



Designation: D7853 – 13 (Reapproved 2020)

Standard Test Method for Hydraulic Pullout Resistance of a Geomembrane with Locking Extensions Embedded in Concrete¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D7853; 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.

1. Scope

1.1 This test method covers the determination of the hydraulic pullout resistance of a geomembrane with locking extensions embedded in concrete by determining the pressure required for locking extensions of the embedded specimen to pullout of the concrete.

1.2 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as standard. The values given in parentheses are provided for information only and are not considered 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:*²

[A1064/A1064M Specification for Carbon-Steel Wire and Welded Wire Reinforcement, Plain and Deformed, for Concrete](#)

[C31/C31M Practice for Making and Curing Concrete Test Specimens in the Field](#)

[C39/C39M Test Method for Compressive Strength of Cylindrical Concrete Specimens](#)

[C94/C94M Specification for Ready-Mixed Concrete](#)

[D618 Practice for Conditioning Plastics for Testing](#)

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D35 on Geosynthetics and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D35.01 on Mechanical Properties.

Current edition approved June 1, 2020. Published June 2020. Originally approved in 2013. Last previous edition approved in 2013 as D7853 – 13. DOI: 10.1520/D7853-13R20.

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.

[D4439 Terminology for Geosynthetics](#)

[D5947 Test Methods for Physical Dimensions of Solid Plastics Specimens](#)

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions of terms applying to this test method appear in Terminology [D4439](#).

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 A geomembrane with locking extensions on at least one surface is embedded into concrete. The pullout resistance is determined by measuring the maximum pressure required to initiate pullout of the locking extensions from the concrete. Alternatively, the geomembrane with locking extensions is embedded in concrete and pressurized to a specified pressure to verify whether a minimum level of in-place strength has been attained.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 Due to hydraulic pressure that may be present on some applications, engineers need to understand the capability of these products to resist this pressure. This test allows engineers to compare products and verify pullout strength.

5.2 Hydraulic pullout resistance is a function of locking extension dimensions, locking extension geometry, locking extensions per area, locking extension polymer composition, and the properties of the concrete in which the locking extensions are embedded.

5.3 The data from this test method provides comparative information for rating hydraulic pullout resistance of different geomembranes with locking extensions embedded in concrete. Hydraulic pullout resistance, while partly dependent on locking extension dimensions, has no simple correlation to locking extension dimensions and geometry. Hence, hydraulic pullout resistance cannot be determined with a small sample without potentially producing misleading data to the actual hydraulic pullout resistance of the material. Therefore, the hydraulic pullout resistance is expressed in kPa (lb/ft²).

5.4 The apparatus can be circular or square in nature and must have a test area of 0.36 m² (558 in.²).

5.5 Fig. 1 shows an example of a circular test apparatus that can be used in the performance of this test. The apparatus requires a pressure vessel rated to a minimum 690 kPa (14 410 lb/ft²). The vessel test diameter should be a minimum of 677.04 mm (26.655 in.) as shown in Fig. 1.

NOTE 1—Larger vessels may be used but it is up to user to establish correlation to the standard size vessel. The use of a smaller diameter vessel than denoted in this standard may contribute to higher pullout resistance due to thickness or stiffness of some products.

5.6 *Test Pedestal*—The base of the testing apparatus which holds the test specimen.

5.7 *Upper Flange*—Is the flange that is bolted down on top of specimen to create a seal.

5.8 *Form*—Is an aluminum ring used to form test specimen as shown in Fig. 2.

5.9 *Specimen Ring*—The solid ring that is placed around test specimen to contain leakage through the concrete.

5.10 The vessel will have a system to measure pressure.

5.10.1 The system for measuring pressure shall be capable of being read to an accuracy of 3.5 kPa (0.5 psi).

5.11 Concrete shall be a ready-mixed concrete per Specification C94/C94M with a minimum cured compressive strength of 34 473.8 kPa (5 000 psi).

NOTE 2—Alternate concrete or grout mixtures may be used for

project-specific applications with the approval of the owner or engineer.

5.12 All tests shall be conducted at standard laboratory temperatures of 23 ± 2 °C (73.4 ± 3.6 °F).

6. Test Specimens

6.1 Cut the test specimens large enough to ensure a good seal while maintaining a 677.04 mm (26.655 in.) diameter testable specimen.

6.2 Do not use test specimens with defects or any other abnormalities, unless this is the item of interest.

6.3 Test three replicate specimens on each sample unless otherwise noted.

NOTE 3—This test may be used to test the seamed areas of different products.

7. Preparation of Embedded Specimen

7.1 Geomembrane is placed in bottom of form with locking extensions in the direction as shown in Fig. 2.

7.2 Outer perimeter locking extensions are removed to allow upper flange to compress against lower gasket and geomembrane surface to complete seal.

