



Designation: **C534/C534M – 16 C534/C534M – 19**

## Standard Specification for Preformed Flexible Elastomeric Cellular Thermal Insulation in Sheet and Tubular Form<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation C534/C534M; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reappraisal. A superscript epsilon ( $\epsilon$ ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reappraisal.

### 1. Scope

1.1 This specification covers preformed flexible elastomeric cellular thermal insulation in sheet and tubular form. Grade 1 covers materials to be used on commercial or industrial systems with operating temperatures from  $-183$  to  $104^{\circ}\text{C}$  [ $-297$  to  $220^{\circ}\text{F}$ ], Grade 2 covers material used on industrial systems with operating temperatures from  $-183$  to  $150^{\circ}\text{C}$  [ $-297$  to  $300^{\circ}\text{F}$ ], and Grade 3 covers material used on industrial systems with operating temperatures from  $-183$  to  $120^{\circ}\text{C}$  [ $-297$  to  $250^{\circ}\text{F}$ ] where halogens are not permitted.

1.2 The values stated in either SI units or inch-pound units are to be regarded separately as standard. The values stated in each system may not be exact equivalents; therefore, each system shall be used independently of the other. Combining values from the two systems may result in non-conformance with the standard.

1.3 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety, health, and environmental practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

1.4 *This international standard was developed in accordance with internationally recognized principles on standardization established in the Decision on Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations issued by the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.*

### 2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*<sup>2</sup>

[C168 Terminology Relating to Thermal Insulation](#)

[C177 Test Method for Steady-State Heat Flux Measurements and Thermal Transmission Properties by Means of the Guarded-Hot-Plate Apparatus](#)

[C390 Practice for Sampling and Acceptance of Thermal Insulation Lots](#)

[C335 Test Method for Steady-State Heat Transfer Properties of Pipe Insulation](#)

[C411 Test Method for Hot-Surface Performance of High-Temperature Thermal Insulation](#)

[C447 Practice for Estimating the Maximum Use Temperature of Thermal Insulations](#)

[C518 Test Method for Steady-State Thermal Transmission Properties by Means of the Heat Flow Meter Apparatus](#)

[C534 Specification for Preformed Flexible Elastomeric Cellular Thermal Insulation in Sheet and Tubular Form](#)

[C585 Practice for Inner and Outer Diameters of Thermal Insulation for Nominal Sizes of Pipe and Tubing](#)

[C692 Test Method for Evaluating the Influence of Thermal Insulations on External Stress Corrosion Cracking Tendency of Austenitic Stainless Steel](#)

[C795 Specification for Thermal Insulation for Use in Contact with Austenitic Stainless Steel](#)

[C871 Test Methods for Chemical Analysis of Thermal Insulation Materials for Leachable Chloride, Fluoride, Silicate, and Sodium Ions](#)

[C1045 Practice for Calculating Thermal Transmission Properties Under Steady-State Conditions](#)

[C1058 Practice for Selecting Temperatures for Evaluating and Reporting Thermal Properties of Thermal Insulation](#)

[C1114 Test Method for Steady-State Thermal Transmission Properties by Means of the Thin-Heater Apparatus](#)

<sup>1</sup> This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee C16 on Thermal Insulation and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee C16.22 on Organic and Nonhomogeneous Inorganic Thermal Insulations.

Current edition approved October 1, 2016 March 1, 2019. Published October 2016 April 2019. Originally approved in 1964. Last previous edition approved in 2014 2016 as C0534/C534M – 14 C0534/C534M – 16. DOI: 10.1520/C0534\_C0534M-16.10.1520/C0534\_C0534M-19.

<sup>2</sup> For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.



