test criteria for life testing are normally specified in a device-specific test plan. A default (and generally mandatory) end-of-test condition is reached when the test profile cannot be executed within both the discharge and regen voltage limits.¹⁵ Another default end-of-test condition also occurs if performance degrades to a point where the HPPC Reference Performance Test (RPT) yields insufficient information to show further degradation.¹⁶ Other end of test criteria include: (a) a cycle life capability that meets the targets has been attained (*i.e.*, the number of properly scaled test cycles exceeds the applicable target); or (b) the Useable Energy or Peak Discharge/Regen Power drops below the target value. In case (a), the battery may not have reached end-of-life when testing stops, but further testing is not usually considered cost-effective. In case (b), end-of-life has occurred at some prior time.

¹⁷

3.9 Dynamic Stress Test Cycle Life

Cycle life testing is performed by repeating the designated test profile (Section 3.9.2) until the net useable energy target has been removed (*useable energy target is determined at BOL*). The device is then charged at the rate specified in the device specific test plan. RPTs are conducted periodically during cycle life testing.

3.9.1 Cycle Life Test Procedure Outline

The cycle life testing process consists of the following steps:

1. Scale the test profile by multiplying the specific power target by the battery weight. Verify that the scaling results will not result in a current that exceeds discharge or regen current limits. If this scaling results in

¹⁵. At this point, the device has insufficient useable energy and capacity at the test conditions to execute the test, *i.e.*, its capability is less than that required by the test profile.

¹⁶. This would normally be the point where valid discharge and regen data are obtained at less than three DOD values using the Low-Current HPPC test.

¹⁷. Note that *end-of-test* and *end-of-life* are not the same, and they may not even be related. See the glossary for more information on this distinction. The determination of End-of-Life and Cycle Life is discussed in Section 4.9.

currents that exceed the device’s maximum current limit, use a power value equal to 2 times the energy of the cell from Vmax_{op} to Vmin₀.¹⁸

2. The device is first charged at 30°C to the specified test condition using the manufacturer recommended procedure (*typically* fully charged to Vmax_{op}). For fast charge cycles, use the fast charge protocol to return the capacity determined in the Fast Charge Test (section 3.3) that results in 80% of the Useable Energy Target, after that capacity has been returned using the fast charge protocol start the standard charge procedure (typically a C/3 charge rate with a voltage clamp to the appropriate cutoff). Bring the device to the desired test temperature and soak for the appropriate duration if it is something other than 30°C.
3. Run the designated test profile at the desired operating conditions and repeat until the net energy removed is equal to the Useable Energy Target.
4. Rest at OCV for a default period of 15 minutes¹⁹ and then charge the device using the appropriate procedure defined in the device specific test plan. Rest at OCV for a default period of 15 minutes after the charge. Steps 3 and 4 will be the equivalent of one DST Cycle.
5. Repeat the cycle (from steps 3 and 4) at the desired operating conditions the number of times specified in Table 5 or a device-specific test plan.
6. After the specified number of repetitions, suspend cycling. If cycling is being done at other than 30°C, return the device to 30°C and soak for the appropriate duration. Observe the open-circuit voltage after a 1-hr rest. Perform the Reference Performance Tests to determine the extent of degradation. The reference tests are listed in Table 5. All cycle life conditions should have the same number of cycles between reference performance tests and cycle counts should be fixed at beginning of life. No additional rest time should be added to the cycle conditions to synchronize with other cycle conditions.
7. Repeat Steps 5 through 6 until an end-of-test condition is reached.

3.9.2 Cycle Life Dynamic Stress Test Profile

The objective of this test profile is to demonstrate device life in a charge depleting mode when subjected to energy use levels and patterns appropriate to the targets. Each profile is a series of constant power discharge/charge steps with a total duration of 360 seconds. The DST profile is defined in Table 3 and illustrated in Figure 4. It is intended to demonstrate the ability to meet the cycle life target.

Table 3. DST Cycle Life Test Profile for the EV Battery.

Step No	Step Time (sec)	Cum Time (sec)	% Power (%)	Power (W/kg)	
				System	Cell
1	16	16	0	0	0
2	28	44	12.5	58.75	87.50
3	12	56	25	117.5	175.00

¹⁸. Manufacturers can choose to use a discharge power corresponding to twice the measured useable energy of the cell (based on the 2:1 power to energy ratio in Table 1) with approval from the technical program manager.

¹⁹. The manufacturer may specify an alternative rest period between the discharge and charge profiles. The rest interval should be specified in a device-specific test plan.

4	8	64	-12.5	-58.75	-87.50
5	16	80	0	0	0
6	24	104	12.5	58.75	87.50
7	12	116	25	117.5	175.00
8	8	124	-12.5	-58.75	-87.50
9	16	140	0	0	0
10	24	164	12.5	58.75	87.50
11	12	176	25	117.5	175.00
12	8	184	-12.5	-58.75	-87.50
13	16	200	0	0	0
14	36	236	12.5	58.75	87.50
15	8	244	100	470	700.00
16	24	268	62.5	293.75	437.50
17	8	276	-25	-117.5	-175.00
18	32	308	25	117.5	175.00
19	8	316	-42.9	-200	-300.00
20	44	360	0	0	0

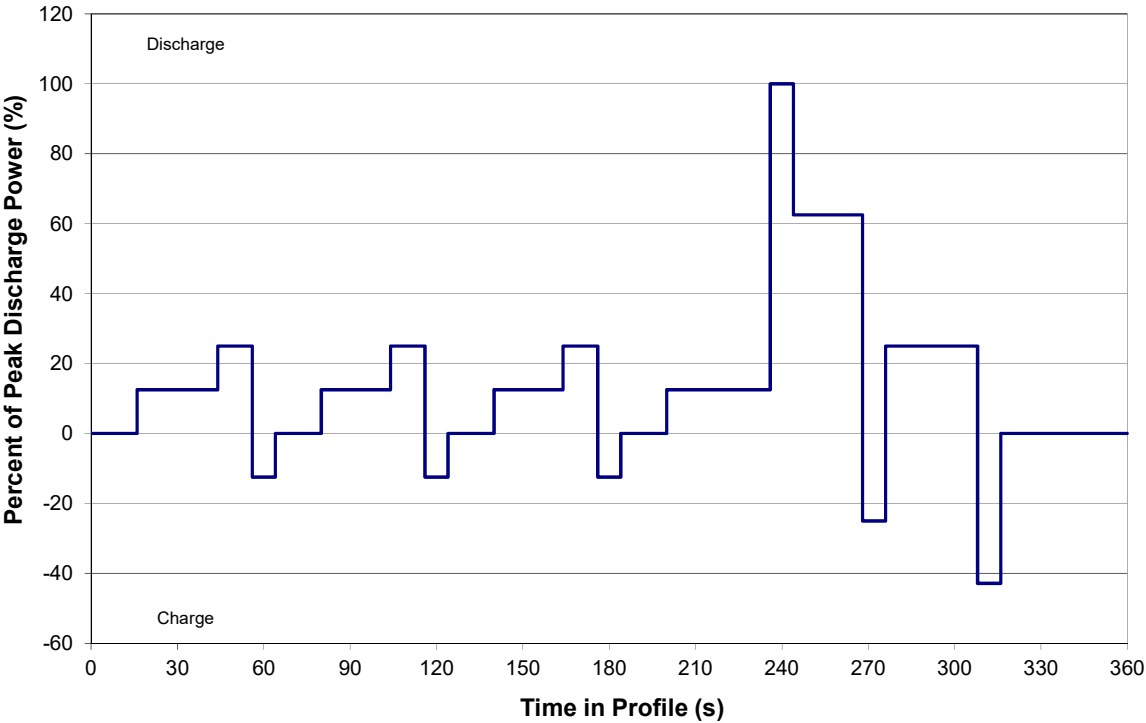


Figure 4. Dynamic Stress Test Cycle Life Test Profile for the EV Battery.

3.9.3 Fast Charge Cycle Life Procedure

Cycle life testing for programs containing fast charge are made up of two types of cycles, a standard cycle that uses C/3 charge rate and the fast charge cycle that uses the specified fast charge protocol followed by a C/3 top off charge to Vmax_{op}. A cycle life test condition can be all standard cycles, all fast charge cycles, or a combination of

both cycle types. It is important that the fast charge frequency associated with the target be among the cycle life conditions.

3.10 Calendar Life Test

This test is designed to permit the evaluation of cell or battery degradation because of the passage of time with minimal usage. It is not a pure shelf-life test because the devices are maintained at or near a target state-of-charge during the test. The devices will also be subjected to periodic RPTs.

In general, calendar life testing is performed using multiple cells over a range of test conditions.²⁰ It is commonly done at elevated temperatures to shorten the time required for obtaining useful results. A multi-variable test matrix can be used where different temperatures and state-of-charge values are used. This matrix may in turn be part of a larger cycle life test matrix where calendar life testing is considered a limiting cycle life test, *i.e.*, one in which the state-of-charge swing during cycling is zero. Reference 5 provides more guidance on this subject. The calendar life test procedure assumes that the target test conditions for each cell or group of cells have been defined, typically in a device-specific test plan.

3.10.1 Calendar Life Testing Planning

Careful planning and analysis of calendar life tests are critical to estimation of battery life with high confidence. Accurate life estimates are essential for assessing battery warranty risks and costs. Calendar life estimates utilize accelerated test methods to obtain results. Tests should be conducted at the most challenging SOC allowed by the manufacturer, representative of the most stressful condition within the operating window. The general approach is to store cells under open-circuit conditions at elevated temperatures to artificially increase their rates of performance deterioration. The key tradeoff in the selection of storage temperatures is to avoid introducing non-representative failure modes at too high a temperature, while achieving high rates of deterioration to minimize test time and cost.

At a minimum, three temperatures should be selected. Optimally, five to seven elevated temperatures would be selected, but in many cases this proves impractical. The lowest temperature should be the baseline temperature for calendar life, while the highest temperature should result in an end-of-life condition at the desired test duration without introducing non-representative failure mechanisms (e.g., two years or less). Other temperatures should be equally spaced between these extremes. At least three cells should be tested at each temperature, but for improved statistical results, additional cells should be used, especially at the lower temperatures. The cells under test should be stored in an open-circuit condition, but with voltage monitoring using sensing circuits that present negligible loads to the devices under test. If feasible, a daily pulse should be performed with a 5-minute voltage clamp after the pulse to maintain the appropriate SOC. Where it is not feasible to conduct a daily pulse, an alternative calendar life test procedure can be implemented at the discretion of the technical program manager. The alternate calendar life test more closely resembles a storage test, but the SOC should not be allowed to fall more than 1% below the target value. SOC should be periodically verified and maintained.

Wherever possible, cells subjected to the same test conditions should be contained in the same test chamber or other environment, preferably using calibrated test channels with identical characteristics, and test intervals should be time-synchronized.

²⁰. The cell terminology in this section is not intended to prevent the calendar life testing of modules or complete batteries. It reflects only the fact that the vast majority of such testing is done at the cell level.

All calendar life cells that are part of a common test matrix should be subjected to reference performance testing at the same intervals if possible. Minimizing the fraction of time not spent at target temperatures and SOC are important for testing at elevated temperatures. However, in some cases rapid degradation may take place at very high temperatures; in such cases, the use of uniform test intervals will lead to a reduced number of data points for predicting trends over life. The reference test intervals have been selected to balance these conflicting needs but may need adjustment in special cases.

3.10.2 Calendar Life Test Procedure

The outline of this test procedure for a particular battery is as follows:

1. The device is first fully charged at reference temperature (30°C) to $V_{max_{op}}$ using the manufacturer’s recommended charge procedure.
2. If necessary, discharge to the target condition (*i.e.*, capacity removed or SOC) at reference temperature (30°C) using the C/3 rate and rest for an hour.
3. Apply a single iteration of the Calendar Life Test Profile defined in Section 3.10.3. The nominal discharge current to be used for this profile is equal to the peak discharge current for the Low-Current HPPC Test. The battery should not exceed charge or discharge pulse voltage limits during the Calendar Life Test Profile. If the taper current does not fall below the cutoff for the standard charge during the 5-minute voltage clamp in the Calendar Life Test Profile the duration of the clamp may need to be adjusted so SOC can be properly maintained, the technical program manager should also be informed.
4. Bring the cell to the target temperature at open-circuit condition and wait for the ambient temperature and voltage to stabilize (*i.e.*, 4 to 16 hours based on battery properties).
5. Apply a single iteration of the Calendar Life Test Profile defined in Section 3.10.3 at the same current level defined in Step 3. The device is then placed in an open-circuit state, and the test continues at the target conditions.²¹
6. Once every 24 hours, and immediately before beginning Step 7, repeat Step 5. Note that data acquisition requirements during this pulse profile execution will be similar to those for HPPC Tests, even though other data may be required only infrequently during the 24-hour intervals.²²
7. At intervals as specified in Table 5 or a device-specific test plan, return the cell to reference temperature (30°C), observe its open-circuit voltage after a 1-hr rest, and apply a single iteration of the Calendar Life Test Profile before discharging its remaining capacity at the C/3 rate. Conduct a single iteration of the required periodic Reference Performance Tests and then return the cells to their test temperatures.
8. Repeat this test sequence until the cell reaches an end-of-test condition.

²¹. In the event resources do not allow daily iteration, the alternative calendar life test, section 3.10.4, may be implemented with approval from the Technical Program Manager.

²². Intermittent charge increments may be required to compensate for self-discharge to keep the state-of-charge within an acceptable range until the next reference test. The method to be employed for doing this should be specified in a device-specific test plan. The suggested method is to clamp each device after the once-per-24-hours profile at its elevated-temperature OCV (as measured in Step 4) for a specified duration sufficient to compensate for increased self-discharge at the target temperature.

3.10.3 Calendar Life Test Profile

This test profile is intended for once-per-day execution during calendar life testing at the target temperature and state-of-charge. Additionally, this test profile is performed again at the target SOC but at 30°C, immediately before and immediately after each calendar life testing interval. The data provides daily information regarding the extent and rate of cell degradation during the intervals between periodic reference tests. This test profile differs from Cycle Life Test Profile in that it is not intended for continuous execution; instead, it is executed once during each 24-hr period while the cell under test is maintained at a given temperature and state-of-charge. The pulse profile is shown in Table 4 and illustrated in Figure 7.

Table 4. Calendar Life Test Profile.

Step Time (s)	Cumulative Time (s)	Relative Current (Ratio)
30	30	1.0
40	70	0
10	80	-0.75
300	380	Voltage Clamp ²³

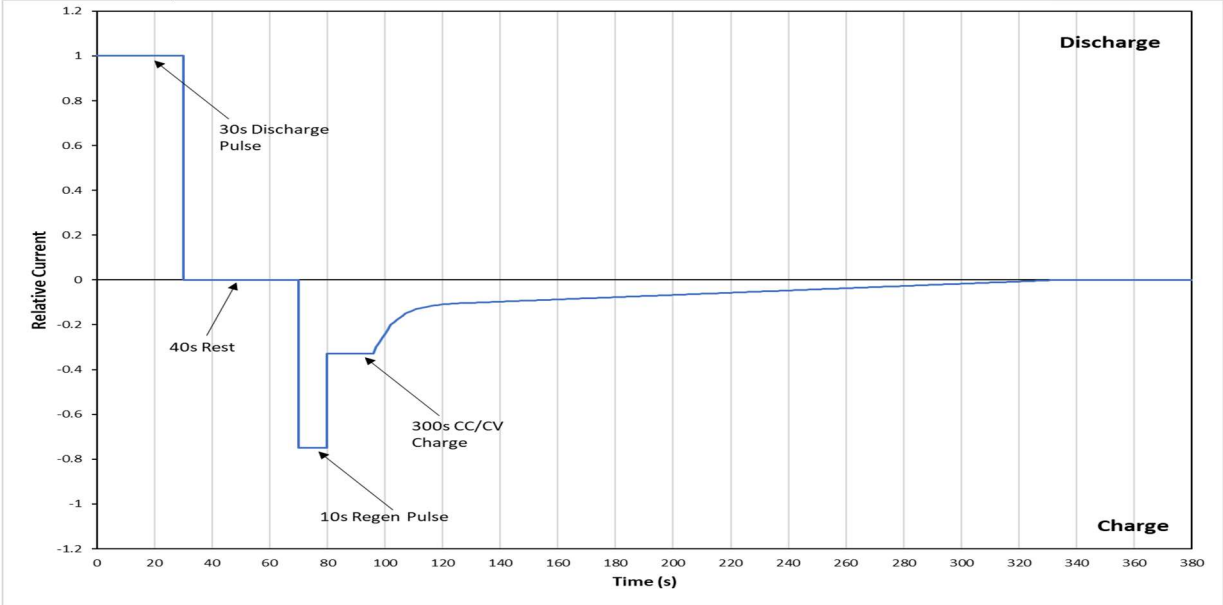


Figure 5. Calendar Life Test Profile.

