



Standard Test Method for Photopic Luminance of Photoluminescent (Phosphorescent) Markings¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation E2073; 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.

This standard has been approved for use by agencies of the U.S. Department of Defense.

1. Scope

1.1 This test method covers a procedure for determining the photopic luminance of photoluminescent (phosphorescent) markings. It does not cover scotopic or mesopic measurements.

1.2 When reference is made regarding photoluminescence in the text of this test method, it implies phosphorescence.

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 *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.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*²

[E284 Terminology of Appearance](#)

[E308 Practice for Computing the Colors of Objects by Using the CIE System](#)

[E1316 Terminology for Nondestructive Examinations](#)

[E2072 Specification for Photoluminescent \(Phosphorescent\) Safety Markings](#)

2.2 *Other Standards:*

[Publication CIE No. 69 \(1987\) Methods of characterizing illuminance meters and luminance meters; Performance, characteristics and specifications](#)³

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions of terms in Terminology [E284](#) and Terminology [E1316](#) are applicable to this specification.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 To assess how photoluminescent markings perform under identical test conditions, the luminance shall be measured in accordance with this test method (see Specification [E2072](#)).

5. Apparatus

5.1 *Illuminance Meter*—To measure the illumination of the activating light source on the surface of the photoluminescent marking, use an illuminance meter calibrated to measure illuminance in fc (lux), with the following features: spectral error, f_1' , $\leq 5\%$; UV response, u , $\leq 0.5\%$; resolution 1.0 lux; and linearity error, f_3 , $\leq 0.5\%$ (see Publication CIE No. 69).

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee [E12](#) on Color and Appearance and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee [E12.13](#) on Photoluminescent Safety Markings.

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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.

³ Available from U.S. National Committee of the CIE (International Commission on Illumination), C/o Thomas M. Lemons, TLA-Lighting Consultants, Inc., 7 Pond St., Salem, MA 01970, <http://www.cie-usnc.org>.

5.2 *Luminance Meter*—To measure the photopic luminance of photoluminescent markings, use a luminance meter with the following minimum features (see Publication CIE No. 69): spectral error, $f_1', \leq 5\%$; UV response, $u, \leq 0.5\%$; resolution at least 0.1 mcd/m^2 ; linearity error, $f_3, \leq 0.5\%$; signal-to-noise-ratio: at least 10:1 for all measurements. The instrument shall have been calibrated within the preceding 12 months using photometric standards traceable to a national standards institute.

6. Sampling, Test Specimens, and Test Units

6.1 *Method of Sampling*—Take a minimum of three samples. Each sample shall be of a minimum size of at least 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ -in. (45-mm) in diameter. Select samples at random. If a manufacturer, samples shall be representative of the production lot, coded and identified to correspond to production batch codes, and shall be numbered consecutively. Field-mixed/field-applied paints/coatings shall be applied by the testing laboratory in compliance with the manufacturer's preparation and application instructions, which have to include, but shall not be limited to, primers if required, layers needed, and wet (if required) and dry coat thicknesses, as luminance of the photoluminescent paint/coating is dependent on these factors.

7. Conditioning

7.1 Precondition all test specimens by placing them in complete darkness until their residual luminance has fallen to 0.3 mcd/m^2 or less, tested utilizing the luminance meter specified under 5.2. Remove them immediately before performing the tests. No ambient or stray light shall be present.

8. Procedure

8.1 *Ambient Conditions*—The ambient temperature during darkness preconditioning of specimens, activation and luminance testing shall be $77 \pm 5^\circ\text{F}$ ($25 \pm 3^\circ\text{C}$). The relative humidity shall not exceed 60%. All luminance testing shall be performed in a room whose ambient light level is such that the luminance of a white diffuse reflectance standard is at least one decade lower than the lowest test specimen luminance measurement to be recorded.

8.2 *Preparation of Apparatus*—The luminance meter shall be zeroed prior to every measurement, then checked immediately after the measurement and the measurement shall be rejected if the zero drifted by more than 5% of the measured value. The distance between the luminance meter and the measured test specimen, and also the aperture angle of the luminance meter, shall be chosen in such a way that 1 $\frac{5}{16}$ -in. (30-mm) diameter of the photoluminescent test specimen, which is of at least 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ -in. (45-mm) diameter, is evaluated.

8.3 *Activation*—Activate the photoluminescent marking specimens with an unfiltered fluorescent cool white source of light having a spectral power distribution similar to cool white F2 as described in Practice E308 Table 4, of 40 W or less, with a correlated color temperature ranging from 4000 to 4500 K for 60 min (± 10 s), providing an illumination of 1 fc (10.8 lux) $\pm 1\%$ on the marking surface. The test specimen body temperature shall not exceed 86°F (30°C) 1 min after activation. No ambient or stray light shall be present during activation. Measure the activation with an illuminance meter as described in Use one 5.1. Direct illumination of marking surface is required and can be accomplished with a black baffling system, black screen mesh system or by distance (see of the following light sources: Appendix X3):

- (1) An unfiltered fluorescent cool white source of light having a spectral power distribution similar to cool white F2 as described in Practice E308 Table 4, of 40 W or less, with a correlated color temperature ranging from 4000 to 4500 K.
- (2) LED – any lamp configuration, 4000 – 4500 K color temperature, seasoned for minimum 2 hr.

8.4 *Luminance*—Measure the photopic luminance of all specimens of the photoluminescent marking with a luminance meter as described in 5.2 after 10 min ± 10 s and 60 min ± 10 s and 90 min ± 10 s.

9. Report

- 9.1 Report the following information:
- 9.1.1 Tested in accordance with ASTM Standard ____ Issue: _____,
 - 9.1.2 Manufacturer of tested photoluminescent marking: (Name, Address, Phone, Fax),
 - 9.1.3 Specimen description: (clear item identification to make specimens traceable to manufacturer's data sheets). For field-mixed/field-applied paints/coatings describe sample preparation requirements based on manufacturer's preparation and application instructions (primer if any was applied, number of paint/coating layers applied, wet (if required)/dry coat thickness accomplished),
 - 9.1.4 Beginning and end of conditioning: (fill in days and time),
 - 9.1.5 Date of measurement,
 - 9.1.6 Instrument parameters and photometer serial number,
 - 9.1.7 Activation: (fill in minutes, type of activating light source, illuminance in fc (lux)),
 - 9.1.8 Ambient temperature and relative humidity,
 - 9.1.9 Photopic luminance measurement results in reference to 8.4,
 - 9.1.10 List separately for all test specimens,
 - 9.1.11 Luminance in mcd/m^2 10 min after activation has ceased,

- 9.1.12 Luminance in mcd/m² 60 min after activation has ceased,
- 9.1.13 Luminance in mcd/m² 90 min after activation has ceased,
- 9.1.14 Test performed by: (person’s name, title), and
- 9.1.15 Signature: ____; at: (describe test location) and company performing test: (full name, address, phone, fax).

10. Precision and Bias

10.1 *Precision: Interlaboratory Test Program*—An interlaboratory round robin testing was conducted in 2005 and 2006, using three photoluminescent product samples. Eight laboratories participated by taking one measurement each of samples A and B, and by taking two measurements of sample C.

10.1.1 The samples were activated using an unfiltered fluorescent cool white source of light, 40 W or less, in the 4000 to 4500 K range, providing an illumination of 21.6 lux (2 fc) for 60 min at the sample surface.

10.1.2 The 10-min, 60-min, and 90-min values were recorded. The details of the design of the experiment and the analysis of the full data are given in ASTM Research Report RR:E12:1003.⁴

10.2 *Test Results*—The precision information given in **Table 1**, **Table 2**, and **Table 3** is based on eight laboratories, three different

TABLE 1 Afterglow Luminance Values (mcd/m²) after 10 Minutes

Material	Average	S _r	S _R	r	R
A	15.571	...	1.690	...	4.732
B	17.357	...	1.583	...	4.433
C	62.293	1.718	8.612	4.810	24.113

TABLE 2 Afterglow Luminance Values (mcd/m²) after 60 Minutes

Material	Average	S _r	S _R	r	R
A	3.188	...	0.230	...	0.643
B	3.638	...	0.226	...	0.634
C	15.089	0.465	1.076	1.303	3.013

TABLE 3 Afterglow Luminance Values (mcd/m²) after 90 Minutes

Material	Average	S _r	S _R	r	R
A	2.063	...	0.207	...	0.578
B	2.400	...	0.207	...	0.580
C	9.894	0.323	0.700	0.905	1.961

materials and one measurement for three time intervals. Sample C alone was tested in duplicate.

10.3 *Concept of r (Repeatability) and R (Reproducibility)*—(*Reproducibility*)—If S_r and S_R have been calculated from a large enough body of data, and for test results that were averages from testing the specimens, then:

10.3.1 *Repeatability, r*—In comparing two test results for the same material, obtained by the same operator using the same equipment, the two test results should be judged not equivalent if they differ by more than the *r* value for that material.

10.3.2 *Reproducibility, R*—In comparing the test results for the same material, obtained by different operators using different equipment on different days in different laboratories, the test results should be judged not equivalent if they differ by more than the *R* value for that material.

10.3.3 *Standard Deviation, S*—The S in S_R and S_r stands for Standard Deviation, and so S_R is the Standard Deviation of the reproducibility, and S_r is the Standard Deviation of the repeatability.

10.3.4 Any judgment in accordance with these two statements would have an appropriate 95 % probability of being correct.

10.4 *Bias*—The bias of this test method is unknown because there is no accepted reference material.

11. Keywords

11.1 illuminance; luminance; photoluminescence

⁴ Supporting data have been filed at ASTM International Headquarters and may be obtained by requesting Research Report RR:E12-1003.