



Designation: D3994 – 22

Standard Performance Specification for Woven Swimwear Fabrics¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D3994; 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 performance specification covers woven fabrics for use in men's, women's and children's swimwear, composed of any textile fiber or mixture of textile fibers.

1.2 These requirements apply to the length and width directions for those properties where fabric direction is pertinent.

1.3 The following safety hazards caveat pertains only to the test method described in 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

D123 Terminology Relating to Textiles

D434 Test Method for Resistance to Slippage of Yarns in Woven Fabrics Using a Standard Seam (Withdrawn 2003)³

D1424 Test Method for Tearing Strength of Fabrics by Falling-Pendulum (Elmendorf-Type) Apparatus

¹ This performance specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D13 on Textiles and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D13.61 on Apparel.

Current edition approved Nov. 1, 2022. Published November 2022. Originally approved in 1981. Last previous edition approved in 2014 as D3994 – 14. DOI: 10.1520/D3994-22.

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 The last approved version of this historical standard is referenced on www.astm.org.

D2261 Test Method for Tearing Strength of Fabrics by the Tongue (Single Rip) Procedure (Constant-Rate-of-Extension Tensile Testing Machine)

D2622 Test Method for Sulfur in Petroleum Products by Wavelength Dispersive X-ray Fluorescence Spectrometry

D2905 Practice for Statements on Number of Specimens for Textiles (Withdrawn 2008)³

D5034 Test Method for Breaking Strength and Elongation of Textile Fabrics (Grab Test)

D7022 Terminology Relating to Apparel³

2.2 AATCC Test Methods:⁴

TM8 Colorfastness to Crocking: Crockmeter Method

TM15 Colorfastness to Perspiration

TM16.3 Colorfastness to Light

TM23 Colorfastness to Burnt Gas Fumes

TM61 Colorfastness to Laundering: Accelerated

TM106 Colorfastness to Water: Sea

TM107 Colorfastness to Water

TM116 Colorfastness to Crocking: Rotary Vertical Crockmeter Method

TM129 Colorfastness to Ozone in the Atmosphere Under High Humidities

TM135 Dimensional Changes of Fabrics After Home Laundering

TM162 Colorfastness to Water: Chlorinated Pool

TM172 Colorfastness to Powdered Non-Chlorine Bleach in Home Laundering

TM188 Colorfastness to Chlorine Bleach in Home Laundering

EP1 Gray Scale for Color Change

EP2 Gray Scale for Staining

EP8 AATCC 9-Step Chromatic Transference Scale

2.3 Federal Standard:

16 CFR 1610 Standard for Flammability of Clothing Textiles⁵

⁴ Available from American Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists (AATCC), P.O. Box 12215, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709, <http://www.aatcc.org>.

⁵ Available from Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402.

16 CFR, Chapter II—Consumer Product Safety Commission, Subchapter D—Flammable Fabrics Act Regulations⁵

2.4 *Military Standard:*

MIL-STD-105D Sampling Procedures and Tables for Inspection by Attributes⁶

NOTE 1—Reference to test methods in this standard give only the permanent part of the designation of ASTM, AATCC, or other test methods. The current editions of each test method cited shall prevail.

3. Terminology

3.1 For all terminology related to Apparel see Terminology D7022.

3.1.1 The following terms are relevant to this standard: swimwear.

3.2 For terms relating to chemical or colorfastness testing, refer to specific AATCC methods. For definitions of all other textile terms see Terminology D123.

⁶ Available from Standardization Documents Order Desk, Bldg. 4 Section D, 700 Robbins Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19111-5094, Attn: NPODS.

4. Specification Requirements

4.1 The properties of fabrics for woven swimwear shall conform to the specification requirements in Table 1.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 Upon mutual agreement between the purchaser and the supplier, woven fabrics intended for this end use should meet all of the requirements listed in Table 1 of this specification.

5.2 It is recognized that for purposes of fashion or aesthetics the ultimate consumer of articles made from these fabrics may find acceptable fabrics that do not conform to all of the requirements in Table 1. Therefore, one or more of the requirements listed in Table 1 may be modified by mutual agreement between the purchaser and the supplier.