3.10.4 Alternative Calendar Life Test

Execution of the calendar life test procedure as outlined in section 3.10.2 may not always be practical due to equipment constraints. With the approval of the USABC Technical Program Manager an alternative calendar life test procedure can be used. In some cases, calendar life testing may be conducted without using the once-per-24-hr

²³ A temperature compensated voltage clamp and a charge current limit not to exceed the manufacturers maximum continuous charge current should be applied.

Calendar Life Test Profile. The most likely reason for this is a shortage of continuously available test channels for the number of devices to be tested. (If the 24-hr pulse profile is not performed, a test channel is required only for the periodic Reference Performance Tests and possibly for occasional charge increments). The earlier procedure can be used in this fashion by omitting the daily performance of the test profile specified in Step 6 in the preceding section. If testing is performed in this fashion, the device open-circuit voltage should be checked every 24 to 48 hours to verify that the state-of-charge remains in an acceptable region. To be a valid test the SOC should be monitored and prevented from drifting more than 1% from the target value (or a higher percentage difference if directed by the technical program manager) by applying a taper charge to return the cell(s) to the target value.

3.11 Reference Performance Tests

Reference Performance Tests (RPTs) are a set of tests performed at periodic intervals during life testing to establish the condition and rate of performance degradation of devices under test. Except as modified by a device-specific test plan, these tests should be performed (a) prior to, and within two weeks of, the start of life testing; (b) at defined periodic intervals; and (c) at end of testing, for all devices undergoing either cycle life testing or calendar life testing.²⁴

Table 5. Reference Performance Tests and Test Intervals for Life Testing.

Type of Life Testing	Interval Between RPTs	Reference Performance Tests
DST Cycle Life Testing	~32 days for the longest cycle life condition (typically 0% fast charge or standard C/3 charge only). Cycle count should be fixed at BOL, and the same number of cycles are done for all cycle conditions.	C/3 Constant Current Test (This test is to precede the HPPC Test and generally included in the same data file as the HPPC Test for analysis purposes) Low-Current HPPC Test HPPC Useable Energy Verification Test
Calendar Life Testing	Approximately 32 days (consistent with DST cycle life RPTs)	Fast Charge Test (This test is used for programs with Fast Charge Cycle Life Testing)

A Reference Performance Test iteration consists of one repetition of each test listed in Table 5. It is recommended that these tests be performed in the order listed. These tests are performed for both EV testing modes. Table 5 also lists typical intervals for reference tests during cycle life and calendar life testing. In practice, these intervals may

²⁴. For battery chemistries that have a strong dependence of performance on temperature, it may be desirable to measure accurately the actual (ambient) temperature of the test article during the RPTs and adjust the performance results using the data from the Thermal Performance Tests (Section 3.7) to estimate the present performance at the nominal 30°C temperature. Performing such an adjustment is necessarily limited to those cases where the following conditions are satisfied: temperature data are available with accuracy better than the variations to be corrected (2°C or less); Thermal Performance Test data is available "near" the normal testing range, *e.g.*, within ±5°C on either side of the nominal temperature; and the test whose data are to be adjusted is conducted within this limited range "near" the nominal temperature.

have to be adjusted somewhat to synchronize reference testing for groups of multiple cells, especially where calendar life and cycle life cells are being tested in the same temperature chamber.

4 ANALYSIS AND REPORTING OF LIFE TEST RESULTS

4.1 General

For purposes of consistency in test reporting (particularly between multiple testing organizations), a required minimum subset of information, based on the procedures and analysis defined in this manual, has been tabulated in Appendix B using a Cell-Level application as an example. This is not intended to limit the reporting of other test results; the intent is rather to ensure that important test results are reported in a fashion that allows them to be compared to test results on energy storage devices performed at various locations and stages of development.

4.2 Static Capacity Test

Capacity in ampere-hours and energy in watt-hours removed at the specified constant current discharge rate are reported based on manufacturer-specified termination conditions. (Note that all this capacity will not generally be useable within USABC operating conditions, and thus it does not reflect conformance to the USABC Useable Energy target. However, it is still considered a useful measure of capacity at the laboratory cell stage.) Energy removed (watt-hours) is reported as a function of the percentage of operating capacity removed. This data is used for the later calculation of Useable Energy. Ampere-hours and watt-hours returned (and the corresponding overall charge/discharge efficiencies) are also reported for the manufacturer-specified charge protocol.

4.2.1 Capacity Fade

For devices subjected to life testing, the change in capacity from the beginning-of-life value (measured just prior to the start of life testing) to some later point in time is to be reported periodically as Capacity Fade, expressed as a percentage of the original capacity as shown in Equation (2).

$$\text{Capacity Fade (\%)} = 100 \times \left(1 - \frac{\text{Capacity}_{t1}}{\text{Capacity}_{t0}} \right) \quad (2)$$

where $t0$ refers to the time of the initial Reference Performance Test (RPT) immediately prior to the start of life testing and $t1$ refers to the time of the later RPT where capacity fade is to be determined.

4.2.2 Energy Fade

For devices subjected to life testing, the change in energy from the beginning-of-life value (measured just prior to the start of life testing) to some later point in time is to be reported periodically as Energy Fade, expressed as a percentage of the original energy as shown in Equation (3).

$$\text{Energy Fade (\%)} = 100 \times \left(1 - \frac{\text{Energy}_{t1}}{\text{Energy}_{t0}} \right) \quad (3)$$

where t_0 refers to the time of the initial Reference Performance Test (RPT) immediately prior to the start of life testing and t_l refers to the time of the later RPT where capacity fade is to be determined.

4.3 Fast Charge

The Fast Charge Test results should show the amount of time required to return the required percentage of the Useable Energy Target. The time is the duration of the fast charge, step 4 from the Fast Charge Test (section 3.3). Step 6 of the Fast Charge Test will verify that the correct amount of Useable Energy was returned during the fast charge.

The Fast Charge Test performed at low temperature should have results that show the amount of time required to return the targeted percentage of the Useable Energy Target. The amount of time needed to complete step 6 of the Fast Charge Test at low temperature is the reportable value. Step 9 will verify the correct amount of Useable Energy was returned during the low temperature fast charge.

4.4 Hybrid Pulse Power Characterization Test

Results from the HPPC test are generally aimed at comparing the performance of a device at a given RPT to the specified targets for a specific cell level application. Since these targets are expressed as specific power and energy or power and energy density, most HPPC test results must be scaled by the device weight and volume, respectively, before such comparisons can be made. Additional scaling for mass and volume may be applied if the current deliverable is not the production intent version and approved by the technical program manager.

This section describes the HPPC analysis methodology using an illustrative dataset. The concepts and associated nomenclatures that are discussed in this analysis section have been defined in the glossary and summarized in Appendix B. Appendix B also describes how to use the HPPC test results to fill in a Gap Analysis.

4.4.1 Overall Analysis Approach

The primary purpose of the HPPC test is to periodically verify how the 30s Peak Discharge Power, 10s Peak Regen Power, and Useable Energy for a given test article compared to the appropriate targets identified in Table 1. To achieve this purpose, several calculations are required based on the acquired test data. At a minimum, the following data need to be captured during the HPPC test for successful comparison with the targets:

1. Temperature of the test article during the HPPC test.
2. Cumulative capacity (Ah) removed at the end of each 10% increment based on operating capacity, defined at beginning of life, and fixed throughout life testing.
3. Cumulative capacity (Ah) removed at the end of each discharge pulse within the HPPC profile.
4. Measured voltages at the start and end of both the discharge and regen pulses within the HPPC profile.
5. Measured currents at the start and end of both the discharge and regen pulses within the HPPC profile.

From these data, the analysis methodology described herein can be used to determine the parameters that are to be compared with the targets. Temperature data are useful to collect during HPPC testing, especially if the

performance of the test articles is strongly affected by ambient conditions. Temperature is also a useful diagnostic tool if anomalous data are identified. The measured cumulative capacity data are related to the measured energy removed at a C/3 rate from a single iteration of the Static Capacity test (Section 4.2) done immediately prior to the HPPC test (section 3.4). The capacity data are also used to establish the percentage of operating capacity removed from $V_{max_{op}}$. From the measured voltages and currents, pulse resistance values are calculated at each 10% increment and subsequently used to identify the corresponding pulse power capabilities. The pulse power capabilities at each 10% increment are then related to the cumulative energy removed at a C/3 rate.

4.4.2 Pulse Resistance

From the HPPC pulse profile in Figure 1 (Section 3.4.1), resistance can be calculated using a $\Delta V/\Delta I$ calculation at each 10% increment. Resistances are normally only calculated for completely unabated pulses, *i.e.*, those with full duration and amplitude.²⁵ Equations 4 and 5 show the calculation for the 30-s discharge pulse and 10-s regen pulse resistance, respectively, where the relevant time points are identified in Figure 6.

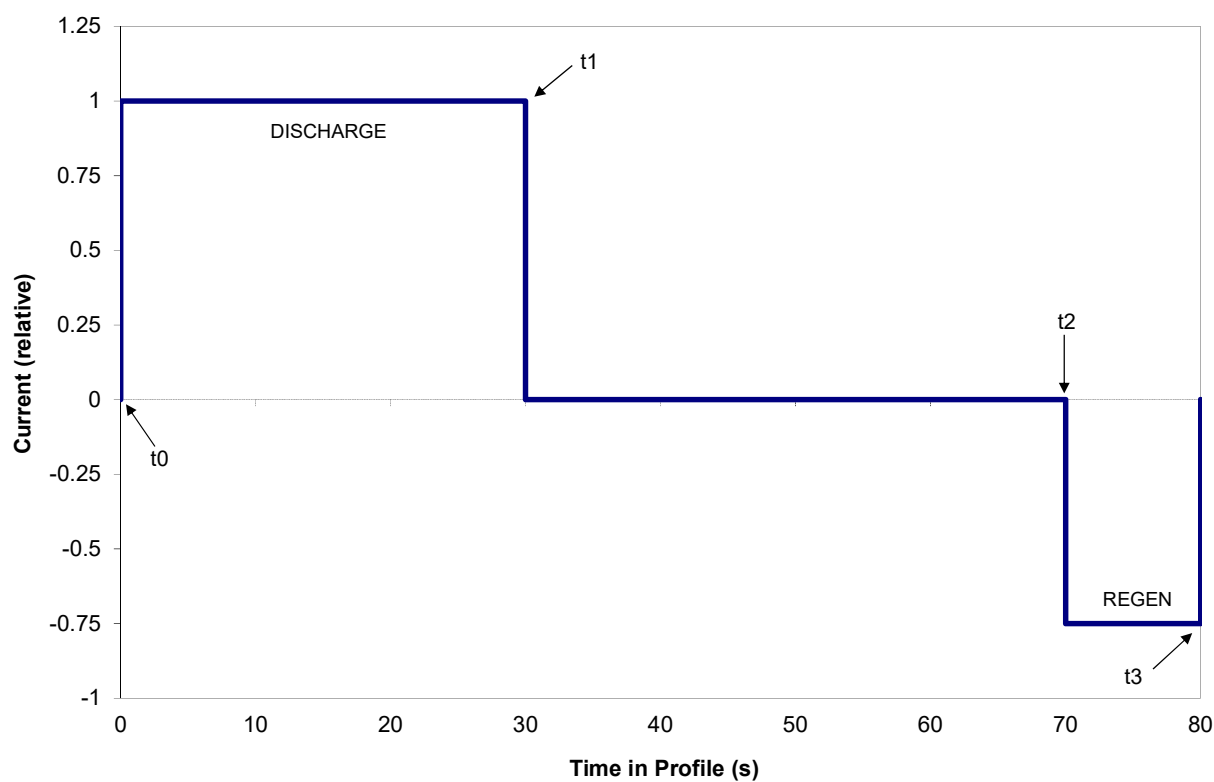


Figure 6. Resistance calculation time points.

$$\text{Discharge Resistance} = \frac{\Delta V_{discharge}}{\Delta I_{discharge}} = \left| \frac{V_{t1} - V_{t0}}{I_{t1} - I_{t0}} \right| \tag{4}$$

²⁵. The HPPC test is required to continue to V_{min_0} (or until the constant current discharge rate cannot be sustained), however some data may be acquired during pulses where current limiting was encountered. Tests conducted indicate that pulse resistances calculated using such data will be somewhat different (probably higher) than the values calculated for pulses where limiting does not occur. While this current limited data may be useful as an indication of device behavior, it should not be used for direct comparisons to the targets.

$$\text{Regen Resistance} = \frac{\Delta V_{\text{regen}}}{\Delta I_{\text{regen}}} = \left| \frac{V_{t3} - V_{t2}}{I_{t3} - I_{t2}} \right| \tag{5}$$

The discharge and regen resistances can then be plotted at each 10% increment between Vmax_{op} and Vmin₀, as shown in Figure 7 for an illustrative set of data. The calculated percentage is based on the cumulative capacity removed divided by the BOL operating capacity provided by the manufacturer. Note that charge removal from the discharge pulse must be included when determining the percentage of operating capacity removed for the regen condition, which is why the 10-s regen resistances are slightly shifted to the right when compared to the discharge resistance data.²⁶ In addition to the resistance values, open-circuit voltage (OCV) can also be plotted at each 10% increment at time point t0 (from Figure 6), which is also shown in Figure 7. The OCV between the 10% increments can then be estimated by straight-line interpolation between the relevant data points or by fitting a curve through the measured data.

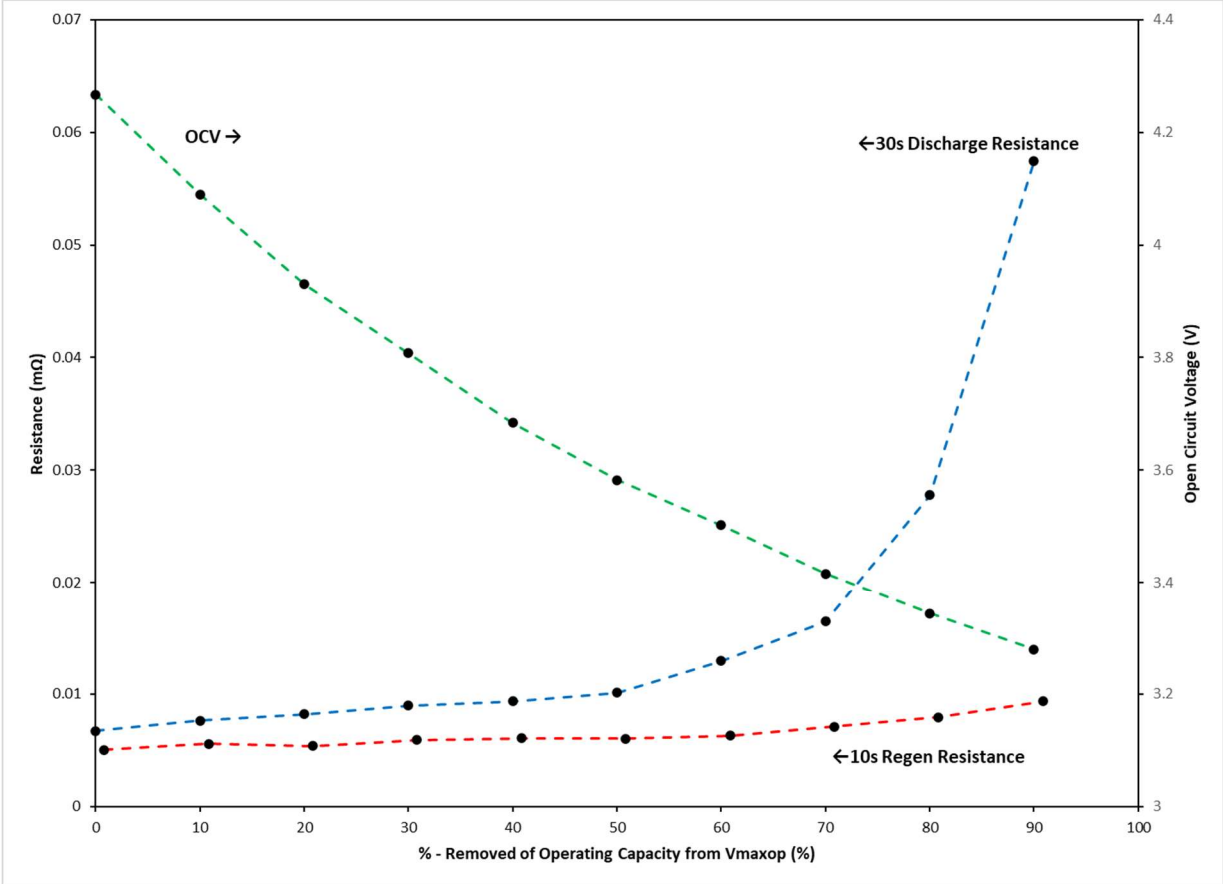


Figure 7. Open-circuit voltage and pulse resistances versus capacity removed for HPPC test.

