ABSTRACT
Relaxation is a characteristic observed in any gasket type, being affected by a series of factors, such as composition, manufacturing process, temperature, etc. Therefore the relaxation of the gasket cannot be treated in a generic way. This paper presents a test protocol, based upon an existing test standard, as well as actual relaxation results for spiral wound gasket and compressed non-asbestos, the most used gaskets in pipe flanges. The objective is to have data to allow a better evaluation of the gasket relaxation behavior in order to determine the additional bolt pre-load to compensate for it.