5.2.1 In such cases, any references to the specification shall specify that: “This fabric meets ASTM Specification D3994, except for the following characteristic(s).”

5.3 Where no prepurchase agreement has been reached between the purchaser and the supplier, and in case of controversy, the requirements listed in Table 1 are intended to be used as a guide only. As noted in 5.2, ultimate consumer

TABLE 1 Specification Requirements

NOTE 1—Grade in a, b, and c is based on a numerical scale of 5 for negligible or no color change or color transfer to 1 for very severe color change or color transfer.

Characteristic	Requirements	Section
Breaking strength (load) ^A (CRT):		7.1
Nonstretch fabrics	133 N (30 lbf), min	
Stretch fabrics	89 N (20 lbf), min @ 40 % or greater elongation	
Yarn slippage ¼-in. (6-mm) separation	89 N (20 lbf), min	7.2
Tear strength (nonstretch direction)	6.7 N (1.5 lbf), min	7.3
Dimensional change:		
Laundering	3 %, max	7.4.1
Colorfastness:		7.5
Burnt gas fumes—1 cycle		7.5.1
Shade change, original fabric and after 1 laundering	Grade 4 ^B , min	
Sodium Hypochlorite Bleach	Grade 4 ^B , min	7.5.10
Powdered Non-Chlorine Bleach	Grade 4 ^B , min	7.5.11
Laundering ^E		7.5.2
Shade change	Grade 4 ^B , min	
Staining	Grade 4 ^C , min	
Crocking ^E		7.5.3
Dry	Grade 4 ^D , min	
Wet	Grade 4 ^D , min	
Water ^E		7.5.4
Shade change	Grade 4 ^B , min	
Staining	Grade 4 ^C , min	
Chlorinated Pool	Grade 4 ^B	7.5.5
Perspiration ^E		7.5.6
Shade change	Grade 4 ^B	
Staining	Grade 4 ^C	
Sea water ^E		7.5.7
Shade change	Grade 4 ^B , min	
Staining	Grade 4 ^C , min	
Ozone		
Shade change	Grade 3–4 ^B , min	
Light (20 AFUs) (xenon-arc)	Grade 4 ^B , min	7.5.9
Flammability	Class 1 or Class 2	7.6

^A See Note 2.

^B AATCC Gray Scale for Color Change.

^C AATCC Gray Scale for Staining.

^D AATCC 9-Step Chromatic Transference Scale.

^E See Note 7.

demands dictate varying performance parameters for any particular style of fabric.

5.4 The significance and use of particular properties and test methods are discussed in the appropriate sections of the specified test methods.

6. Sampling

6.1 *Acceptance Testing Lot*—Unless there is prior agreement consider as a lot for acceptance testing all material of a single item received as a single shipment.

6.2 *Lot Sample*—As a lot sample for acceptance testing, take at random the number of rolls as directed in an applicable specification or other agreement between the purchaser and the seller, such as an agreement to use MIL-STD-105D.

6.3 *Laboratory Sample*—From each roll or piece in the lot sample, cut two laboratory samples the full width of the fabric and at least 375 mm (15 in.) along the selvage.

6.4 *Test Specimens*— Take the number of specimens directed in each of the applicable test methods. Perform the tests on the fabric as it will reach the customer. Any “partially finished” or “post-finish” fabrics should be processed in accordance with the fabric manufacturer’s instructions.

6.5 If the applicable test method does not specify the number of specimens, use the procedures in Practice D2905 to determine the number of specimens per laboratory sampling unit. Use (1) a reliable estimate of the variability of individual observations on similar materials in the user’s laboratory, (2) a 95 % probability level, and (3) an allowable difference of 5 % of the average between the test results on laboratory sampling units and the average for the laboratory sampling unit. The average for a laboratory sampling unit is the average that would be obtained by applying the test method to all of the potential specimens from that laboratory sampling unit.