4.4.3 Pulse Power Capability

The pulse power capability of a battery is limited by the maximum and minimum battery voltage and the maximum charge and discharge battery current. These limiting parameters are used to calculate the pulse power capability of a battery, and a combination of the resulting calculations determine the overall capability. The pulse resistance data

²⁶. In this manual, plotted percentage values always represent the beginnings of their respective discharge or regen pulses.

are then used to calculate the pulse power capability at each 10% increment (defined at beginning of life and fixed throughout life testing), where the voltage limited discharge power is relative to $V_{min_{pulse}}$ and the regen power is relative to $V_{max_{pulse}}$. (See Section 3.1.1 and Appendix C regarding allowable values for $V_{max_{pulse}}$ and $V_{min_{pulse}}$). The current limited discharge power is relative to I_{maxD} and the current limited regen power is relative to the I_{maxR} where I_{maxD} and I_{maxR} are the maximum pulse discharge and maximum pulse regen currents for the battery. These power capability values are used to determine the total available depth-of-discharge and energy swing that can be used (within the pulse voltage limits) for given discharge and regen power levels. Equations 6 and 7 show the voltage limited pulse power capability calculation for the discharge and regen pulse, respectively, equations 8 and 9 show the current limited pulse power capability for discharge and regen respectively. Figure 8 illustrates the resultant Pulse Power Capability curves as a function of the percentage of operating capacity removed from $V_{max_{op}}$.

$$\text{Voltage Limited Discharge Pulse Power Capability} = V_{min_{pulse}} \bullet (OCV_{dis} - V_{min_{pulse}}) \div R_{discharge} \quad (6)$$

$$\text{Voltage Limited Regen Pulse Power Capability} = V_{max_{pulse}} \bullet (V_{max_{pulse}} - OCV_{regen}) \div R_{regen} \quad (7)$$

$$\text{Current Limited Discharge Pulse Power Capability} = I_{maxD} \bullet [OCV_{dis} + (R_{discharge} \bullet I_{maxD})] \quad (8)$$

$$\text{Current Limited Regen Pulse Power Capability} = I_{maxR} \bullet [OCV_{regen} + (R_{discharge} \bullet I_{maxR})] \quad (9)$$

²⁷. Note that OCV at the start of each regen pulse must be interpolated from the OCV curve derived from the rest periods before each discharge pulse, accounting for the percent of rated capacity removed by the discharge pulse (*i.e.*, this is not the same OCV used for discharge calculations.) For example, if the discharge pulse starting at 10% of rated capacity removed removes 3% of the device capacity, the subsequent regen pulse OCV is interpolated starting at 13% of rated capacity removed.

²⁸. Note that OCV at the start of each regen pulse must be interpolated from the OCV curve derived from the rest periods before each discharge pulse, accounting for the percent of rated capacity removed by the discharge pulse (*i.e.*, this is not the same OCV used for discharge calculations.) For example, if the discharge pulse starting at 10% of rated capacity removed removes 3% of the device capacity, the subsequent regen pulse OCV is interpolated starting at 13% of rated capacity removed.

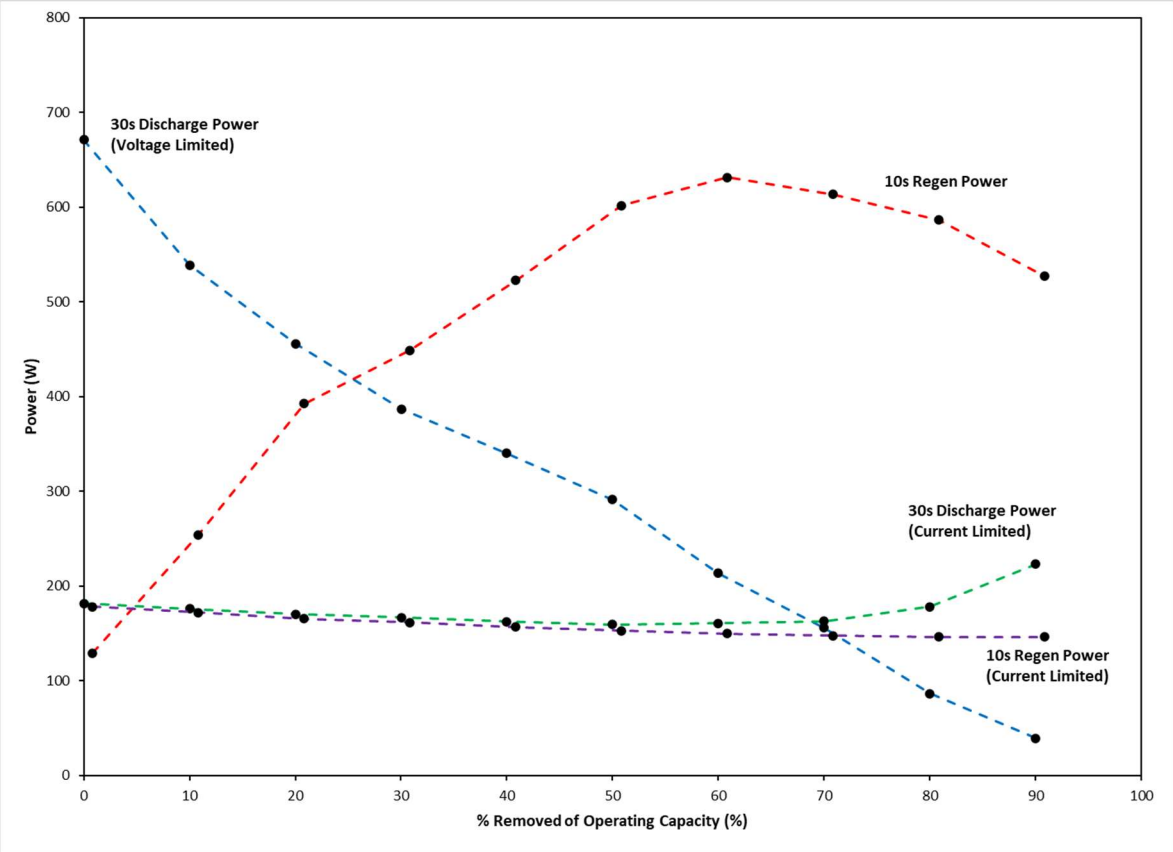


Figure 8. Pulse power capability vs %-removed of operating capacity for HPPC test.

The pulse power capability must be plotted relative to the cumulative energy removed instead of the percentage of operating capacity removed for successful comparison with the targets. The HPPC test is immediately preceded by a single iteration of the static capacity test (Section 4.2), from which the cumulative energy removed at a C/3 rate can be plotted against the calculated capacity removed as shown in Figure 9. Assuming that the measured capacity removed from the constant current discharge and the subsequent HPPC test are equivalent,²⁹ the cumulative capacity removed (expressed as a percentage relative to the operating capacity) from the HPPC test can be matched to the corresponding energy removed at the C/3 rate (as indicated in Figure 9) and used to transform Figure 8 into Figure 10, where the pulse power capabilities at the cell level are now plotted as a function of cumulative energy removed. Note that the data in Figure 9 must be generated each time an HPPC test is performed since the energy removed as a function of discharge capacity will likely change with aging.

²⁹. This equivalence is not exact, because part of each 10% capacity increment removed in the HPPC test is due to the pulse profile. However, for high-power batteries the relationship is assumed to be sufficiently similar and it can be verified with the energy verification tests (Section 3.4.3).

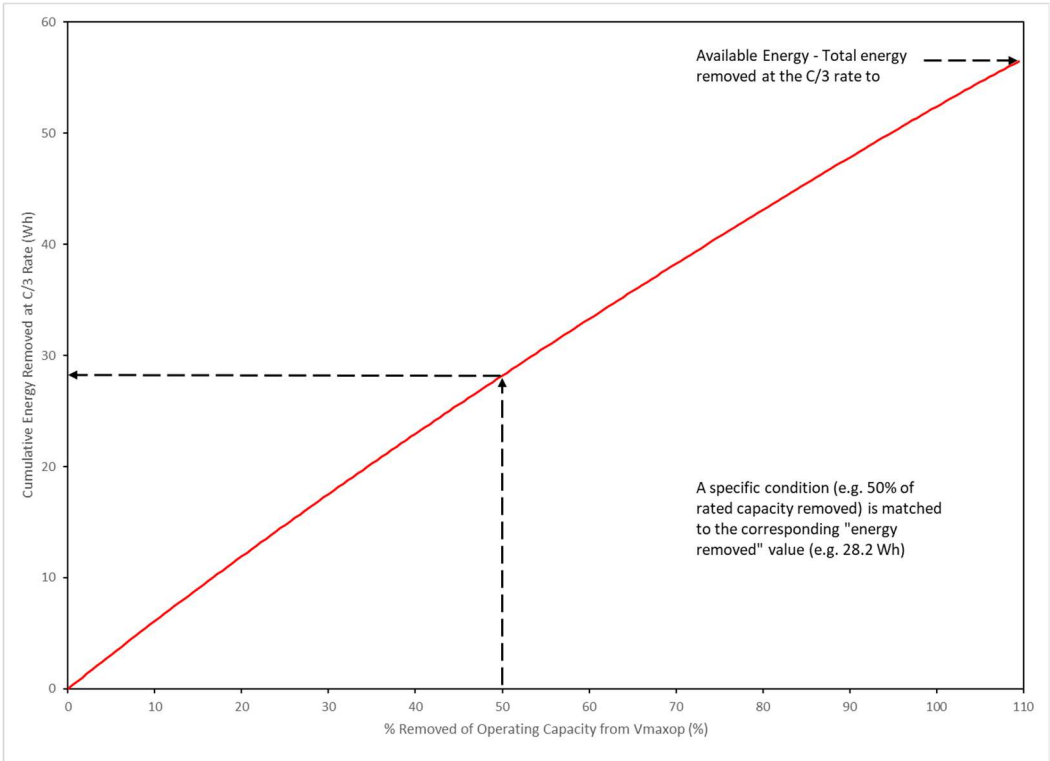


Figure 9. Relationship Between Energy and %-Capacity Removed in a C/3 Discharge

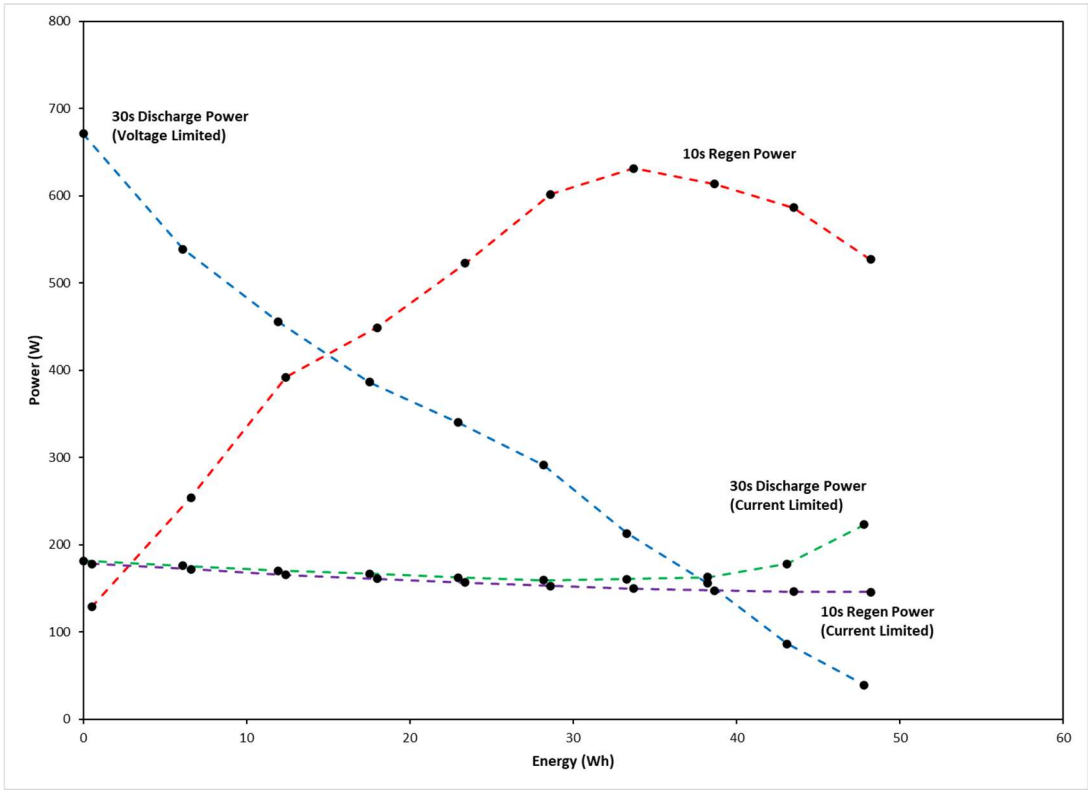


Figure 10. HPPC Cell Power Capability vs. Energy Removed

4.4.4 Useable Energy and Peak Power

The EV targets include a 30-s Peak Discharge Power, a 10-s Peak Regen Power, and Useable Energy target. The 30-sec peak discharge power target is used to determine the usable energy. Since there are two peak discharge power targets in Table 1, Peak Discharge Power Density and Peak Discharge Specific Power, it must be determined which to use for the overall target. The peak discharge power target is the greater value of the two peak discharge power values from Table 1, Peak Discharge Power Density * battery volume, or Peak Discharge Specific Power * battery mass. In this example the Peak Discharge Specific Power * battery mass results in the larger value (700 W/kg * 0.125 kg = 87.5 W). It is assumed that the battery mass and volume do not change during life so the Discharge Power Target is held constant throughout life. The Useable Energy is the combined current limited and voltage limited power curves evaluated at the Discharge Power Target. If the current limited power curve falls below the Discharge Power Target then the battery is not capable of power needed for this application. This is shown graphically in Figure 11, where the total Useable Energy is **43** Wh. The 10-s Peak Regen Power will be evaluated from the HPPC pulse at the 20% DOD point, 166.0 W. The 30-s Peak Discharge Power is determined from the HPPC discharge curve where the Useable Energy Target is precisely met³⁰, 161.3 W. Since there are two power curves for both discharge and regen it is important to note that all calculated values are based on intersection with the lowest curve at the target. In the example in Figure 11, the discharge power is where the Useable Energy Target intersects the current limited power curve since it is lower at that point than the voltage limited power curve. Figure 11 shows the illustrative Power vs. Energy curve with a numerical value identified for the peak powers. The power and energy values extracted from the HPPC test must be scaled by the device weight or volume for direct comparisons with the targets identified in Table 1. Appendix B provides additional detail on how to use these values to fill in the Gap Analysis chart.

³⁰. Note that the Useable Energy Target is established at BOL must remain fixed during life aging. The Usable Energy Target is 80% of the BOL Useable Energy or from the Useable Energy Targets in Table 1, whichever is lower.

