



Designation: D2116 – 16 (Reapproved 2021)

Standard Specification for FEP Resin Molding and Extrusion Materials¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D2116; 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 specification covers melt processable molding and extrusion materials of FEP resin. This specification does not cover recycled FEP materials. These FEP resins are copolymers of tetrafluoroethylene and hexafluoropropylene or modified FEP resins containing no more than 2 % by weight of other fluoromonomers.

1.2 The values stated in SI units as detailed in **IEEE/ASTM SI-10** are to be regarded as the standard. The values given in parentheses are for information only.

NOTE 1—Although this specification and ISO 12086-1 and ISO 12086-2 differ in approach or detail, data obtained using either are technically equivalent.

1.3 The following precautionary caveat pertains only to the test methods portion, Section 11, 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.*

1.4 *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

- D150** Test Methods for AC Loss Characteristics and Permittivity (Dielectric Constant) of Solid Electrical Insulation
- D618** Practice for Conditioning Plastics for Testing

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D20 on Plastics and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D20.15 on Thermoplastic Materials.

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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.

- D638** Test Method for Tensile Properties of Plastics
 - D792** Test Methods for Density and Specific Gravity (Relative Density) of Plastics by Displacement
 - D883** Terminology Relating to Plastics
 - D1238** Test Method for Melt Flow Rates of Thermoplastics by Extrusion Plastometer
 - D1600** Terminology for Abbreviated Terms Relating to Plastics
 - D1708** Test Method for Tensile Properties of Plastics by Use of Microtensile Specimens
 - D3892** Practice for Packaging/Packing of Plastics
 - D4591** Test Method for Determining Temperatures and Heats of Transitions of Fluoropolymers by Differential Scanning Calorimetry
 - E691** Practice for Conducting an Interlaboratory Study to Determine the Precision of a Test Method
 - IEEE/ASTM SI-10** Use of the International System of Units (SI): The Modern Metric System
- 2.2 *ISO Standards:*³
- ISO 12086-1** Plastics—Fluoropolymer Dispersions and Moulding and Extrusion Materials—Part 1
 - ISO 12086-2** Plastics—Fluoropolymer Dispersions and Moulding and Extrusion Materials—Part 2

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions:*

3.1.1 *General*—The definitions given in Terminology **D883** are applicable to this specification.

3.1.2 *lot, n*—one production run or a uniform blend of two or more production runs.

3.2 *Abbreviated Terms:*

3.2.1 *General*—The abbreviated terms given in Terminology **D1600** are applicable to this specification.

4. Classification

4.1 This specification covers four types of FEP resin supplied in pellet form classified according to their melt flow rate.

³ Available from American National Standards Institute (ANSI), 25 W. 43rd St., 4th Floor, New York, NY 10036, <http://www.ansi.org>.

*A Summary of Changes section appears at the end of this standard

4.2 A one-line system shall be used to specify materials covered by this specification. The system uses predefined cells to refer to specific aspects of this specification, illustrated as follows:

Specification				
Standard Number	:	Type	:	Special notes
Block	:	:	:	:
:	:	:	:	:

Example: Specification D2116 – XX, I

For this example, the line callout would be Specification D2116 – XX, I and would specify an FEP resin that has all of the properties listed for that type, grade, and class in the appropriate specified properties or tables, or both, in the specification identified. A comma is used as the separator between the standard number and the type.⁴ A provision for special notes is included so that other information can be provided when required. When special notes are used, precede them with a comma.

5. General Requirements

5.1 The materials shall be of uniform composition and so prepared as to conform to the requirements of this specification.

5.2 The material described in this specification shall be free of foreign matter to such a contamination level as is agreed upon between the purchaser and the seller.

TABLE 1 Detail Requirements for Test on Molding Materials

	Type I	Type II	Type III	Type IV
Melt flow rate, g/10 min:				
Load, 5000 g:				
Min	4.0	>12.0	0.8	2.0
Max	12.0	...	2.0	3.9

6. Detail Requirements

6.1 The average test result of the lot shall conform to the requirements prescribed in **Table 1** and **Table 2** when tested by

⁴ See the ASTM *Form and Style Manual*, available from ASTM Headquarters.

the procedures specified herein. **Table 2** lists those tests requiring a specimen molded as described in Section 8.