7. Test Methods

7.1 *Breaking Force*— Determine the dry breaking force, in the standard atmosphere for testing textiles, as directed in Test Method D5034, using a constant rate of traverse (CRT) tensile testing machine with the speed of the pulling clamp at 300 + 10 mm (12 + 0.5 in.)/min.

NOTE 2—Fabrics that include fibers which are known to lose strength when wet, such as rayon, should be tested for wet breaking strength, also.

NOTE 3—If preferred, the use of a constant-rate-of-extension (CRE) testing machine is permitted. The crosshead speed should be as agreed between the purchaser and the supplier. There may be no overall correlation between the results obtained with the CRT and the CRE machines. Consequently these two breaking load testers cannot be used interchangeably. In case of controversy, the CRT machine shall prevail.

7.2 *Resistance to Yarn Slippage*—Determine the resistance to yarn slippage as directed in Test Method D434.

NOTE 4—The precision of Test Method D434 has not been established, and it may not be suitable for fabrics with low yarn counts in terms of the number of ends and picks per inch.

7.3 *Tear Strength*— Determine the tear strength in the nonstretch direction as directed in Test Method D1424.

NOTE 5—If preferred, the use of Test Methods D2261 or D2622 is permitted with existing requirements as given in this standard. There may

be no overall correlation between the results obtained by the tongue tear method and the Elmendorf method. Consequently these two tear testers cannot be used interchangeably. In case of controversy, Test Method D1424 shall prevail.

7.4 Dimensional Change:

7.4.1 *Laundering*—Determine the maximum dimensional change after five launderings as directed in the applicable procedure in AATCC TM135 or as agreed between the purchaser and supplier.

7.4.1.1 The wash conditions and drying procedure shall be as agreed between the purchaser and the supplier.

7.5 Colorfastness:

7.5.1 *Burnt Gas Fumes*— Determine the colorfastness to burnt gas fumes on the original fabric and after one laundering as directed in AATCC TM23.

NOTE 6—Washing conditions shall be the same as those used in 7.4.1.1.

7.5.2 *Laundering*—Determine the colorfastness to laundering as directed in the applicable procedure of AATCC TM61. The test conditions shall be agreed between the purchaser and the supplier.

NOTE 7—It has been reported that the results for staining, obtained by standard AATCC Test Methods, on fabrics dyed to dark shades that contain a combination of polyester and spandex, or their blends, may not show the full staining propensity of such fabrics in consumer use. It is, therefore, recommended that the staining results obtained by these tests not be used for acceptance testing of such fabrics.

7.5.3 *Colorfastness to Crocking*—Determine the colorfastness to dry and wet crocking as directed in AATCC TM8 for solid shades and AATCC TM116 for prints or as agreed between the purchaser and the supplier (see Note 7).

7.5.4 *Colorfastness to Water*—Determine the colorfastness to water as directed in AATCC TM107 (see Note 7).

7.5.5 *Colorfastness to Water-Chlorinated Pool*—Determine the colorfastness as directed in AATCC TM162.

7.5.6 *Colorfastness to Perspiration*—Determine the colorfastness to perspiration as directed in AATCC TM15 (see Note 7).

7.5.7 *Colorfastness to Sea Water*—Determine the colorfastness to sea water as directed in AATCC TM106 (see Note 7).

7.5.8 *Colorfastness to Ozone*—Determine the colorfastness to ozone as directed in AATCC TM129.

7.5.9 *Colorfastness to Light*—Determine the colorfastness to light as directed in AATCC TM16.3.

NOTE 8—There are distinct differences in spectral distribution between the various types of machines listed in AATCC TM16.3, with no overall correlations between them. Consequently, these machines cannot be used interchangeably. In case of controversy, results obtained with the Water Cooled Xenon Arc machine listed in Option 3 shall prevail.

7.5.10 *Colorfastness to Sodium Hypochlorite Bleach*—Determine the colorfastness to chlorine bleach as directed in AATCC TM188.

7.5.11 *Colorfastness to Powdered Non-Chlorine Bleach*—Determine the colorfastness to non-chlorine bleach as directed in AATCC TM172.

7.6 *Flammability*— The flammability requirements shall be as agreed between the purchaser and the supplier, provided