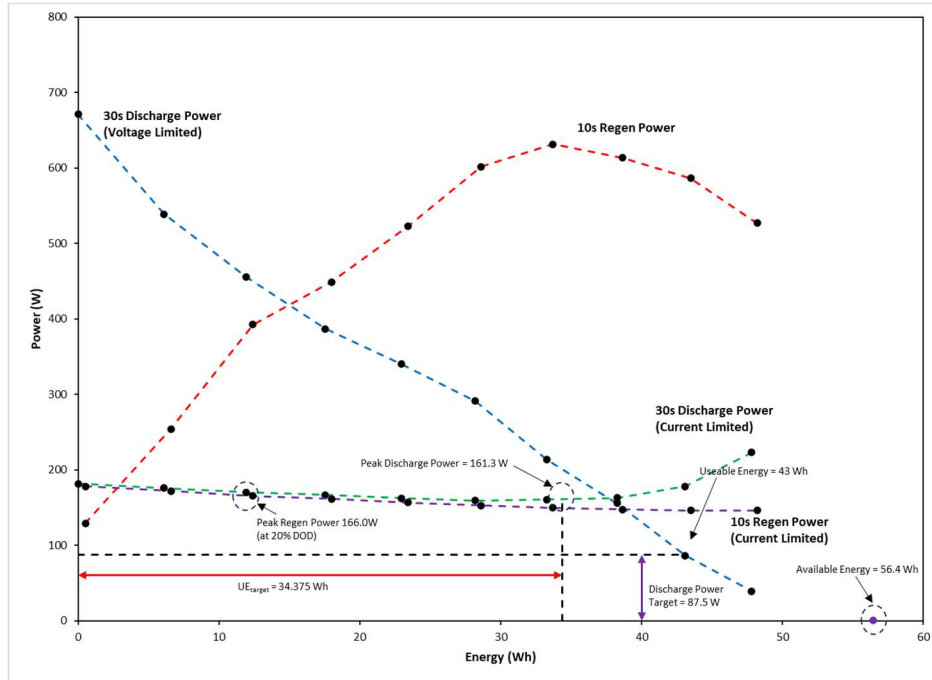


Figure 11. Useable Energy and Peak Power Determination.

4.4.5 Power and Energy Fade

For devices subjected to life testing, the change in Peak Power and Usable Energy from the beginning-of-life values (measured just prior to the start of life testing) to some later point in time are to be reported periodically as Power Fade and Energy Fade, both expressed as percentages of the original (BOL) values as shown in Equations (10) and (11).

$$\text{Power Fade (\%)} = 100 \times \left(1 - \frac{\text{Peak Power}_{t1}}{\text{Peak Power}_{t0}} \right) \quad (10)$$

$$\text{Energy Fade (\%)} = 100 \times \left(1 - \frac{\text{Useable Energy}_{t1}}{\text{Useable Energy}_{t0}} \right) \quad (11)$$

In both cases, $t0$ refers to the Reference Performance Test conducted immediately prior to the start of life aging (*i.e.*, RPT0) and $t1$ refers to the time of the later RPT where power and energy fade are to be determined.

4.4.6 Other Laboratory Cell Performance Characteristics

Other laboratory cell performance characteristics can be calculated from the HPPC data to permit scale-up calculations to full-size cells and/or observe unique features in the specific cell chemistry. These include some or all of the following:

- Voltage response time constant estimates for discharge, regen, and rest periods derived from the current-driven HPPC Test data.
- Ohmic and polarization resistances derived from lumped parameter equivalent circuit models.

- Cell capacity and energy in area-specific, gravimetric, and volumetric units (mAh/cm², mWh/cm², Ah/kg, Wh/kg, Ah/liter, Wh/liter).
- Cell area-specific impedance in ohms-cm² for discharge and for regen from HPPC data for 12 Volt Start/Stop applications. (Note: this requires specific knowledge of the active surface area of the cells).
- The data acquired from HPPC cell testing are ultimately used for modeling cell characteristics and for the selection and design of full-size module and battery pack characteristics.

4.5 Peak Power

It has been determined that the Peak Power Test provides redundant information. It has been moved to appendix F, Archived Test Procedures/Analysis, and is no longer considered a required test for this manual.

4.6 Self-Discharge Test

Self-discharge rate is determined over a fixed period (nominally 30 days) at one or more intermediate test conditions. The difference between the energy (watt-hours) measured prior to the test and during the test is considered to be the energy loss reflecting self-discharge during the stand period. This energy loss is computed as the difference between the pretest C/3 energy and the sum of the energies in the partial C/3 discharges before (Wh_{part1}) and after (Wh_{part2}) the stand period, as shown in Equation (13).

$$\text{Self-Discharge} = \frac{Wh_{C/3 \text{ before test}} - (Wh_{\text{part 1}} + Wh_{\text{part 2}})}{Wh_{C/3 \text{ before test}}} \times 100\% \tag{12}$$

The result of this calculation is reported for comparison with the USABC target of less than 1% loss per month. (Note: The self-discharge test for a module with electronic cell balancing circuit etc. should be reported to show the cell self-discharge and any parasitic drain on the module.) Additional analysis can be done with full C/3 discharge data done after the 30-day self-discharge stand period to look at irreversible capacity loss.

4.7 Thermal Performance Tests

A full HPPC analysis from section 4.4 shall be done for each data set collected at the target Thermal Performance temperature. Care should be taken to fully label data with the test temperature that is not at the reference temperature of 30°C. The Useable Energy at the Peak Power Target at -20°C is reported in the Gap Analysis while the other results are used to establish operating capability over the operational temperature range.

4.7.1 Survival Temperature Test

The survival temperature test is designed to evaluate degradation at the extreme upper and lower temperatures. The capacity, energy, and power loss from the HPPC after the upper and/or lower temperature test are reported.

4.8 Cycle Life Tests

For the selected life test profile, the cumulative number of test profiles executed prior to the most recent Reference Performance Tests is reported, along with any performance changes measured by these Reference Performance Tests. If testing is terminated due to the inability of the cell to perform the programmed test profile within the voltage limits or some other end-of-test condition, this is reported. However, the number of profiles performed is not necessarily the cycle life and should not be reported as such.³¹ Detailed results of the reference tests are reported over life as described under these specific tests, including the magnitude of adjustments made (if any) due to the measured temperatures being above or below the nominal temperature. In addition, degradation of capacity, pulse power capability, and Useable Energy as a function of life (*i.e.*, number of test profiles performed) should be reported graphically.

The value of cycle life to be reported for a device subjected to cycle life testing is defined as the number of test profiles performed before end of life is reached.³² In general an end-of-life condition is reached when the device is no longer able to meet the USABC targets (regardless of when testing is terminated). The ability to meet the targets is evaluated based on the periodic Reference Performance Tests, particularly the HPPC and C/3 capacity test results. When the power and energy performance of the device degrades to the point that there is no power or energy margin (*i.e.*, Useable Energy is less than the target value at the target power), the device has reached the end of life. In addition, the inability to meet any of the other USABC technical targets (*e.g.*, the self-discharge target) also constitutes end of life. The basis for the reported cycle life value (*i.e.*, the limiting target condition) should also be reported.³³ If the cycle life based on power and energy performance is very near the target, the end-of-life point may need to be interpolated based on the change in HPPC performance from the previous reference test.

4.9 Calendar Life Test

The raw data from calendar life testing is the periodic reference performance parameter measurements for all the batteries under test. The objective of this data analysis is to estimate battery calendar life under actual usage in a specified customer environment. Typically, the environmental specification will include a cumulative distribution of expected battery temperature over its 15-year life in, for example, the 90th percentile climate among the target vehicle market regions. These temperatures will vary and will generally be substantially lower than the elevated

³¹. If the device can't do the profile, that is the end of life. However, the device may fail the performance requirements in the middle of the cycle life test, but it won't be caught until the RPT.

³². If the RPT shows that the device has past the end of life, then the cycle life reported is from the prior RPT.

³³. Self-discharge is not necessarily measured at regular intervals during life testing, so the point during life cycling where such an end of life condition is reached cannot always be determined with high accuracy. Typically the test results showing that the targets are not met would be reported, without attempting to interpolate an end of life point using two test results widely separated in time.

temperatures used for (accelerated) calendar life testing. Note that for most (> 90%) of its life, the battery will typically be in a non-operating, vehicle-parked state.

Predicting battery life is a desired outcome of testing. There are various approaches to constructing a battery life model. One is theoretical, using various physical and chemical processes that may occur in the battery, which degrade its performance. A second is fitting a curve to the data. For a more advanced treatment of life test results, refer to Battery Life Estimator Manual (Reference 6).

4.10 Reference Performance Tests

Results to be reported from the periodic Reference Performance Tests are defined in the previous sections on Cycle Life and Calendar Life Tests.

4.11 Module Controls Verification Tests

Standard tests are not defined in this manual for module control behavior, so analysis and reporting requirements for such tests must be detailed in device-specific test plans, as needed.

4.12 System-Level Testing

In general, the analysis and reporting of test results for complete battery systems is conducted similarly to comparable cell tests. Additional reporting requirements (*e.g.*, detailed cell or module performance) should be specified in a device-specific test plan that accounts for the specific design features of such a system.

Test procedures and the associated reporting requirements are not defined in this manual for system-level thermal management load testing.

5 REFERENCES

1. *USABC Battery Test Manual for Electric Vehicles*, INL/EXT-15-34184, Rev. 3, June 2015
2. *PNGV Battery Test Manual*, Revision 3, DOE/ID-10597, February 2001.
3. *FreedomCAR Battery Test Manual for Power-Assist Hybrid Electric Vehicles*, DOE/ID-11069, October 2003.
4. *Battery Test Manual for Plug-In Hybrid Electric Vehicles*, INL/EXT-14-32849, Rev. 3, September 2014.
5. *Battery Technology Life Verification Test Manual*, INL/EXT-12-27920, Rev. 1, December 2012.
6. *Battery Calendar Life Estimator Manual*, INL-EXT 08-15136, Rev. 1, October 2012.

APPENDIX A – SAMPLE TEST PLAN

This appendix provides a sample test plan based on the test requirements for this EV Manual. It is not intended to be a thorough representation, but an example format that can be useful in developing device-specific test plans for various deliverables.

VEHICLE TECHNOLOGIES OFFICE
EV TEST PLAN FOR <developer and device specific name> DEVICES

1.0 Purpose and Applicability

The intent of the tests described in this test plan is to characterize the performance of <device specific name> articles supplied by <developer specific name> for the <specify program target catagory> Battery mode. This testing will benchmark the performance capability of the articles relative to the <specify program target catagory> targets and is under the oversight of the Department of Energy, Vehicle Technology Office. TBD articles were received from <developer specific name> and TBD of them will be subjected to testing under this test plan. The articles will be subjected to the performance test procedures defined for the EV Program and as outlined in Section 7.0.

2.0 References

2.1 Battery Test Manual for Electric Vehicles, INL/EXT-15-34184, Rev. 4, April 2025

3.0 Equipment

- 3.1 All testing is to be performed on test channels with current and voltage capabilities adequate for the specific test procedures to be performed.
- 3.2 Except where specifically noted otherwise, all tests will be performed within a temperature chamber capable of controlling the chamber temperature to within $\pm 3^{\circ}\text{C}$.

4.0 Prerequisites and Pre-Test Preparation

- 4.1 Actual weights and open circuit voltages of the articles as delivered shall be recorded.
- 4.2 If possible, 1 kHz impedance measurements shall be made prior to the start of testing with the articles as received.

<Additional information about device specific test setup should be included here, this includes fixturing instructions, tab connections, ect.>

5.0 Cell Ratings, Test Limitations and Other Test Information

5.1 Ratings

Rated Capacity:	TBD A-h (C/3 rate)
Operating Capacity:	TBD A-h (C/3 rate)
Application:	TBD Level

HPPC Pulse Power Voltage Calculation Ranges:

Vmin ₀	TBD V
-------------------	-------

	V _{max_{op}}	TBD V
	Chemistry:	TBD
5.2	Temperature Ratings	
	Operating Temperature Range:	TBD°C to TBD°C
	Discharge Temperature Range:	TBD°C to TBD°C
	Charge Temperature Range:	TBD°C to TBD°C
	Storage Temperature Range:	TBD°C to TBD°C
5.3	Nominal Values	
	Nominal Capacity:	TBD A-h
	Nominal Weight:	TBD kg
	Nominal Volume:	TBD L
5.4	Discharge Limits	
	Minimum Discharge Voltage	
	Continuous (V_{min0}):	TBD V
	≤30 s pulse (V_{minpulse}):	TBD V
	≤30 s pulse and temp ≤0°C (V_{minLowT}):	TBD V
	Maximum Discharge Current:	
	Continuous rate:	TBD A
	≤30 second pulse:	TBD A
5.5	Charge and Regen Limits	
	Maximum Charge and Regen Voltage	
	Continuous (V_{max100}):	TBD V
	Continuous (V_{maxop}):	TBD V
	≤10 second pulse (V_{maxpulse}):	TBD V
	Maximum Charge and Regen Current:	
	Continuous rate:	TBD A
	≤10 second pulse:	TBD A
5.6	Other Test Info:	
	Charge Procedure:	TBD
5.7	End-of-Testing Criterion:	

- Completion of a number of properly scaled life cycle test profiles adequate to meet the EV life cycle target (as appropriate for the technology) or scheduled testing; or
- Inability to perform the life cycle test profile at the programmed values at the required test condition without exceeding the voltage limits; or
- Inability to give valid data from the HPPC Reference Performance Test; or
- Inability to meet the EV power and energy targets or
- When directed by the technical program manager.

6.0 Safety Concerns and Precautions

In general, the safety issues with these articles are similar to those encountered previously with other similar technology tested for the Vehicle Technologies Office. Care is warranted due to the high-power capability of these articles, as noted below.

6.1.1 Article Handling

- TBD

6.1.2 Other Safety Precautions

- TBD

7.0 Tests to be Performed Under this Test Plan

The articles to be tested under this test plan will be subjected to the performance test sequence in Table 1. Unless otherwise specified, the test temperature shall be 30 ± 3 °C. These Articles will be tested in a temperature chamber.

7.1 Performance Testing

Table 1. Performance Test Sequence

Item	Sequence of Initial Performance Tests for the Articles	No. Iterations
1	Capacity Test (<i>See Reference 2.1, Section 3.2</i>) Conduct this test on TBD articles at a constant rated C/3 discharge current between Vmax₁₀₀ and Vmin₀ to verify the stability of the rated capacity. Repeat the test between Vmax_{op} and Vmin₀ to verify the stability of the operating capacity. Note: Test is to be terminated at manufacturer-specified cutoff voltage, NOT rated capacity. If Vmax₁₀₀ is different than Vmax_{op} then the test should be repeated between Vmax_{op} and Vmax₀ to verify the operating capacity. * Repeat discharge until measured capacity is stable within 2% for 3 successive discharges (maximum 10 discharges).	*

2	Fast Charge Test (<i>Reference 2.1, Section 3.3</i>) Perform this test on TBD articles. Start at V_{maxop}, remove the Useable Energy Target at the C/3 rate. Rest for 1 hour. Charge using the prescribed fast charge protocol.	
3	Hybrid Pulse Power Characterization Test (<i>Reference 2.1, Section 3.4</i>) Perform the test on TBD articles. The Low Current Test is performed at a peak discharge current of at least a C/1 rate. Starting with a fully charged battery perform a 30 second discharge pulse at a TBD rate, rest for 40 seconds, perform a 10 second TBD regen pulse. Remove residual 10% capacity at the C/3 rate. Rest for 1 hour. Repeat procedure until 90% DOD. For all Articles, the C/3 discharge will be included in the same data file as the HPPC test for calculation purposes.	1
4	Useable Energy Verification Test (<i>Reference 2.1, Section 3.4.3</i>) Perform the test on TBD articles. Starting for a fully charged state, remove 20% capacity (to 20% DOD) at the C/3 rate then rest for 1 hour. Perform a 10 sec regen power pulse at the regen power target. Remove the remaining Useable Energy Target at the C/3 rate then rest for 1 hour. Perform a 30 sec discharge power pulse at the discharge power target.	1
5	Self-Discharge Test (<i>Reference 2.1, Sections 3.6</i>) Conduct this test on TBD articles for a 30-day stand interval. Starting at a fully charged state, fully discharge at the C/3 rate to V_{min_0} then rest for 1 hour. Return to a fully charged state and rest for 1 hour. Remove 50% of the Useable Energy Target at the C/3 rate. Begin 30 day stand period. It may be necessary to disconnect the battery from cycling equipment to prevent parasitic losses, and periodic voltage checks should be performed during the 30-day stand period. After 30 days, discharge to V_{min_0} at a C/3 rate. Rest for 1 hour, then return to a fully charged state. After a 1-hour rest discharge to V_{min_0} at the C/3 rate. Note: It may be necessary to perform several additional C/3 charge/discharge cycles to return the battery to pre-test capacity. If the final measured capacity is significantly less than the pre-test value, contact the technical program manager prior to beginning life testing.	1
6	Thermal Performance Test (<i>Reference 2.1, Sections 3.7</i>)	1

	Perform a C/3 discharge and the Low-Current HPPC Test (see Items 1 and 3 above) at 0, -10, -20, -30, and 52°C on TBD articles. The sequence of tests is as follows: a) 0°C, b) -10°C, c) -20°C test, d) -30°C test, and e) 52°C. V_{min,LowT} at 0°C and below. All charging for these tests is to be done at 30°C ambient temperature. A soak period of nominally TBD hours or longer is required at each temperature for all tests.	
7	Reference Performance Tests (<i>Reference 2.1, Section 3.13</i>) Perform the C/3 Discharge Test, the Low Current HPPC Test, and HPPC Verification Test as described above. At the completion of life testing, perform the required Reference Performance Test as above. * During life testing, repeat the required Reference Performance Test every 32 days for calendar life testing and TBD cycles for cycle life testing.	*
8	Cycle Life Test (<i>Reference 2.1, Sections 3.10</i>) <i>As directed.</i>	
9	Calendar Life Test (<i>Reference 2.1, Sections 3.11</i>) <i>As directed.</i>	

8.0 **Measurement and Reporting Requirements**

8.1 **Measurements**

- TBD

8.2 **Data Recording Intervals**

- TBD

8.3 **Data Access**

- TBD

9.0 **Anticipated Results**

The purpose of this testing is to compare the performance of the technology against the EV targets.