7. Sampling

7.1 Sampling shall be statistically adequate to satisfy requirements of **13.1.1**.

8. Test Specimens

8.1 Prepare a molded sheet 1.5 ± 0.3 mm (0.060 ± 0.010 in.) thick. Use a picture-frame-type chase having a suitable blanked-out section and thickness to produce the desired sheet. Use clean aluminum foil, 0.13 to 0.18 mm (0.005 to 0.007 in.) thick, in contact with the resin. A high-temperature mold release agent shall be sprayed on the aluminum foil to help prevent the foil from sticking to the sheet. Use steel molding plates at least 1.0 mm (0.040 in.) thick and of an area adequate to cover the chase.

8.2 Lay down and smoothly cover one plate with a sheet of aluminum foil. Place the mold chase on top of this assembly. Place within the mold chase sufficient molding material to produce the required sheet in such a manner that the polymer charge is a mound in the middle of the chase. Place a second sheet of aluminum foil on top of the granules and add the top mold plate. Place the assembly in a compression molding press having platens that have been heated to $372 \pm 5^\circ\text{C}$ ($702 \pm 9^\circ\text{F}$).

8.3 Bring the platens to incipient contact with the mold assembly. Hold for 2 to 4 min without pressure. Apply approximately 1 MPa (145 psi) and hold for 1 to 1.5 min. Then apply 2 to 4 MPa (290 to 580 psi) and hold for 1 to 1.5 min. Maintain the press at $372 \pm 5^\circ\text{C}$ ($702 \pm 9^\circ\text{F}$) during these steps. Remove the assembly from the press and place between two 20 ± 7 -mm (0.75 ± 0.25 -in.) steel plates whose temperature is less than 40°C (104°F).

8.4 When the sheet is cool enough to touch (about 50 to 60°C (122 to 140°F)), remove aluminum foil from the sheet. (If the sheet is allowed to cool to room temperature, the aluminum foil cannot be pulled free.)

9. Conditioning

9.1 For tests of specific gravity and tensile properties, condition the molded test specimens in accordance with

TABLE 2 Detail Requirements for Molded Test Specimens

	Type I	Type II	Type III	Type IV
Specific gravity 23/23°C (73/73°F)				
Min	2.12	2.12	2.12	2.12
Max	2.17	2.17	2.17	2.17
Melting point, °C	260 ± 20	260 ± 20	260 ± 20	260 ± 20
Tensile strength, 23°C (73°F), min:				
MPa	17.3	14.5	20.7	18.7
psi	2500	2100	3000	2700
Elongation, 23°C (73°F), min, %	275	240	275	275
Dielectric constant, max:				
At 10^3 Hz	2.15	2.15	2.15	2.15
At 10^6 Hz	2.15	2.15	2.15	2.15
Dissipation factor, max:				
At 10^3 Hz	0.0003	0.0003	0.0003	0.0003
At 10^6 Hz	0.0007	0.0009	0.0007	0.0007

Procedure A of Practice **D618** for a period of at least 4 h prior to test. The other tests require no conditioning.

9.2 Conduct tests at the Standard Laboratory Temperature of $23 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ ($73.4 \pm 3.6^\circ\text{F}$) for determination of specific gravity and tensile properties only. Since this resin does not absorb water, the maintenance of constant humidity during testing is not necessary. Conduct tests for melt flow rate and melting point under ordinary laboratory conditions.

10. Packaging and Marking

10.1 *Packaging*—The resin pellets shall be packaged in standard commercial containers so constructed as to ensure acceptance by common or other carriers for safe transportation to the point of delivery, unless otherwise specified in the contract or order.

10.2 *Marking*—Shipping containers shall be marked with the name of the material, type, and quantity contained therein.

10.3 All packing, packaging, and marking provisions of Practice **D3892** shall apply to this specification.

11. Test Methods

11.1 Melt Flow Rate:

11.1.1 *Principle of Test Method*—The melt flow rate is determined at $372 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$ using Procedure A or B described in Test Method **D1238**. The extrusion plastometer to be used is described in Test Method **D1238** modified by use of corrosion resistant alloy for the barrel lining, orifice, piston tip, and orifice securing device. Use pellets or pieces of approximately the same size cut from molded or extruded forms. Strips about 6 mm ($\frac{1}{4}$ in.) by 76 mm (3 in.) long also load readily into the barrel. Refer to Table 2 or Table 3 of Test Method **D1238** for the amount of charge which shall be adjusted accordingly with melt density of FEP being used. Usually the charge amount is 5 to 15 g. Flow rate is measured using a load of 5000 g. Collect five successive cuts for the manual method.

