



Designation: E920 – 97 (Reapproved 2019)

Standard Specification for Commercially Packaged Laboratory Apparatus¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation E920; 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 reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

INTRODUCTION

This specification is proposed as a package performance standard to be met for items shipped domestically. The standard would apply only when requested by the buyer.

1. Scope

1.1 This specification covers the procedures for testing loaded shipping containers. Drop and vibration tests are performed to measure the ability of the shipping container to protect the product from the shock and vibration the container receives during normal handling and transporting. This specification is not intended to supplant material specifications or existing preshipment test procedures. *This specification is not intended for use with hazardous materials.*

1.2 These procedures are suitable for all types of laboratory apparatus, including reusable and disposable macro and micro products.

1.3 The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as standard. The values given in parentheses are mathematical conversions to SI units that are provided for information only and are not considered standard.

1.4 The following precautionary caveat pertains only to the test method portion, Section 4, of this specification: *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.*

1.5 *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.*

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee E41 on Laboratory Apparatus and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee E41.01 on Laboratory Ware and Supplies.

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2. Referenced Documents

- 2.1 *ASTM Standards*:²
- D685 Practice for Conditioning Paper and Paper Products for Testing
 - D999 Test Methods for Vibration Testing of Shipping Containers
 - D3951 Practice for Commercial Packaging
 - D5276 Test Method for Drop Test of Loaded Containers by Free Fall

3. Requirements

3.1 Three test specimens are required. Each specimen shall be run through the sequence of tests in the order given.

3.2 Condition test specimens in accordance with Practice D685. Standard conditions must be maintained throughout the test sequence.

3.3 The packaging shall comply with Practice D3951 except cleanliness of laboratory apparatus shall be as required by the Product Standard, the Quality Assurance Standard, or as agreed upon between the manufacturer and the purchaser.

4. Procedure

4.1 *Vibration Test*—Perform the vibration test in accordance with Method A of Methods D999.

4.1.1 Proceed with the following test duration and sequence: bottom for 30 min; side for 15 min; and end for 15 min. Total vibration time will be 60 min.

4.2 *Drop Test*—Perform the drop test in accordance with Method D775.

4.2.1 Determine the drop height of the specimen from the following:

² 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.