9.1 **Testing Deliverables**

Test data and results will be generated as specified in the performance and life cycle test procedures in Reference 2.1. Quarterly progress summary information will be provided to the technical program manager.

10.0 Post-Test Examination, Analysis, and Disposition

TBD

11.0 Contact Persons

TBD

APPENDIX B – GAP ANALYSIS REPORTING

This appendix summarizes the key concepts and associated nomenclature that are used in Sections 3 and 4 of this manual and is followed by a numeric example showing how the information obtained from the HPPC test translates to the entries that are reported in the Gap Analysis. The Gap Analysis is the standard communication tool for USABC programs and is used to measure progress at regular intervals. It also supports direct comparisons between programs and technologies and as such it is critical that data interpretation and reporting are performed in a consistent manner across developers. This illustration is not intended to be a comprehensive description of a Gap Analysis, but an example based on the power and energy data from an HPPC test.

Figure B.1 shows the Power vs. Energy curve, which is Figure 11 in Section 4.0, based on the HPPC Test. The *x-axis* represents the cumulative energy removed at the C/3 rate starting from the upper end of the operating window which is defined as $V_{max_{op}}$. The *y-axis* represents the power for both discharge and regen at each 10% increment between $V_{max_{op}}$ and V_{min_0} . As shown, the peak regen power is 166.0 W based on the initial HPPC pulse at 20% DOD and is current limited. The peak discharge power is 161.3 W, which is determined where the Useable Energy Target (34.375 Wh in this example) intersects the lower discharge power curve (current limited in this example). The Useable Energy is determined at the discharge power target (87.5 W in this example) and results in a useable energy of 43 Wh in this example. Assuming a cell weight of 0.125 kg, the corresponding Peak Specific Discharge Power is 1290.4 W/kg, the Peak Specific Regen Power is 1328.0 W/kg, and the Useable Specific Energy is 344 Wh/kg. Likewise, assuming a cell volume of 0.05 L, the Peak Discharge Power Density is 3226 W/L, and the Useable Energy Density is 860 Wh/L. These values are reported in a Gap Analysis as shown in Table B.1 and tracked as a function of age against the EOL targets.

For programs with fast charge, the time it takes to return 80% of the Useable Energy Target needs to be reported as a part of the gap analysis as a part of the Fast Charge value in Table 1. The reported value is the time to return the capacity in Ah that corresponds to 80% of the Useable Energy Target identified during the discharge step that removed 80% of the Useable Energy Target. Additionally, the time it takes to return 80% of the Useable Energy Target at low temperature is a reportable value.

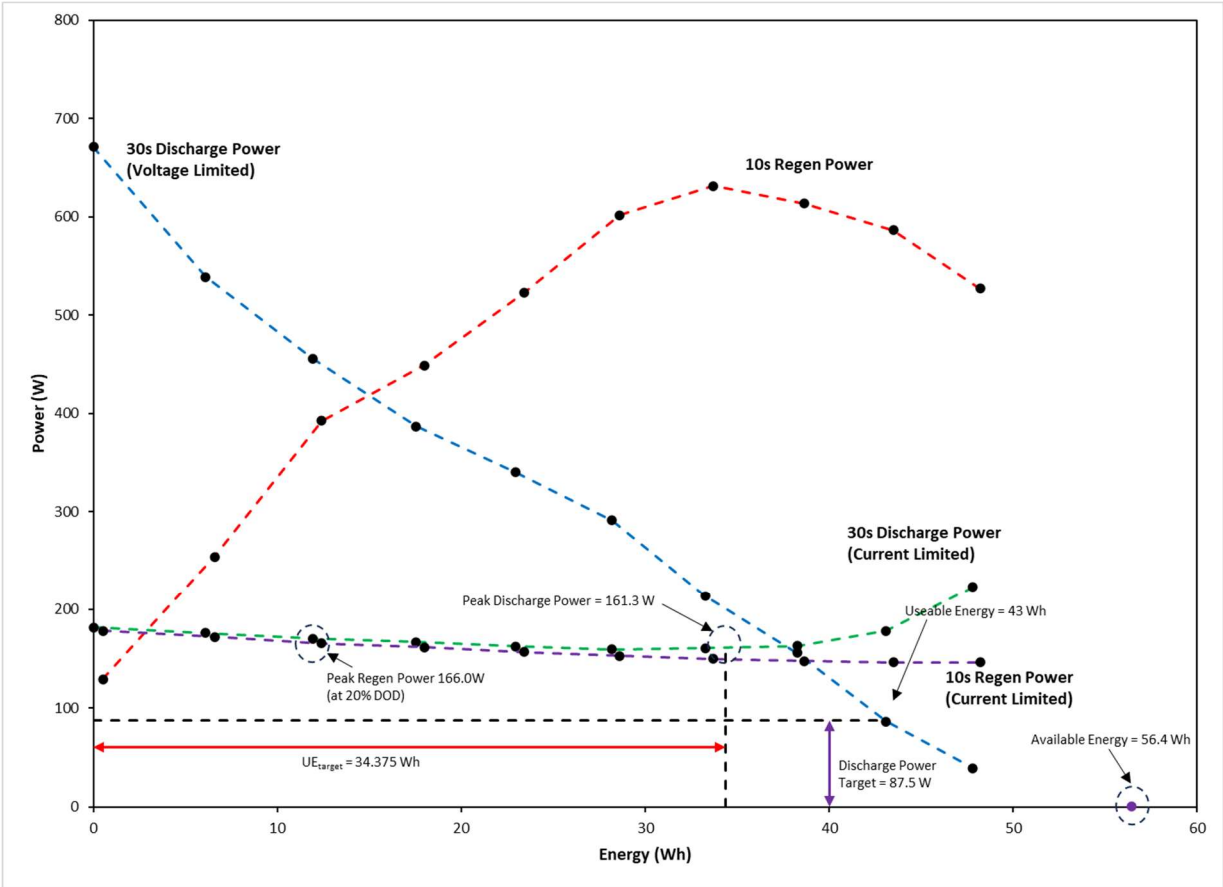


Figure B.1. Gap Analysis – HPPC

Table B.1. Gap Analysis

Characteristics	Units	EOL Targets	Cell Level	
			RPT0	RPT##
Peak Discharge Power Density (30 sec)	W/L	1400		
Peak Specific Discharge Power (30 sec)	W/kg	700		
Peak Specific Regen Power (10 sec)	W/kg	300		
Useable Energy Density	Wh/L	550		
Specific Useable Energy	Wh/kg	275		

APPENDIX C – VOLTAGE DEFINITIONS

This appendix provides a graphical description of the voltage limits defined in Section 3.1.1. Figure C.1 shows all the voltage definitions and the associated range of operation. The test article is typically operated between $V_{max_{op}}$ and V_{min_0} so as not to introduce any artificial degradation mechanisms that are not representative of vehicle operation. However, $V_{max_{100}}$ can equal $V_{max_{op}}$ in EV applications. Pulse voltage limits on the upper and lower ends are also available ($V_{max_{pulse}}$ and $V_{min_{pulse}}$, respectively) for short durations. Dynamic Stress Test (DST) cycle-life aging consists of a series of pulses starting from $V_{max_{op}}$ and ending when the useable energy target has been removed. $V_{min_{op}}$ is the voltage attained after the useable energy target has been removed and it is a variable parameter that will generally decrease as the test article ages and the minimum value should be supplied by the manufacturer (typically, the lowest allowable voltage for $V_{min_{op}}$ is V_{min_0}). The value of $V_{min_{op}}$ can be tracked at the request of the technical program manager.

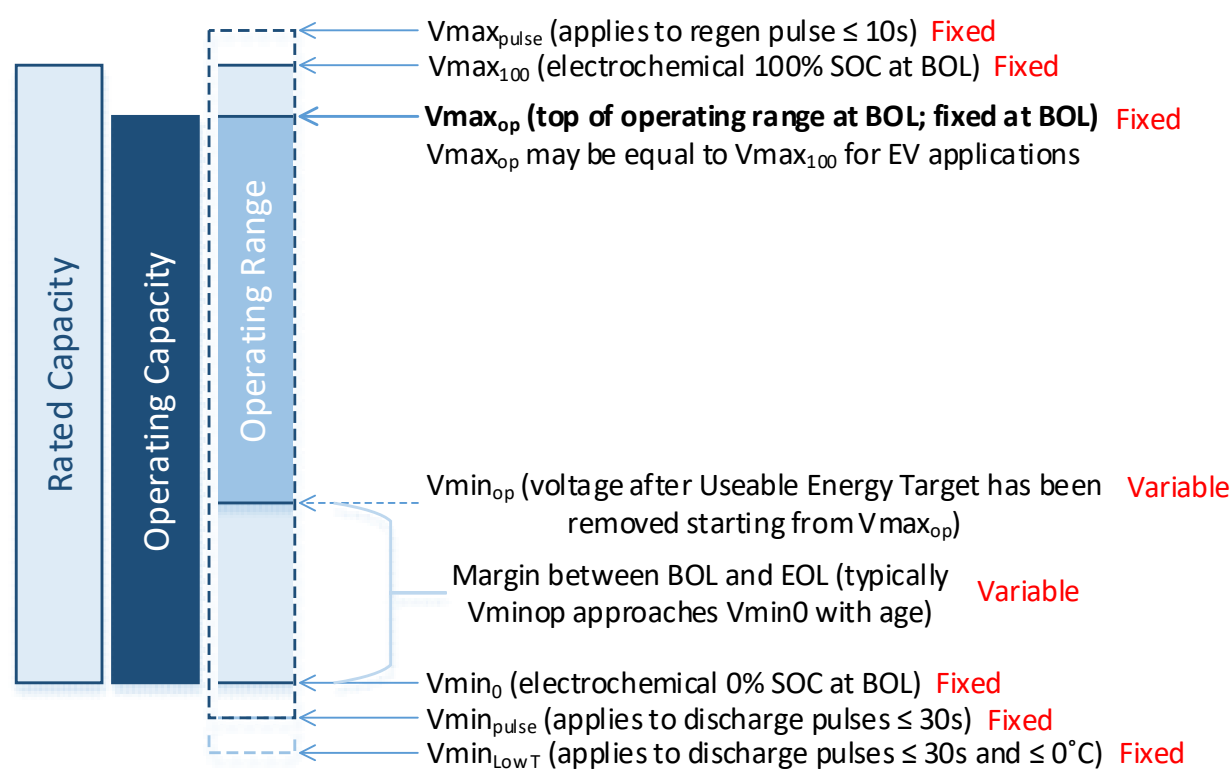


Figure C.1. Voltage Definitions and Key Concepts

APPENDIX D – DEVELOPER / NATIONAL LABORATORY DELIVERABLE CHECKLIST

The following is a list of “Best Practices” that are strongly recommended for developers and testing labs prior to shipping and upon receiving deliverables. These practices are to ensure the integrity of a deliverable and that testing can be started and conducted safely.

Developer Deliverable Checklist

The Developer shall ensure the following items have been completed prior to shipping to the National Laboratory:

- A test plan has been developed and approved by the Developer, USABC Working Group, and the testing lab (National Laboratory). The test plan must include the following items.
 - Detailed charging protocol with the following parameters:
 - Maximum taper current time (default 1 hour unless otherwise specified)
 - Constant voltage taper current cutoff (default C/20 if not otherwise specified)
 - Maximum % over the constant current charge capacity done during the constant voltage charge (default 5% if not otherwise specified)
 - Maximum allowable change in temperature above ambient during charge (default 10°C if not otherwise specified)
 - Fixture Requirements (Fixtures should replicate conditions that would be seen in the vehicle):
 - Clamping Force / Torque / Pressure
 - Fixture Drawings / Specifications / Materials if fixtures are not to be provided
 - Any other data about fixtures that could impact safety or performance.
- A cell chemical composition sheet, and chemical safety data sheet (SDS). Below is an example of a chemical composition sheet, the sheet should contain any material that is an environmental, or health and safety hazard.

Cell Chemical Composition:

Constituents*	% by weight
Anode	
Si based nano (example)	xx
Cathode	
NMC	xx
Electrolyte	
EC	xx
EMC	xx
Other solvents and additives	xx
LiPF ₆	xx
Total electrolyte weight	xx
Other	
RCAC Metals (Arsenic, Barium, Cadmium, Chromium, Mercury, Selenium, Lead, Silver)	Include Quantity

*Please note any non-traditional constituents that might have additional handling hazards. Total electrolyte weight is needed for environmental release calculations

- Perform a Static Capacity Test as outlined in the program specific USABC testing manual within 30 days prior to shipping to the testing lab.
 - Data from static capacity shall be supplied to the testing lab.
- Collect the following data within 7 days prior to shipping to the testing lab. The data shall be relayed to the testing lab and the USABC Workgroup.
 - Open Circuit Voltage
 - AC Impedance (at 1kHz) (if available)
 - Battery weight without fixture
 - Battery weight with fixture (if fixture is provided)
- Fixtures and interface methods should be consistent with the end-use automotive application.

Test Laboratory Deliverable Checklist

The testing laboratory shall ensure the following items have been completed upon receipt and prior to the start of testing of deliverables at the National Laboratory:

- A visual inspection with photo documentation shall be conducted, and it should include the following items.

- Packaging as received, which includes outer package and how the batteries are arranged in package (document any damage or abnormalities)
 - Batteries as received (document any damage or abnormalities)
 - Polarity and connection methods
 - Fixture
 - Other hardware
- Measurement of the following parameters during the receipt check-in.
 - Open Circuit Voltage
 - AC Impedance (at 1kHz)
 - Battery weight without fixture
 - Battery weight with fixture (if fixture is provided)
 - Cell dimensions using the USABC guidance method.
 - The testing lab will analyze the data from the developer and compare it to the data taken at the lab to identify anomalies.
 - Record fixture installation parameter (torque, pressure, force, etc.)
 - Perform the Static Capacity Test as outlined in the USABC Testing manual prior to any other testing.
 - The following limits will be imposed
 - Maximum taper current time (default 1 hour unless otherwise specified)
 - Constant voltage taper current cutoff (default C/20 if not otherwise specified)
 - Maximum % over the constant current charge capacity done during the constant voltage charge (default 5% if not otherwise specified)
 - Maximum allowable change in temperature above ambient during charge (default 10°C if not otherwise specified)

APPENDIX E – CELL VOLUME CALCULATION

The volume of the cell for use in USABC gap charts is the displacement volume, not the volume of the box it would just fit in. It specifically does include the tabs and terraces. This does not have to be found by displacing a fluid, an acceptably accurate estimate can be made by physical measurement of thickness and dimensions. Consider the figure below Where A and B are the outer dimensions of cell edges (including the terraces, if any), C and D are the dimensions of the body (the thick part of the cell, where the electrodes reside), and E and F are the dimensions of a tab beyond the body of the cell (and including the part in the terrace). To find the volume one can measure the thickness of the main body of the cell (T1), the terraces (T2), and the tabs (T3), and also measure the width and length of the body of the cell (C and D), the edges of the cell (A and B). To better estimate the final volume, when possible, E and F will be the dimensions of the production intent tabs, which may be larger or smaller than the tabs on the cells provided. If the main body has sides that are effectively vertical then the cell volume is the volume of the body, plus the volume of the terraces, plus the volume of the tabs. The thickness of the tabs inside the terrace is covered in the equation by assuming it is the sum of the tab and terrace thickness. This would be:

$$\text{Total cell volume} = VC = VE + VB + VT$$

$$\text{Terrace (edge) volume} = VE = [A*B - C*D]*T2$$

$$\text{Body volume} = VB = C*D*T1$$

$$\text{Tab volume} = VT = 2E*F*T3$$

If tabs are different dimensions, then VT is the sum of E^-*F^-*T3 and E^+*F^+*T3 , where the + and – superscripts indicate the dimensions of the positive and negative tab specifically.