11.2 *Specific Gravity*—Determine the specific gravity on a specimen approximately 25.4 by 38 mm (1 by 1.5 in.) blanked or cut from the molded plaque (Section 8) in accordance with the procedures described in Test Methods **D792**. Add 2 drops of a wetting agent to the water in order to reduce the surface tension and ensure complete wetting of the specimen.

11.3 Melting Point:

11.3.1 *Melting Characteristics by Thermal Analysis*—Use differential scanning calorimetry (DSC) as described in Test Method **D4591** for this determination. For specification purposes, the test shall be run on a 10 ± 2 -mg specimen cut from a pellet of the resin as sold or received. The heating rate shall be $10 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$ ($18 \pm 1.8^\circ\text{F}$)/min. Two peaks during the initial melting test are observed occasionally. In this case, the peak temperatures shall be reported as T_1 for the lower temperature and T_u for the upper temperature. The peak temperature of the peak largest in height shall be reported as the melting point if a single value is required. If a peak temperature is difficult to discern from the curves, that is, if the peak is rounded rather than pointed, straight lines shall be drawn tangent to the sides of the peak. The temperature

corresponding to the point where these lines intersect beyond the peak shall be taken as the peak temperature.

11.4 *Tensile Properties*—Cut five bars with the microtensile die shown in Fig. 1, which is exactly the same as Fig. 1 of Test Method **D1708**. The die shall be of the steel rule or solid metal type of curvature of 5 ± 0.5 mm (0.2 ± 0.02 in.). Average the test results. Determine the tensile properties in accordance with the procedures described in Test Method **D638**, except that the specimens used shall be as detailed in Section 8, the initial jaw separation shall be 22.2 ± 0.13 mm (0.875 ± 0.005 in.), and the speed of testing shall be 50 ± 5 mm/min (2 ± 0.2 in./min). Clamp the specimen with essentially equal lengths in each jaw. Determine the elongation from the chart, expressing it as a percentage of the initial jaw separation.

NOTE 2—In determining elongation from the chart, drop a perpendicular from the break point to the time axis. Measure the distance along the time axis from the foot of this perpendicular to the beginning of the load-time curve. Then,

$$\text{Elongation, \%} = 100d / (22.2 \text{ or } 0.875)m \quad (1)$$

where:

- d = distance on chart, mm (in.),
- m = chart speed magnification,
= chart speed/crosshead speed (both in same units), and
- 22.2 = factor when d is in millimetres, or
- 0.875 = factor when d is in inches.

In making the test for tensile properties a full-scale load of 22.5 kg (50 lb) has been found suitable. If specimens break quickly, increase the chart speed so that each curve covers at least 51 mm (2 in.) on the time axis of the chart.

11.5 Precision and Bias:⁵

11.5.1 *Precision*—Table 3 is based on a round robin conducted in 1985–1986 in accordance with Practice **E691**, involving seven materials tested by six laboratories. For each material, the sheeting from which the test specimens were to be cut was obtained from one source. Using a steel rule die, one set of test specimens for each laboratory was cut by one of the laboratories. Sheeting and a duplicate die were furnished each participating laboratory and used to cut a second set of test specimens. Each test result was the average of five individual determinations. Each laboratory obtained four test results on each material, two test results each on the specimens furnished and two on the specimens cut by the laboratory doing the testing.

11.5.1.1 The properties used in the analysis are tensile strength and elongation at break. (**Warning**—The following explanations of I_r and I_R (11.5.1.4 – 11.5.1.6) are intended only to present a meaningful way of considering the approximate precision of this test method. Do not apply rigorously the data in Table 3 to the acceptance or rejection of material as those data are specific to the round robin and may not be representative of other lots, conditions, materials, or laboratories.)

11.5.1.2 Users of this test method shall apply the principles outlined in Practice **E691** to generate data specific to their laboratory and materials, or between specific laboratories. The principles of 11.5.1.4 – 11.5.1.6 would then be valid for such data.

⁵ Supporting data are available from ASTM Headquarters.