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Standard Practice for Classifying Water Bodies for Spill Control Systems¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation F625/F625M; 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 practice creates a system of categories that classify water bodies relating to the control of spills of oil and other substances that float on or into a body of water.

1.2 This practice does not address the compatibility of spill control equipment with spill products. It is the user's responsibility to ensure that any equipment selected is compatible with anticipated products.

1.3 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.

1.4 *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. Terminology

2.1 Definitions:

2.1.1 Recommended units of measure are given for each of the following definitions.

2.1.2 *air temperature*—average or point temperature of the air measured at or near the ground or water surface, (°C).

2.1.3 *current*—average water velocity relative to a reference point, (m/s).

2.1.4 *debris*—any solid or semi-solid substance that could interfere with the operation of a spill control system.

2.1.5 *water depth*—mean vertical distance measured from the surface of the water to the top of the continuous solid surface below at mean lower low water, (m).

2.1.6 *water temperature*—average or point temperature of a water body as measured within the top 300 mm [12 in.], (°C).

2.1.7 *wave height*—(significant wave height) the average height, measured crest to trough, of the one-third highest waves, considering only short-period waves (that is, period less than 10 s), (m).

2.1.8 *wave period*—(significant wave period) the average period of the one-third highest waves, measured as the elapsed time between crests of succeeding waves, (s).

2.1.9 *wind*—the air velocity measured at a height 10 metres [33 ft] above the ground or water, (m/s).

3. Summary of Practice

3.1 General environmental conditions for spill control systems are grouped into four major types of water bodies (see [Table 1](#)). Additional factors that may affect spill control operations are listed in [Section 5](#).

4. Significance and Use

4.1 This practice is to be used as a guide to classify water bodies for spill control systems. These classifications may be used in formulating standards for design, performance, evaluation, contingency and response planning, contingency and response plan evaluation, and standard practice for spill control systems.

4.2 Relatively few parameters of broad range have been used in [Table 1](#) in order to enable the user to readily identify general conditions under which spill control systems can be used.

4.3 Satisfactory operation of any specific spill control systems may not extend over the full range of conditions identified by [Table 1](#). Detailed discussion with systems suppliers is recommended.

4.4 Effective operation of oil spill control equipment depends on many factors, of which the prevailing environmental conditions are just a few. Factors such as, but not limited to, deployment techniques, level of training, personnel performance, and mechanical reliability can also affect equipment performance.

¹ This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F20 on Hazardous Substances and Oil Spill Response and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F20.11 on Control.

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TABLE 1 Water Body Classifications

Type ^A	Wave Height, ^B m [ft]	Examples of General Conditions
I—Calm Water	0 to 0.3 [0 to 1]	small, short, non-breaking waves
II—Protected Water	0 to 1 [0 to 3]	small waves, some whitecaps
III—Open Water	0 to 2 [0 to 6]	moderate waves, frequent whitecaps
IV—Open Water (rough)	>2 [>6]	large waves, foam crests and some spray

^A If current is significant, approximately 0.4 m/s [0.8 knots] or more, append “C” to the descriptor type, as “I-C”.

^B Significant wave height throughout. May include breaking waves. The ratio of wave height to wave length should also be considered. The orientation of waves to current direction should also be considered.

5. Use of Table

5.1 Wave height is recognized as the primary variable in describing marine environments for spill control systems. Where currents are significant, the four water body types listed in **Table 1** can be modified by appending “C”, as in “I-C”.

5.2 In some situations, air temperature, water temperature, or presence of debris, or a combination thereof, may significantly affect the usage of **Table 1** and should be considered.

5.3 Other factors such as presence of salt water or silt, or both, should be considered if significant.

6. Keywords

6.1 oil spill; oil spill control; water bodies

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