- C1304 Test Method for Assessing the Odor Emission of Thermal Insulation Materials
- C1427 Specification for Extruded Preformed Flexible Cellular Polyolefin Thermal Insulation in Sheet and Tubular Form
- C1763 Test Method for Water Absorption by Immersion of Thermal Insulation Materials
- D883 Terminology Relating to Plastics
- D1622 Test Method for Apparent Density of Rigid Cellular Plastics
- D1667 Specification for Flexible Cellular Materials—Poly (Vinyl Chloride) Foam (Closed-Cell)
- E84 Test Method for Surface Burning Characteristics of Building Materials
- E96/E96M Test Methods for Water Vapor Transmission of Materials
- E177 Practice for Use of the Terms Precision and Bias in ASTM Test Methods
- E456 Terminology Relating to Quality and Statistics
- E691 Practice for Conducting an Interlaboratory Study to Determine the Precision of a Test Method
- E2231 Practice for Specimen Preparation and Mounting of Pipe and Duct Insulation Materials to Assess Surface Burning Characteristics

2.2 Other Standards:<sup>3</sup>

- CAN/ULC-S102 Standard Method of Test for Surface Burning Characteristics of Building Materials and Assemblies

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions—Terms used in this specification are defined in Terminology C168 and in Terminology D883.

3.2 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.2.1 *cellular elastomeric foam*—a closed-cell foam made of natural or synthetic rubber, or a mixture of the two, and containing other polymers, other chemicals, or both, which is permitted to be modified by organic or inorganic additives. These foams have properties similar to those of vulcanized rubber, namely, (1) the ability to be converted from a thermoplastic to a thermosetting state by cross-linking (vulcanization) and (2) the ability to recover substantially its original shape when strained or elongated.

3.2.2 *flexible cellular*—a flexible cellular organic polymeric material shall not rupture within 60 s when a specimen 200 by 25 by 25 mm [8 by 1 by 1 in.] is bent around a 25-mm [1-in.] diameter mandrel at a uniform rate of one lap in 5 s in the form of a helix at a temperature between 18 and 29°C [65 and 85°F].

NOTE 1—The flexibility of these materials may decrease at lower temperatures.

4. Classification

4.1 When referencing Specification C534/C534M, type and grade shall always be specified.

4.2 The types are designated below:

4.2.1 *Type I*—Tubular.

Grade 1 Use temperature -183 to 104°C [-297 to 220°F].  
~~Grade 2 Use temperature -183 to 175°C [-297 to 350°F].~~  
 Grade 3 Use temperature -183 to 120°C [-297 to 250°F].

Grade 1 Use temperature (minimum/maximum values) -183 to 104°C [-297 to 220°F].  
 Grade 2 Use temperature (minimum/maximum values) -183 to 150°C [-297 to 300°F].  
 Grade 3 Use temperature (minimum/maximum values) -183 to 120°C [-297 to 250°F].

4.2.2 *Type II*—Sheet.

Grade 1 Use temperature -183 to 104°C [-297 to 220°F].  
~~Grade 2 Use temperature -183 to 175°C [-297 to 350°F].~~  
 Grade 3 Use temperature -183 to 104°C [-297 to 220°F].

Grade 1 Use temperature (minimum/maximum values) -183 to 104°C [-297 to 220°F].  
 Grade 2 Use temperature (minimum/maximum values) -183 to 150°C [-297 to 300°F].  
 Grade 3 Use temperature (minimum/maximum values) -183 to 104°C [-297 to 220°F].

4.3 Grade 1 is flexible elastomeric material for use on typical commercial systems.

4.4 Grade 2 is a high temperature flexible elastomeric material.

4.5 Grade 3 is an elastomeric material that does not contain any leachable chlorides, fluorides or polyvinyl chloride.

NOTE 2—Continuous long-term exposure at or above the upper use temperature may cause degradation in the form of loss of flexibility

<sup>3</sup> Available from Underwriters Laboratories (UL), 2600 N.W. Lake Rd., Camas, WA 98607-8542, <http://www.ul.com>.