In some cases, the edge of the body will not be vertical, rather it will slope down to the terrace. In such cases practical experience has shown that determination of C and D is difficult. A formula method is provided later of this document for determination of the volume if the demarcation between the flat body and the sloped edge is obvious; it may be used only if the USABC testing leader, the USABC project manager, and the contracted firm all agree. The default volume calculation will be the same as the above, but with C and D measured to the inner edge of the seal. It is obvious that this will slightly overestimate the volume but has the advantage of being easy to implement with a clear boundary to the cell body. Additionally, this is only expected to impact early generations of handmade cells; when final deliverables are created it is expected that the production techniques will be improved to the point where there is negligible sloped area. Finally, the more exact alternative method is available if the three parties agree to its use.

In some cases, the terraces will be taped up to the vertical sides of the body. In this case C and D are measured to the outside edge of any taped-up terraces at the widest point. Untapped terraces are treated as above. If the taped-up terrace extends past the thickness of the cell body, the volume of that portion extending past the body is determined based on the area projecting past the cell body times the thickness of the terrace. This is added to the body and tab volumes and the volume of any untapped terrace to achieve the total volume.

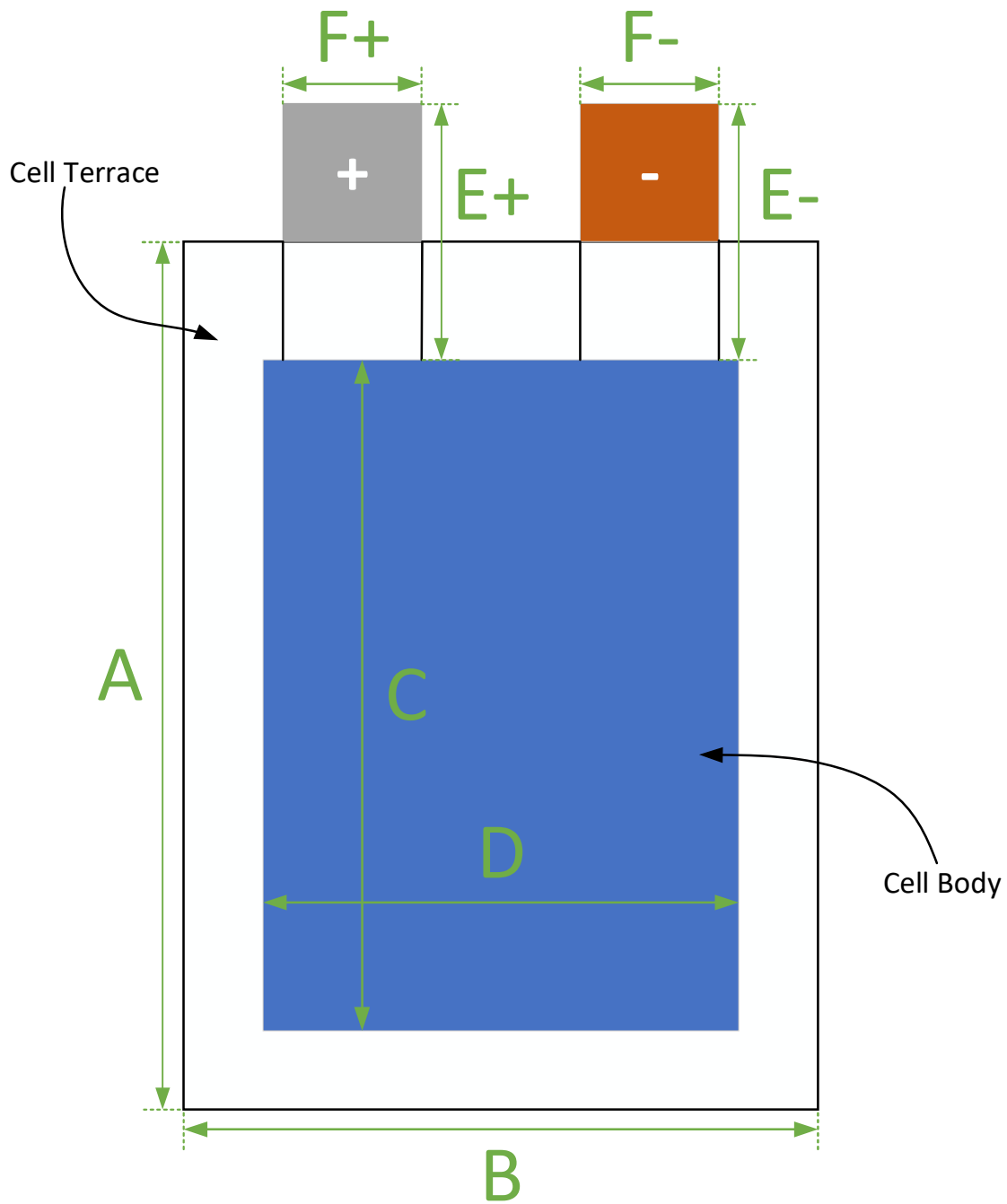


Figure E.1. Cell Dimensions for Default Volume Calculation.

Alternate Cell Volume Calculation:

If the main body has sides that are significantly sloped (clearly not vertical), then the volume is the volume of the body, plus the volume of the flat terraces, plus the volume of the tabs, plus the volume of the sloped section. If the USABC testing leader USABC project manager and the cell supplier all agree to use this method, it may be substituted for the default volume calculation. The thickness of the tabs inside the flat portion of the terrace is covered in the equation by assuming it is the sum of the tab and terrace thickness. It is important to note in this case

the length of the tab is measured ONLY from the edge where the sloped section meets the flat section of the terrace to the end of the tab (see figure). In this formula the sloped area is approximated by the mean thickness between the body and the terrace, and this is assumed to hold over the entire sloped area. While not precisely accurate in the corners of the sloped area, the error introduced is quite small and this assumption makes the calculation simple and quick. In addition to the dimensions above, the extent of the sloped area (G and H) must be measured. The cell volume would be:

$$\text{Total cell volume} = VC = VE + VB + VT + VS$$

$$\text{Terrace (edge) volume} = VE = [A*B - G*H]*T2$$

$$\text{Body volume} = VB = C*D*T1$$

$$\text{Tab volume} = VT = 2E*F*T3$$

$$\text{Sloped section volume} = VS = [G*H - C*D]*([T1 + T2]/2)$$

If tabs are different dimensions, then VT is the sum of E-*F-*T3 and E+*F+*T3, where the + and – superscripts indicate the dimensions of the positive and negative tab specifically.

Calculation of the sloped area volume:

We are accustomed to the volume of a triangular prism being (0.5h * area), while the formula has two thicknesses. Consider the drawing below:

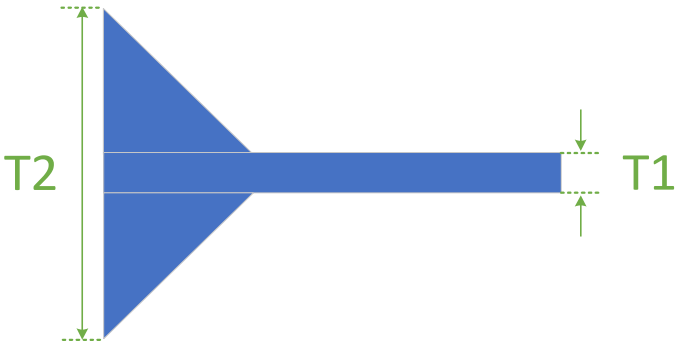


Figure E.2. Cell Edge Dimensions

The volume of the flat terrace is clearly the flat terrace area times the thickness, or (AB-GH) * (T2). The volume of the sloped section comprises 2 triangles with a rather flat box in between. The volume of the flat box is again the area under the sloped section times T2, or (GH - CD) * T2. The height of one of the triangular volumes is (T1-T2)/2. The volume of the upper or lower triangular part then is the area under the sloped section times ((T1-T2)/2)/2 or for both triangular sections (T1- T2)/2. Adding the triangular volumes and the flat box volume we have (GH - CD) * [T2 + (T1 - T2)/2] which reduces to (GH - CD) * (T1 + T2)/2. So Vs= (GH - CD) * (T1 + T2)/2

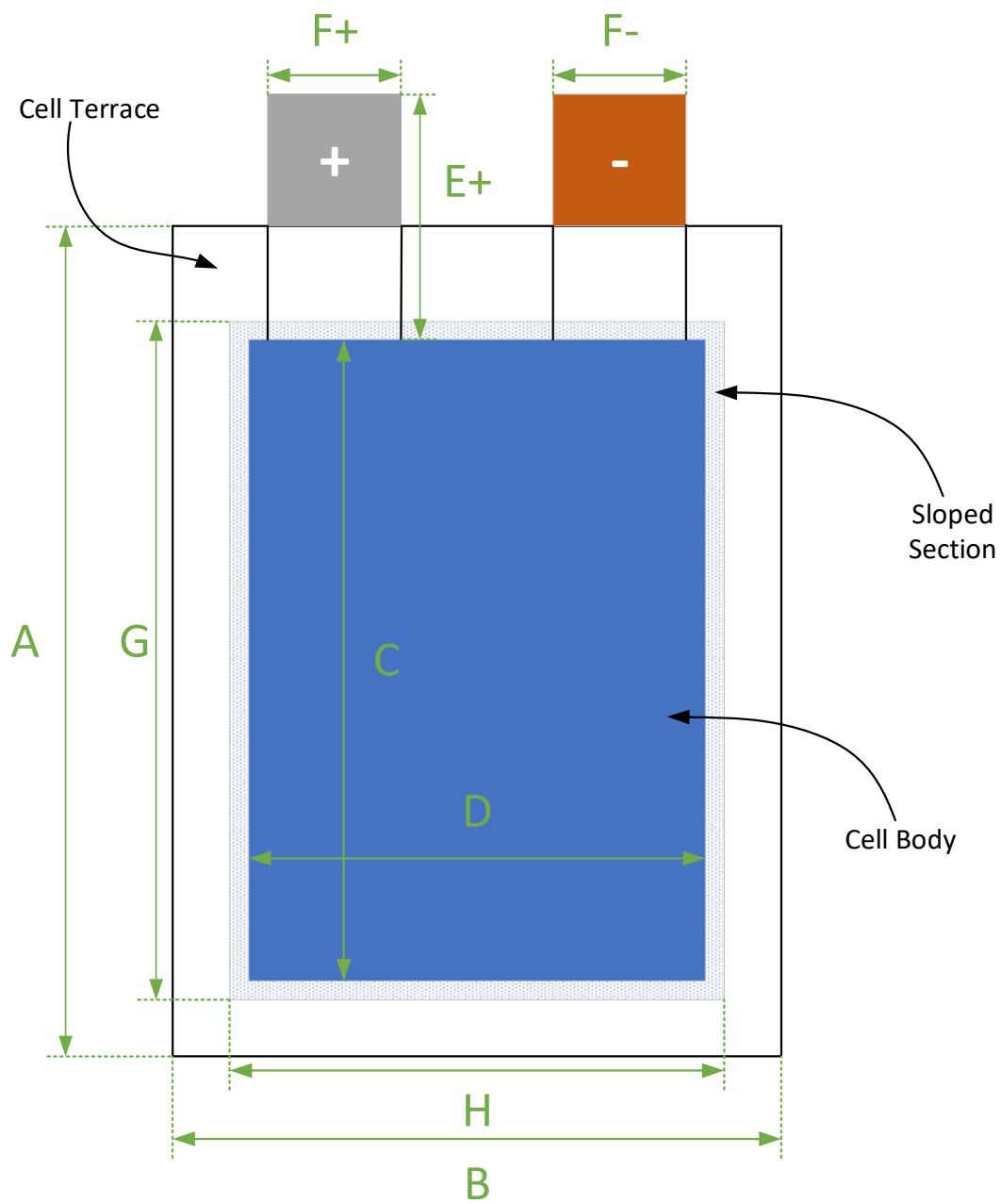


Figure E.3. Cell Dimensions with Sloped Section Between Terrace and Cell Body

APPENDIX F – ARCHIVED TEST PROCEDURES / ANALYSIS

F.1 Battery Size Factor

The Battery Size Factor (BSF) is a scaling ratio that defines the minimum number of units (cells, modules, or sub-batteries) of a given design required for a device to meet the energy and power targets. Wherever possible, the Battery Size Factor will be specified by the manufacturer with guidance from the USABC technical program manager, based on the manufacturer's testing and best estimates of any allowances needed for system burdens and degradation over life. To determine the BSF, the manufacturer must first identify a key degradation parameter (*e.g.*, capacity, energy, *etc.*) and establish a sufficient margin at beginning-of-life (BOL) to ensure the power and energy targets are still met at end-of-life (*i.e.*, 15 years or 1000 cycles as defined in Table 1). For example, if the manufacturer determines a 20% energy margin at beginning-of-life, discharge the device at a C/3 rate from $V_{max_{op}}$ to V_{min_0} and record the energy removed. The BSF is then determined from dividing the energy target by the energy removed from a fully discharged cell scaled by the margin (45 kWh / 80% of the energy removed in this example). This BSF is based on the number of units connected in a parallel configuration and shall be rounded to the next highest integer value. If needed, the BSF can also be increased with the addition of series strings to ensure the voltage targets in Table 1 are also met. Note that increasing the BSF will lead to a higher cost system and should be done judiciously. The manufacturer should select the margin such that the peak discharge power pulse can also be successfully completed at end-of-life once the energy has been removed from $V_{max_{op}}$. Additionally, to avoid exceeding the maximum current limit, $V_{min_{pulse}}$ multiplied by the BSF may not be set below the Minimum Operating Voltage of the system provided in Table 1. Once the Battery Size Factor is determined, it is fixed for the life of the cell and used as the scaling factor for subsequent performance testing. If the manufacturer is unable to supply a margin, use a default energy margin of 20% with approval from the technical program manager and the manufacturer (*i.e.*, the margin should ensure the power and energy targets are successfully met).

F.2 Peak Power Test

The Peak Power Test is intended to determine dynamic pulse power capability over the device's useable voltage range under load conditions. The test consists of a single discharge at a given Base Current with periodic discharge pulses at a High Test Current starting from $V_{max_{op}}$. No rest periods or charge pulses are included in this test sequence.

F.2.1 Peak Power Test Profile

The objective of this test is to determine the 30-second discharge-pulse power capabilities at each 10% increment relative to the BOL operating capacity (*e.g.*, for a 2 Ah cell, power capabilities are assessed at 0.2 Ah increments between $V_{max_{op}}$ and V_{min_0}). After each 30-second pulse, the device is immediately

discharged to the next 10% increment based on operating capacity using the Base Current³⁴. The pulse profile is shown in Figure 4. Note that the current values are relative, not absolute. The actual current values are determined as defined at the end of Section 3.5.2.

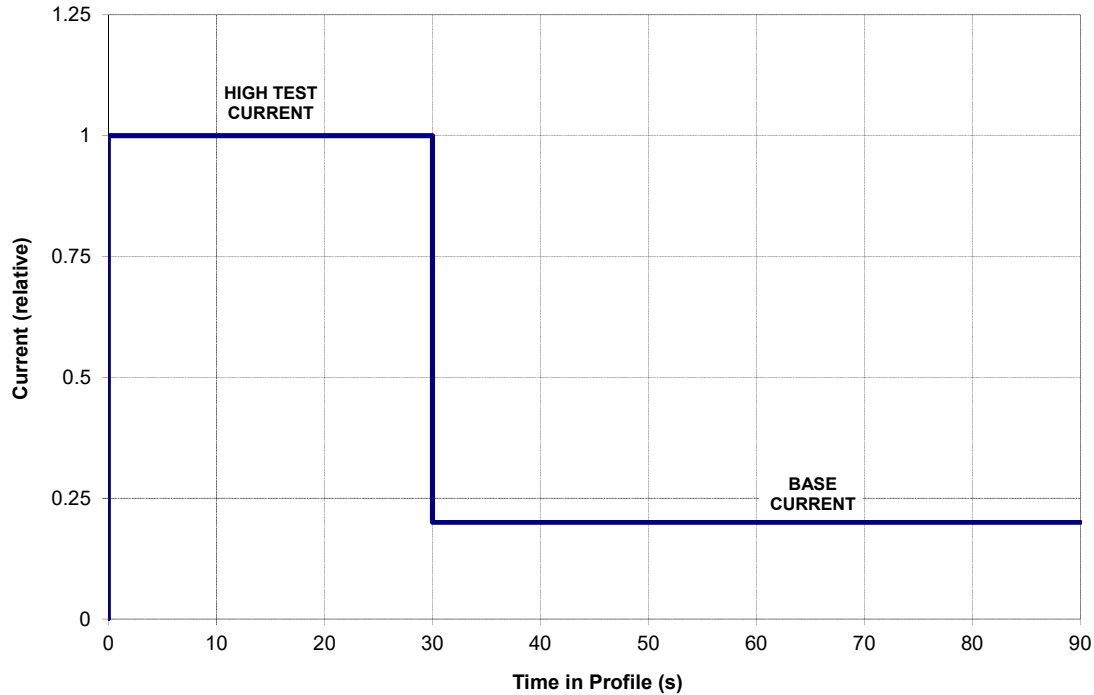


Figure F.1. Peak Power Test Profile.

F.2.2 Test Procedure Description

The Peak Power test begins with a charged device up to $V_{max_{op}}$ using the manufacturer's recommended procedure. Following a default rest period (nominally a 1-hour rest), a 30-s discharge pulse is conducted at the High Test Current rate and immediately followed by a discharge to the next 10% increment at the Base Current rate. This sequence is repeated until the final 30-s pulse at or near 90% of the operating capacity removed (or the maximum discharge specified by the manufacturer). The test terminates with a discharge of the device at the Base Current to V_{min_0} and a final default rest. If at any point V_{min_0} is reached in the 30-second peak power discharge pulse, then taper the current to finish the profile. If V_{min_0} is reached in the Base Current discharge portion, stop the test. The overall test sequence is illustrated in Figure 5, including the full charge to be executed just prior to each Peak Power Test.

³⁴. Note that the capacity of the pulse profile must be accounted for in determining the actual percentage of the operating capacity removed from $V_{max_{op}}$ at which the profile was performed. The 30-second discharge pulse may remove several percent of the capacity from a typical device. The test should be programmed such that 10% of the operating capacity is removed in each test segment, including that removed by the pulse profile itself.

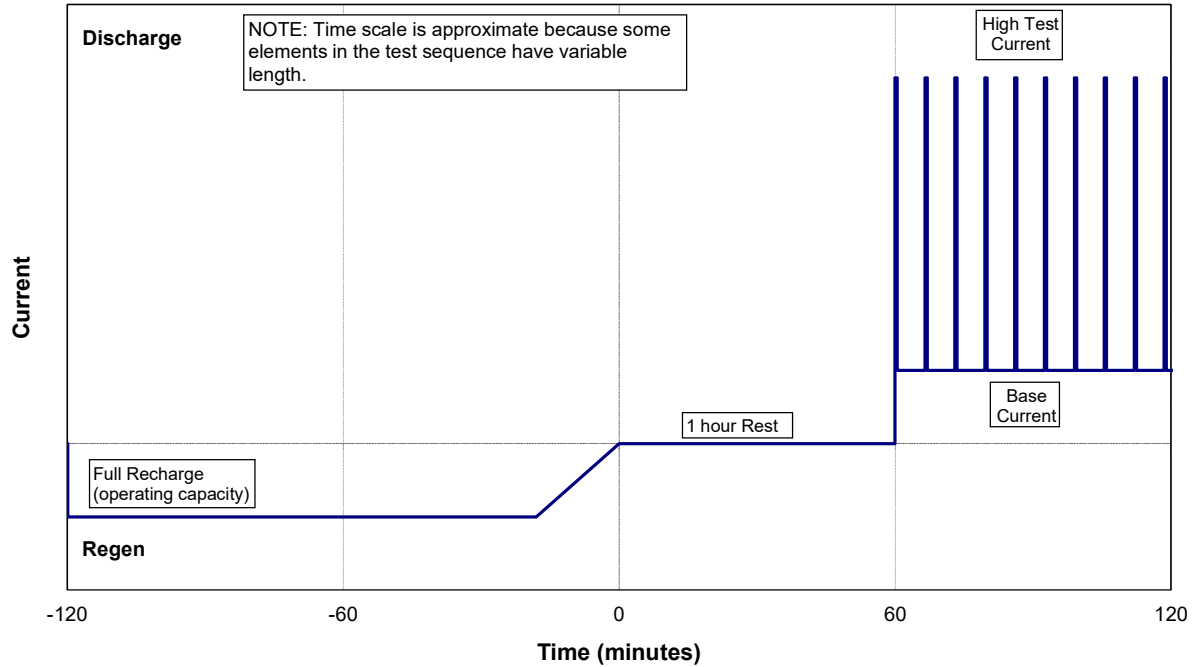


Figure F.2. Peak Power Test Sequence.

The Peak Power Test is conducted using currents scaled as defined below.³⁵

PEAK POWER TEST— The Base Current is established based on Equation (1), where $C_{\text{operating}}$ is the device's operating capacity between $V_{\text{max}_{\text{op}}}$ and V_{min_0} . The High Test Current should be the maximum rated pulse current for the device (I_{max}).

$$I_{\text{Base Current}} = \frac{[(12 * C_{\text{operating}}) - I_{\text{High Test Current}}]}{35} \quad (1)$$

F.3. Peak Power

As with the HPPC test, results from the Peak Power test are generally aimed at comparing the performance of a device at a given RPT to the specified targets for a System Level or Cell Level application. Since these targets are expressed as specific power/energy or power/energy density, the Peak Power test results must be scaled by the device's weight and volume, respectively, before such comparisons can be made. This section describes the Peak Power analysis methodology using an illustrative dataset. The concepts and associated nomenclatures that are discussed in this analysis section

³⁵. If the available test equipment has limited capabilities, a low-current peak power test can be performed instead with approval from the technical program manager. The low-current peak power test has a Base Current of at least a C/3 rate and the High Test Current is at least a C/1 rate.

have been defined in the glossary and summarized in Appendix B. Appendix B also describes how to use the Peak Power test results to fill in a Gap Analysis.

F.3.1. Overall Analysis Approach

The primary purpose of the Peak Power test is to periodically verify how the 30s Peak Discharge Power, and Available Energy for a given test article compared to the appropriate targets identified in Table 1. To achieve this purpose, several calculations are required based on the acquired test data. At a minimum, the following data need to be captured during the Peak Power test for successful comparison with the targets:

- Temperature of the test article during the Peak Power test.
- Cumulative capacity (Ah) removed at the end of each 10% increment based on operating capacity, defined at beginning of life and fixed throughout life testing.
- Cumulative energy (Wh) removed at the end of each 10% increment based on operating capacity.
- Measured voltages at the start and end of the discharge pulses within the Peak Power profile.
- Measured currents at the start and end of the discharge pulses within the Peak Power profile.

From these data, the analysis methodology described herein can be used to determine the parameters that are to be compared with the targets. Temperature data are useful to collect during Peak Power testing, especially if the performance of the test articles is strongly affected by ambient conditions. Temperature is also a useful diagnostic tool if anomalous data are identified. The measured cumulative energy data are used to evaluate the Available Energy of the device at the specified margin supplied by the manufacturer. The capacity data are used to establish the percentage of operating capacity removed from $V_{max_{op}}$. From the measured voltages and currents, pulse resistance values are calculated at each 10% increment and subsequently used to identify the corresponding pulse power capabilities.

F.3.2. Pulse Resistance

From the Peak Power pulse profile in Figure 4 (Section 3.5.1), resistance can be calculated using a $\Delta V/\Delta I$ calculation at each 10% increment. Resistances are normally only calculated for completely unabated pulses, *i.e.*, those with full duration and amplitude.³⁶ Equation (4) (Section 4.4.2, repeated below for convenience) shows the calculation for the 30-s discharge pulse where the relevant time points are identified in Figure 14.

$$\text{Discharge Resistance} = \frac{\Delta V_{disch\ arg}}{\Delta I_{disch\ arg}} = \left| \frac{V_{t1} - V_{t0}}{I_{t1} - I_{t0}} \right| \quad (4)$$

³⁶. The Peak Power test is required to continue to V_{min0} (or until the constant current discharge rate cannot be sustained), however some data may be acquired during pulses where current limiting was encountered. Tests conducted indicate that pulse resistances calculated using such data will be somewhat different (probably higher) than the values calculated for pulses where limiting does not occur. While this current limited data may be useful as an indication of device behavior, it should not be used for direct comparisons to the targets.

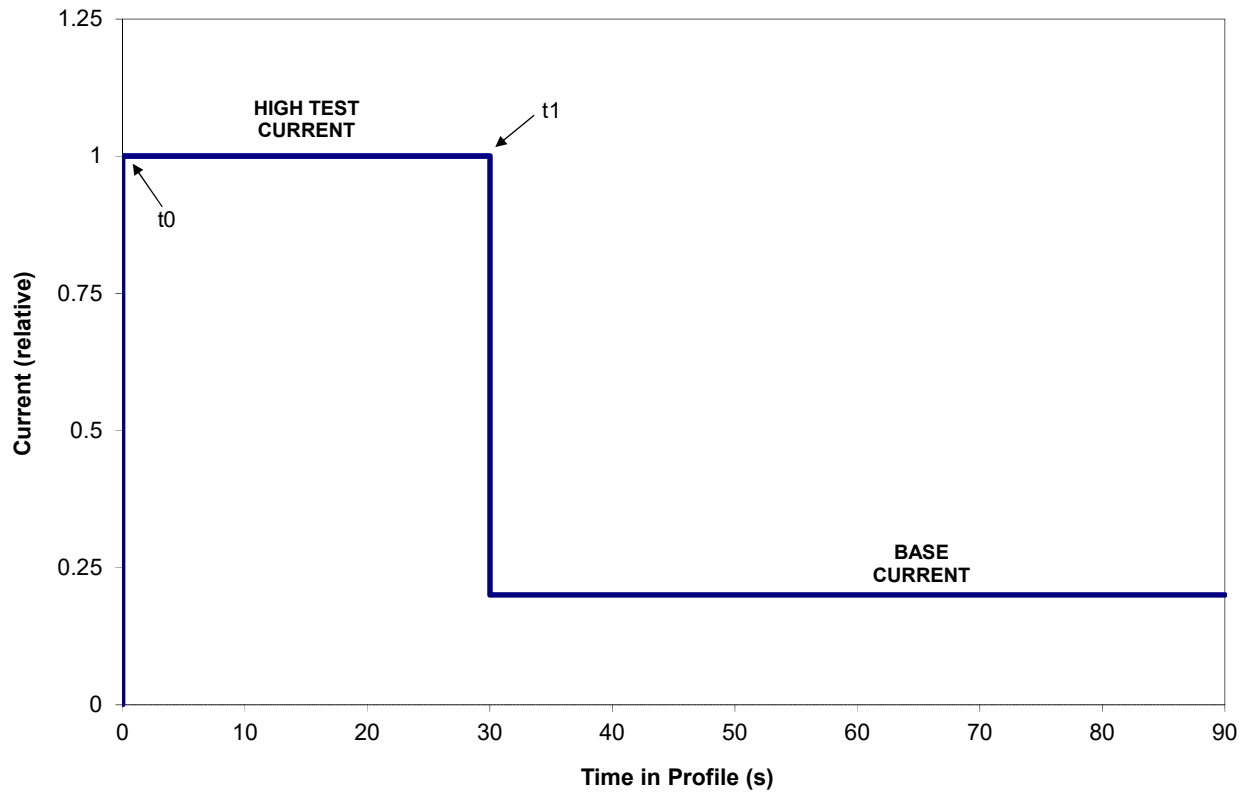


Figure F.3. Resistance calculation time points for the Peak Power test.

The discharge resistances can then be plotted at each 10% increment between $V_{\max_{op}}$ and $V_{\min_0}$, as shown in Figure 15 for an illustrative set of data. The calculated percentage is based on the cumulative capacity removed divided by the operating capacity provided by the manufacturer. In addition to the resistance values, open-circuit voltage (OCV) can also be plotted at each 10% increment at time point t_0 (from Figure 14), which is also shown in Figure 15. The OCV between the 10% increments can then be estimated by straight-line interpolation between the relevant data points or by fitting a curve through the measured data.

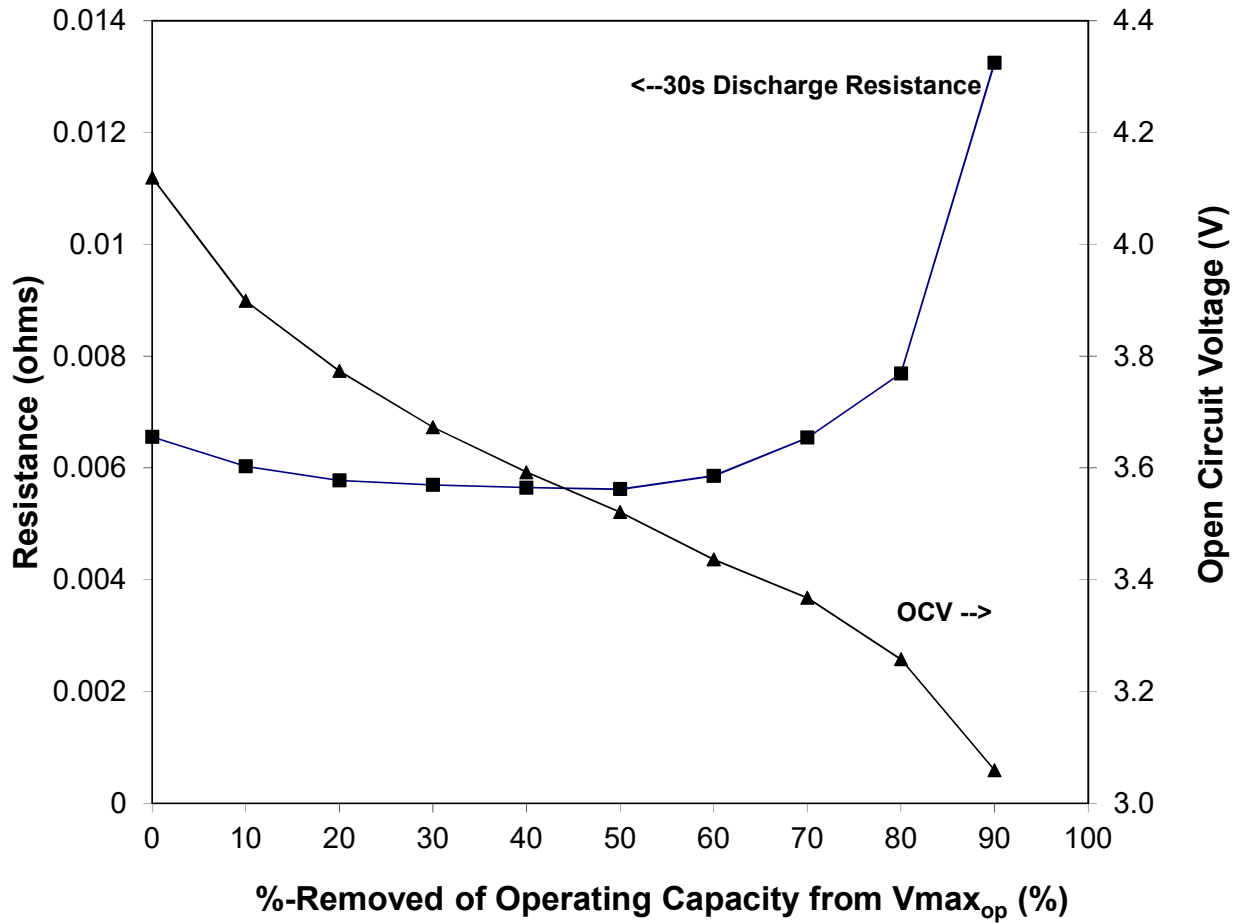


Figure F.4. Open-circuit voltage and pulse resistances versus capacity removed.

