



Designation: **D1494 – 17** **D1494 – 22**

An American National Standard

Standard Test Method for Diffuse Light Transmission Factor of Reinforced Plastics Panels¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D1494; 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 the determination of the diffuse light transmission factor of translucent reinforced plastics building panels.

1.2 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as the standard. The values given in the parentheses are for information only.

1.3 The text of this standard references notes and footnotes which provide explanatory material. These notes and footnotes (excluding those in Tables and Figures) shall not be considered as requirements of this 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.*

NOTE 1—There is no known ISO equivalent to this standard.

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

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

[D883 Terminology Relating to Plastics](#)

[D1600 Terminology for Abbreviated Terms Relating to Plastics](#)

[E2935E456 Practice for Evaluating Equivalence of Two Testing Processes Terminology Relating to Quality and Statistics](#)

[E691 Practice for Conducting an Interlaboratory Study to Determine the Precision of a Test Method](#)

[E2935 Practice for Evaluating Equivalence of Two Testing Processes](#)

2.2 ASTM Adjuncts:

Test Cabinet for Diffuse Light Transmission Factor of Reinforced Panels³

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D20 on Plastics and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D20.24 on Plastic Building Products. Current edition approved Dec. 1, 2017/Nov. 1, 2022. Published January 2018/November 2022. Originally approved in 1957. Last previous edition approved in 2012/2017 as D1494 – 12; D1494 – 17. DOI: 10.1520/D1494-17.10.1520/D1494-22.

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 Detailed working drawings and a bill of materials for this equipment can be obtained at a nominal charge from ASTM Headquarters, 100 Barr Harbor Drive, PO Box C700, West Conshohocken, PA 19428–2959. Order Adjunct: ADJD1494.

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

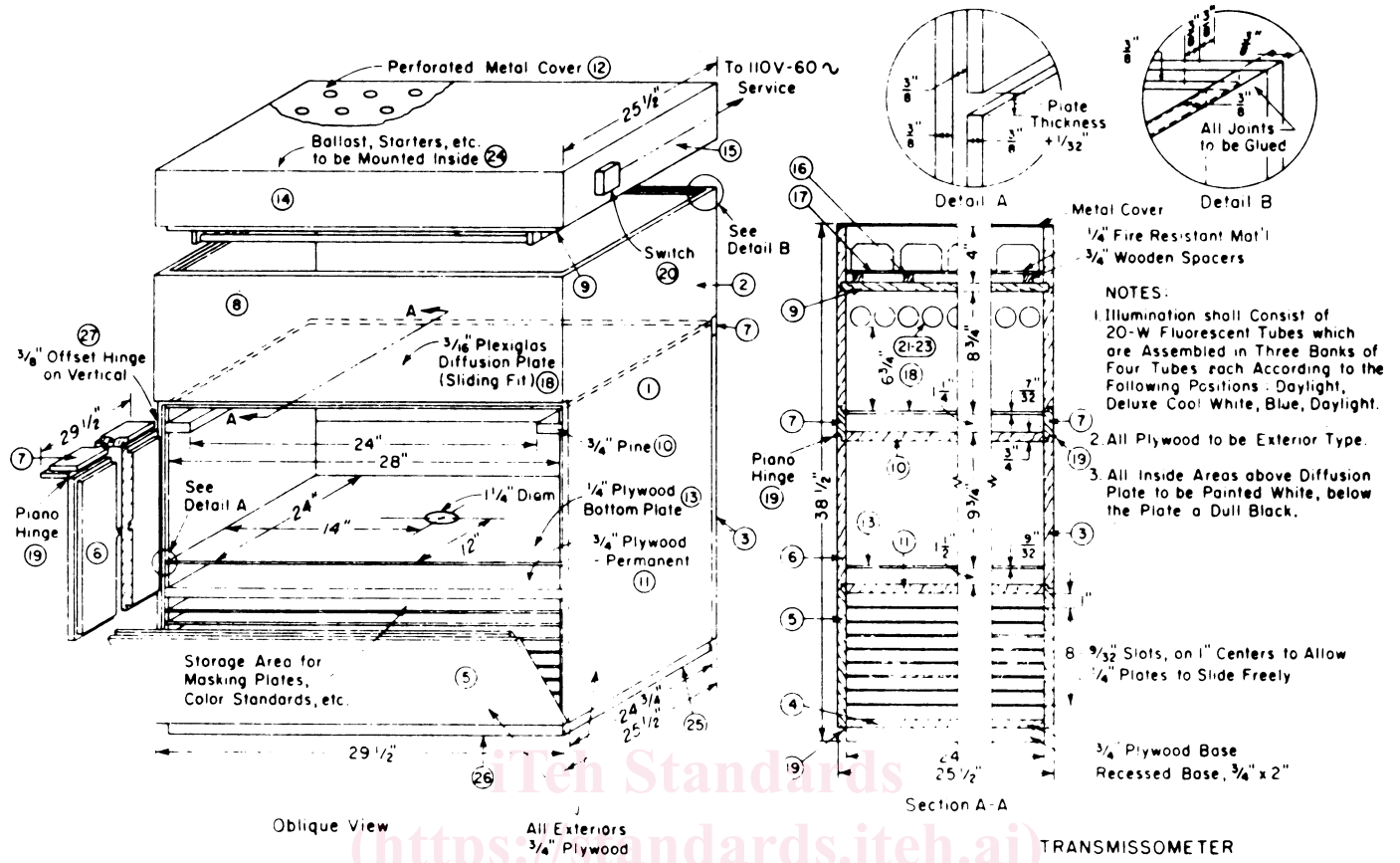


FIG. 1 Assembly Drawing of Transmissometer

Metric Equivalents

in.	mm	in.	mm	in.	mm	in.	mm
1/32	0.8	3/4	19.1	8 3/4	222	24 3/4	634
3/16	4.8	1 1/4	31.8	9 3/4	248	25 1/2	648
7/32	5.6	1 1/2	38.1	12	305	28	711
1/4	6.4	2	50.8	14	356	29 1/2	749
9/32	7.1	6 3/4	172	24	610	38 1/2	978
5/8	9.5						