7.2.1 Locking extensions can be removed with a grinder or planar device.

NOTE 4—Caution should be used to avoid damage to the specimen.

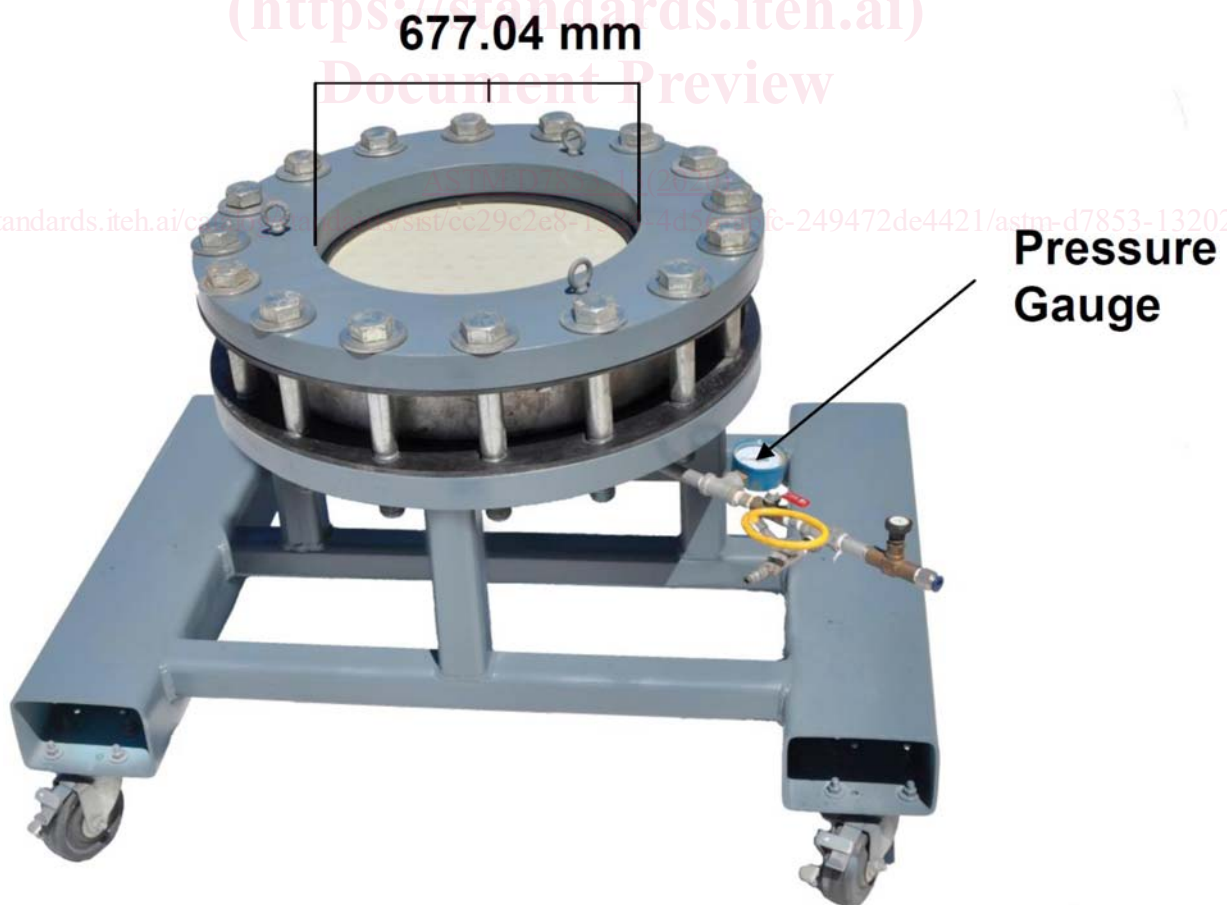


FIG. 1 Picture of Circular Test Apparatus

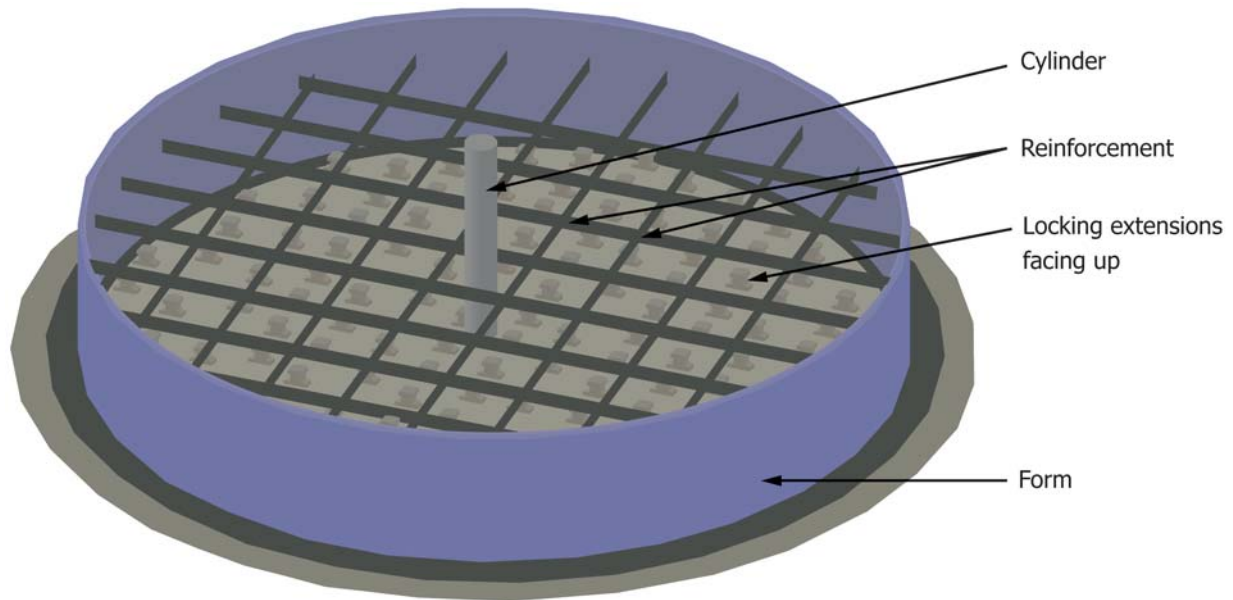


FIG. 2 Bottom of Form with Stud Facing Up and Cylinder Spacer

7.3 Reinforcement for the concrete test specimen shall consist of reinforcement meeting the requirements of Specification [A1064/A1064M](#).

7.4 A 6.35 mm (0.25 in.) cylinder is inserted in middle of specimen to provide void space to ensure water pressure reaches the specimen surface during testing per [Fig. 2](#). There shall be as many ports as needed to ensure that the test pressure is uniform throughout the complete test area of the specimen.

7.5 Concrete shall be placed into the form in a minimum of two layers, with each layer being consolidated by rodding or vibration. The final layer shall be compacted and flush with the top of the test specimen and allowed to set.

7.6 Curing of concrete shall be per Practice [C31/C31M](#).

7.7 Cylinder is removed and any concrete blocking passage-way is removed.

8. Conditioning

8.1 *Conditioning*—Concrete should be allowed to cure to the specified compressive strength prior to any testing. Curing time and conditions are as specified by Practice [C31/C31M](#).

8.1.1 Specimens may be tested once the material has reached temperature equilibrium. The time required to reach temperature equilibrium may vary according to the manufacturing process, material type, and material structure.

8.1.2 Compressive strength will be determined per Test Method [C39/C39M](#).

8.2 *Test Conditions*—Conduct tests in the standard laboratory atmosphere of 23 ± 2 °C (73.4 ± 3.6 °F).

9. Procedure

9.1 The embedded specimen is placed onto test vessel.