F.3.3. Pulse Power Capability

The pulse resistance data are then used to calculate the pulse power capability at each 10% increment (defined at beginning of life and fixed throughout life testing), where the discharge power is relative to $V_{min_{pulse}}$. These power capability values are used to determine the total available depth-of-discharge and energy swing that can be used (within the pulse voltage limits) for given discharge power levels. Equations (11) and (12) show the different pulse power capability calculations for the Peak Power discharge pulse.³⁷ The lowest power capability from these two approaches is reported in a Gap Analysis chart (see Appendix B). These power calculations require an estimate of the open-circuit voltage (V_{IRFree}), as defined in Equation (10), since (unlike the HPPC test) the 30-s discharge pulses are not preceded by a 1-hr rest period. Figure 16 illustrates the resultant Pulse Power Capability curves as a function of the percentage of operating capacity removed from $V_{max_{op}}$. The pulse power capability from the Peak Power test must also be plotted relative to the cumulative energy removed for successful

³⁷. Note that Equation (11) is the same as Equation (6) except for the fact that the OCV_{dis} value needs to be estimated based on the V_{IRFree} definition in Equation (10).

comparison with the targets based on the same C/3 discharge used for the HPPC test (*i.e.*, Figure 11) and Figure 17 shows the resulting Pulse Power Capability as a function of the energy removed.

$$V_{IRFree} = V_{t_0} + I_{t_0} R_{discharge} \quad (10)$$

$$Discharge \text{ Pulse Power Capability (P1)} = \frac{V_{minpulse}(V_{IRFree} - V_{minpulse})}{R_{discharge}} \quad (11)$$

$$Discharge \text{ Pulse Power Capability (P2)} = I_{MAX} [V_{IRFree} + (R_{discharge} \cdot I_{MAX})]^{38} \quad (12)$$

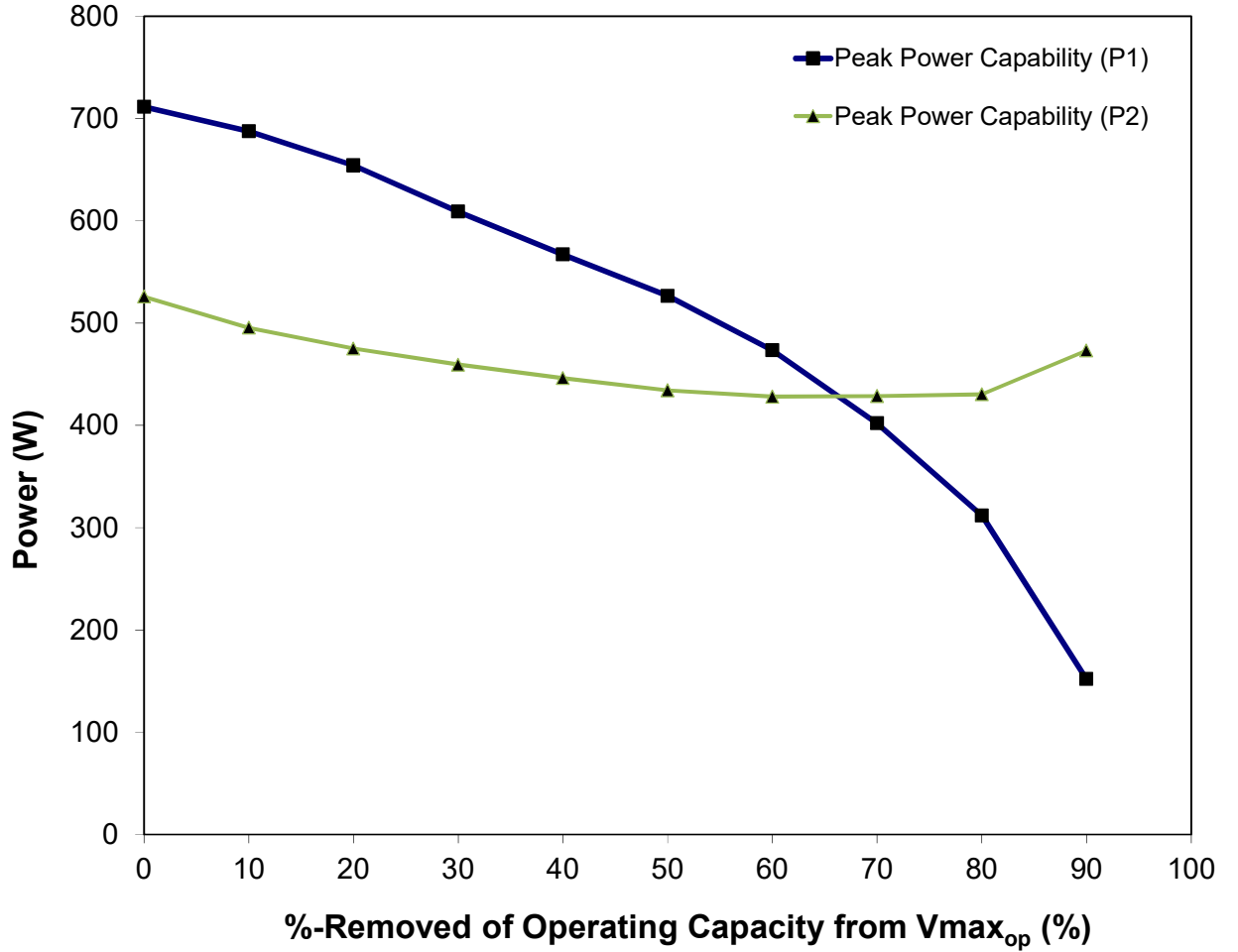


Figure F.5. Pulse power capability vs %-removed of operating capacity for Peak Power test.

³⁸. I_{max} must be less than or equal to 400 A, as defined in the targets (Table 1).

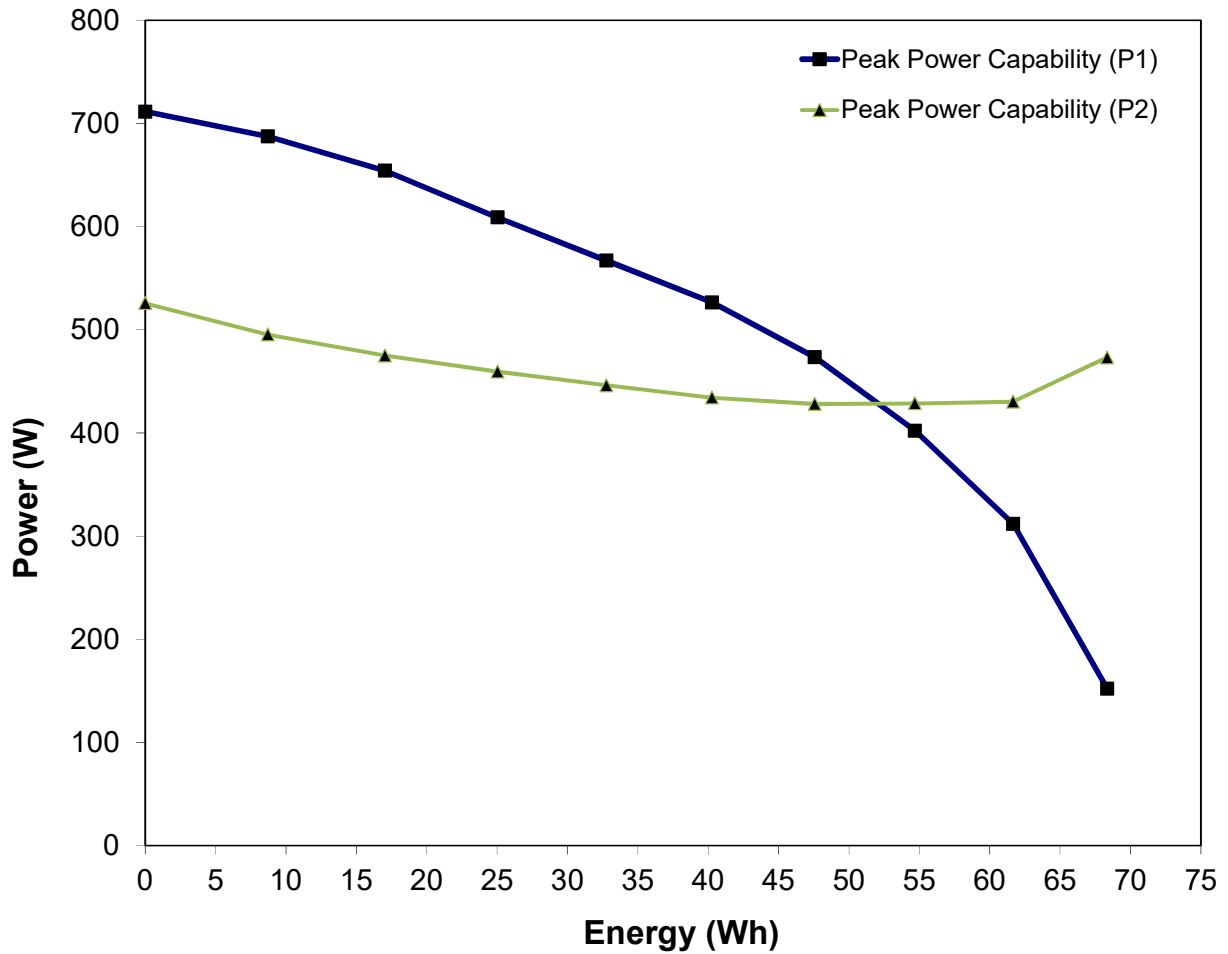


Figure F.6. Unscaled Peak Power capability vs. energy removed.

F3. 4. Peak Discharge Power

The power capability extracted from the Peak Power test is also reported in the Gap Analysis chart based on the energy removed that precisely corresponds to the targets in Table 1. The energy at which the Peak Power capability is extracted is the same as determined from the HPPC (*i.e.*, 59.6 Wh in this example) and it remains fixed during life aging. Figure 18 shows the illustrative Power vs. Energy curve with a numerical value identified for the peak discharge power capability. The minimum of the two power calculations is reported. The power extracted from the Peak Power test must be scaled by the device weight or volume for direct comparisons with the targets identified in Table 1. Appendix B provides additional detail on how to use these values to fill in the Gap Analysis chart.

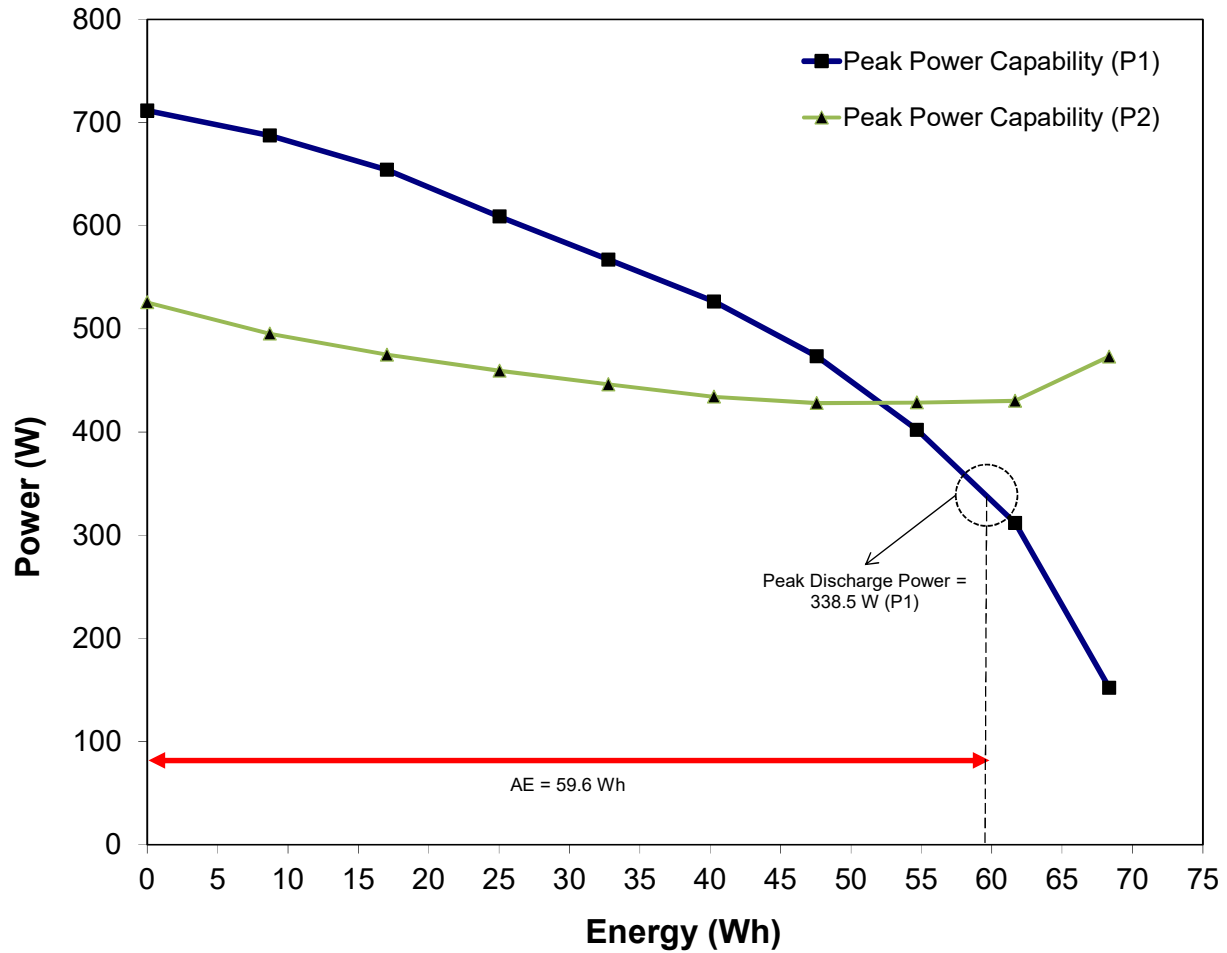


Figure F.7. Available Energy and Peak Power Determination from Peak Power test.

F.3.5. Power and Energy Fade

For devices subjected to life testing, the change in Available Power and Available Energy from the beginning-of-life values (measured just prior to the start of life testing) to some later point in time are to be reported periodically as Power Fade and Energy Fade, both expressed as percentages of the original (BOL) values as shown in Equations (8) and (9) and repeated below for convenience.

$$\text{Power Fade (\%)} = 100 \times \left(1 - \frac{\text{Available Power}_{t1}}{\text{Available Power}_{t0}} \right) \quad (8)$$

$$\text{Energy Fade (\%)} = 100 \times \left(1 - \frac{\text{Available Energy}_{t1}}{\text{Available Energy}_{t0}} \right) \quad (9)$$

In both cases, $t0$ refers to the Reference Performance Test conducted immediately prior to the start of life aging (*i.e.*, RPT0) and $t1$ refers to the time of the later RPT where power and energy fade are to be determined.

F.3.6. Other Laboratory Cell Performance Characteristics

Other laboratory cell performance characteristics can be calculated from the Peak Power data to permit scale-up calculations to full-size cells and/or observe unique features in the specific cell chemistry. These include some or all of the following:

- Voltage response time constant estimates for discharge, regen, and rest periods derived from the current-driven HPPC Test data
- Ohmic and polarization resistances derived from lumped parameter equivalent circuit models
- Cell capacity and energy in area-specific, gravimetric, and volumetric units (mAh/cm², mWh/cm², Ah/kg, Wh/kg, Ah/liter, Wh/liter)
- Cell area-specific impedance in ohms-cm² for discharge and for regen from HPPC data for 12 Volt Start/Stop applications. (Note: this requires specific knowledge of the active surface area of the cells).

The data acquired from Peak Power testing are ultimately used for modeling cell characteristics and for the selection and design of full-size module and battery pack characteristics.