TABLE 1 Physical Requirements for Type I (Tubular) and Type II (Sheet)<sup>A</sup>

Property	Unit	Grade 1	Grade 2 (higher temperature)	Grade 3 (non-chloride/non-fluoride containing)
Apparent thermal conductivity, max., at a mean temperature of:	W/m·K [Btu·in./h·ft <sup>2</sup> ·°F]			
-150°C [-238°F]		0.023[0.16]	0.023 [0.16]	0.023 [0.16]
-100°C [-148°F]		0.028 [0.18]	0.028 [0.18]	0.028 [0.18]
-29°C [-20°F]		0.036 [0.25]	0.036 [0.25]	0.036 [0.25]
-18°C [0°F]		0.038 [0.26]	0.038 [0.26]	0.038 [0.26]
24°C [75°F]		0.040 [0.28]	0.043 [0.30]	0.040 [0.28]
50°C [120°F]		0.043 [0.30]	0.047 [0.32]	0.043 [0.30]
86°C [150°F]		0.045 [0.31]	0.049 [0.34]	0.045 [0.31]
150°C [300°F]		NA	0.061 [0.42]	NA
Water absorption, max.	% by volume	0.20	0.20	0.20
Water-vapor permeability, max.	g/Pa·s·m [perm-in.]	$1.44 \times 10^{-10}$ [0.10]	$4.32 \times 10^{-10}$ [0.30]	$4.32 \times 10^{-10}$ [0.30]
Linear shrinkage, max after soak at maximum use temperature	% linear change	7.0 %	7.0 %	7.0 %

<sup>A</sup> Table 1 describes two types of flexible elastomeric cellular thermal insulation. The values stated in Table 1 may not always be appropriate as design values. For specific design recommendations using a particular product and for supporting documentation, consult the manufacturer.

## 5. Materials

5.1 These products shall be made of a homogeneous blend of natural or synthetic rubber that is permitted to be modified with various thermoplastic or thermosetting resins, plasticizers, modifiers, antioxidants, curatives, blowing agents and other additives. These products are thermoset and are not thermoplastic in nature.

5.2 These products are expanded with chemical blowing agents that decompose with the application of heat. The gases produced by these blowing agents are similar to those found in the atmosphere and thus the diffusion rate is not significant. These gases do not change over time and the thermal conductivity of the insulation is stable over time.

5.3 Flexible, elastomeric, cellular thermal insulations shall be of uniform core density and have closed cells. Even though these insulation materials are permitted to have a smooth skin surface on one or both sides, they are to be considered homogeneous for the purposes of determining thermal performance.

## 6. Physical Requirements

6.1 *Qualification Requirements*—Thermal conductivity, water vapor permeability and dimensional stability physical properties listed in Table 1, are defined as qualification requirements (refer to Practice C390, Section 5, Classification of Requirements and Section 6, Acceptance for Qualification Requirements).

### 6.2 Inspection Requirements:

6.2.1 The requirements for water absorption listed in Table 1 is defined as an inspection requirement (refer to Practice C390, Section 5, Classification of Requirements, and Section 7, Acceptance for Inspection Requirements).

6.2.2 All dimensional requirements shall be as described in Section 6 and Table 2.

6.2.3 All workmanship, finish and appearance requirements shall be as described in Section 9.

6.2.4 Compliance with inspection requirements shall be in accordance with Practice C390.

6.3 Both Type I and Type II insulations shall conform to the physical property requirements listed in Table 1.

6.4 The material shall be free of objectionable odors at all temperatures within the recommended use range when tested according to Test Method C1304.

6.5 *Surface Burning Characteristics*—The material shall be tested to assess its surface burning characteristics, at the thickness supplied, in accordance with Test Method E84 with mounting according to Practice E2231. The results shall be reported. In Canada, use Test Method CAN/ULC-S102 and report the results.

6.5.1 This test method does not always define the hazard potentially presented by preformed flexible elastomeric cellular thermal insulation under actual fire conditions. It is retained for reference in this standard as test data are required by some codes.

6.5.2 Preformed flexible cellular elastomeric thermal insulation is an organic material and is combustible. Do not expose it to flames or other ignition sources. In some applications, the fire test response characteristics of the material are addressed through requirements established by the appropriate governing documents.

6.6 *Leachable Chloride/Fluoride Content*—Grade 3 shall be below the detectable limit of the test procedure used for leachable chlorides or fluorides when tested according to Test Method C871.

## 7. Standard Shapes, Sizes and Dimensions

7.1 *Type I*—Tubular materials are manufactured in 1.83 m [72 in.] standard lengths, as well as in continuous lengths. Insulation is manufactured for diameters up to 200 mm [8 in. nominal pipe size (NPS)] with wall thickness up to 50 mm [2 in.].