3. Terminology

3.1 *General*—Definitions are in accordance with ~~For definitions of terms that appear in this specification relating to plastics, refer to Terminology D883 and abbreviations with~~. For abbreviations that appear in this specification, refer to Terminology D1600; unless otherwise indicated.

3.2 For definitions of terms that appear in this practice relating to quality and statistics, refer to Terminology E456.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 The purpose of this test method is to obtain the diffuse light transmittance factor of both flat and corrugated translucent building panels by the use of simple apparatus and by employing as a light source a combination of fluorescent tubes whose energy distribution closely approximates CIE Source C.

5. Apparatus

5.1 The apparatus for this test method shall consist of a transmissometer, Fig. 1, comprising essentially the following:

5.1.1 *Light Source*—The illumination shall consist of twelve 20-W fluorescent tubes which are assembled in three banks of four tubes each, according to the following schedule: daylight, deluxe cool white, blue, and daylight.

5.1.2 *Photometer*—The photometer shall consist of a photocell and of a galvanometer. The photocell shall be of the barrier-layer type and shall contain a visual correction filter. The assembly preferably should be hermetically sealed into plastic as a protection against moisture. The indicating galvanometer should contain one scale graduated from 0 to 100, and a circuit with sufficient variable resistance so that the sensitivity of the photometer can be adjusted over the range of 50 to 100 footcandles.

5.1.3 *Test Cabinet*, constructed in accordance with the following dimensions.³

5.1.3.1 The transmitted area of the test specimen shall be 610.0 ± 1.6 mm by 610.0 ± 1.6 mm ($24 \pm \frac{1}{16}$ in. by $24 \pm \frac{1}{16}$ in.).

5.1.3.2 The distance from the bottom of the fluorescent tubes to the bottom of the test specimen shall be 203.0 ± 0.8 mm ($8 \pm \frac{1}{32}$ in.).

5.1.3.3 A 4.8-mm ($\frac{3}{16}$ -in.) thick, white, standard outdoor, translucent diffusing plate shall be placed between the light source and the test specimen so that the distance from the bottom of the diffusing plate to the bottom of the test specimen is 31.8 ± 0.8 mm ($1\frac{1}{4} \pm \frac{1}{32}$ in.).

5.1.3.4 The photocell shall be positioned below the center axis of the test specimen so that the distance from the bottom of the specimen to the top of the cell is 283.0 ± 0.8 mm ($11\frac{1}{8} \pm \frac{1}{32}$ in.).

5.1.3.5 A masking plate containing a 31.8-mm ($1\frac{1}{4}$ -in.) diameter hole in its center shall be placed between the test specimen and the photocell so that the distance from the bottom of the test specimen to the bottom of the masking plate shall be 233.0 ± 0.8 mm ($9\frac{3}{4} \pm \frac{1}{32}$ in.).

6. Standardization of Transmissometer

6.1 Center the photocell beneath the 31.8-mm ($1\frac{1}{4}$ -in.) diameter hole in the bottom masking plate. Place the galvanometer in a flat level position. Ensure that no current flows in the electrical circuit by opening the circuit. Adjust the position of the indicating needle on the galvanometer to read “0” by means of the zero adjustment knob. Close the galvanometer circuit. Turn on the illumination in the transmissometer. Wait a minimum of 20 min to permit the transmissometer to reach equilibrium conditions. Adjust the galvanometer to read “100.” The instrument is now ready to be used for measurements of diffuse light transmission factor.

7. Test Specimens

7.1 The test specimens shall consist of translucent reinforced plastic panels having a minimum length of 610 mm (24 in.) and a width greater than 610 mm (24 in.), but not exceeding 711 mm (28 in.).

8. Conditioning

8.1 *Conditioning*—Condition the test specimens at $23 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ ($73 \pm 4^\circ\text{F}$) and $50 \pm 10\%$ relative humidity for not less than 40 h prior to test in accordance with Procedure A of Practice D618, for those test methods where conditioning is required. In cases of disagreement, the tolerances shall be $\pm 1^\circ\text{C}$ ($\pm 2^\circ\text{F}$) and $\pm 5\%$ relative humidity.

8.2 *Test Conditions*—Conduct tests in the Standard Laboratory Atmosphere of $23 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ ($73 \pm 4^\circ\text{F}$) and $50 \pm 10\%$ relative humidity, unless otherwise specified in the test methods or in this specification. In cases of disagreement, the tolerances shall be $\pm 1^\circ\text{C}$ ($\pm 2^\circ\text{F}$) and $\pm 5\%$ relative humidity.

9. Procedure

9.1 In making a measurement, place the test specimen in the test cabinet so that it completely covers the 610 by 610-mm (24 by 24-in.) space. The transmittance is read on the galvanometer in percent.

10. Report

10.1 The report shall include the following: