



Labsphere Develops NIST Gloss Meter

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NORTH SUTTON, NH - Researchers in the Polymetric Group at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) are investigating degradation mechanisms, improving characterization methods, and developing mathematical models of the degradation processes of polymetric building materials. To help in understanding the mechanisms of degradation and provide data for models, materials are characterized using many techniques to capture information regarding both chemical and physical degradation including gloss measurements.

Labsphere, Inc. in North Sutton, New Hampshire working with NIST researchers, is developing the NIST Gloss Meter Sphere Spectrometer. This system will measure the color and gloss of polymeric building materials, such as protective coatings.

Gloss is the property of a surface which, because of direction reflection, is responsible for the degree to which reflected highlights of objects may be seen as superimposed on the surface. A gloss meter measures gloss by comparing the specular reflectance of a sample to that of a perfect specular reflector. In essence, it measures how shiny a surface is.

The NIST Gloss Meter will be used to measure test samples before and after experiencing accelerated UV exposure on the NIST SPHERE (Simulated Photodegradation by High Energy Radiant Exposure). The research will help understanding the environmental parameters that cause degradation and link material properties with service life.

About Labsphere:

Labsphere celebrates 25 years as the leader in innovative light measurement technology. Products include uniform light sources to calibrate imaging devices and camera systems in the visible and IR; light measurement systems for lasers, LEDs, and traditional light sources; and reflectance standards for calibrating spectroscopic measurement systems. Labsphere also provides systems and components to OEMs in numerous industries, including spectroscopy, laser diode test and measurement, semiconductor, and medical.

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