9.2 Gaskets are placed between the concrete and test pedestal, between the geomembrane and concrete at the sealing perimeter, and between the geomembrane and upper flange as shown in [Fig. 3](#).

9.3 The specimen ring is placed around the specimen.

9.4 The upper flange is clamped to the pedestal.

NOTE 5—Caution must be used to prevent fracture of the concrete during tightening of the bolts.

9.5 An initial holding pressure of 206.9 kPa (30 psi) is applied to specimen for a minimum of 200 h.

NOTE 6—Engineers may need to perform test with longer duration times at a single pressure and other site-specific conditions to consider concerns of creep for the product they are using for their project.

NOTE 7—A lower initial holding pressure may be required for some products. This should be agreed on by the owner or engineer.

9.6 Increase pressure in 34.7 kPa (5 psi) increments every hour until locking extension pullout from concrete occurs.

9.7 Failure is determined by visual observation of locking extensions pulled out of concrete.

9.8 Record the failure mode, as listed in [Table 1](#).

9.9 Repeat the above with two additional specimens from the same product sample.

NOTE 8—A failure mode in concrete is not acceptable for direct product comparison. However, it may be acceptable if the pullout resistance is higher than project-specific requirement for which testing is being done.

10. Report

10.1 Report the following information:

10.1.1 Complete identification of the material tested, including type, material thickness, source, and manufacturer's code number.

10.1.2 Size of test area, if other than standard.

10.1.3 A complete description of the concrete or grout used in performing the test.

10.1.4 Value of compressive strength of concrete used.

10.1.5 Conditions under which test was performed, if other than standard.

10.1.6 Average thickness of material.

10.1.7 Number of specimens tested.