



Designation: C656 – 17 (Reapproved 2023)

Standard Specification for Structural Insulating Board, Calcium Silicate¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This specification covers structural insulating board for general thermal insulating, fire-resistive, and marine bulkhead applications. The rigid, preformed structural insulating board is for use at temperatures up to 1700°F (927°C). For specific applications, the actual temperature limit shall be agreed upon between the manufacturer and the purchaser.

1.2 The structural insulating board maintains its structural integrity after immersion in water.

1.3 Rapid cycling over a wide temperature range is not recommended because of potential damage due to thermal shock.

1.4 The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as standard. The values given in parentheses are mathematical conversions to SI units that are provided for information only and are not considered standard.

1.5 When the installation or use of thermal insulation materials, accessories and systems, may pose safety or health problems, the manufacturer shall provide the user appropriate current information regarding any known problems associated with the recommended use of the company's products, and shall also recommend protective measures to be employed in their safe utilization. The user shall establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory requirements prior to use.

1.6 *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.*

1.7 *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.*

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee C16 on Thermal Insulation and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee C16.20 on Homogeneous Inorganic Thermal Insulations.

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2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

- C165 Test Method for Measuring Compressive Properties of Thermal Insulations
- C168 Terminology Relating to Thermal Insulation
- C177 Test Method for Steady-State Heat Flux Measurements and Thermal Transmission Properties by Means of the Guarded-Hot-Plate Apparatus
- C203 Test Methods for Breaking Load and Flexural Properties of Block-Type Thermal Insulation
- C303 Test Method for Dimensions and Density of Preformed Block and Board-Type Thermal Insulation
- C356 Test Method for Linear Shrinkage of Preformed High-Temperature Thermal Insulation Subjected to Soaking Heat
- C390 Practice for Sampling and Acceptance of Thermal Insulation Lots
- C411 Test Method for Hot-Surface Performance of High-Temperature Thermal Insulation
- C447 Practice for Estimating the Maximum Use Temperature of Thermal Insulations
- C518 Test Method for Steady-State Thermal Transmission Properties by Means of the Heat Flow Meter Apparatus
- C1045 Practice for Calculating Thermal Transmission Properties Under Steady-State Conditions
- C1058 Practice for Selecting Temperatures for Evaluating and Reporting Thermal Properties of Thermal Insulation
- D1037 Test Methods for Evaluating Properties of Wood-Base Fiber and Particle Panel Materials
- E136 Test Method for Assessing Combustibility of Materials Using a Vertical Tube Furnace at 750 °C

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—The definitions in Terminology C168 shall apply to the terms used in this specification.

4. Classification

4.1 The structural insulating boards shall be of the following types:

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.

- 4.1.1 *Type I*—Maximum use temperature 1400°F (760°C).
- 4.1.2 *Type II*—Maximum use temperature 1700°F (927°C).

Length	Width	Thickness
±1/8 in. (3 mm)	±1/8 in. (3 mm)	±1/16 in. (1.5 mm)

9. Workmanship, Finish, and Appearance

9.1 Calcium silicate structural insulating boards shall not have visible defects, such as major cracks, lumps, or excessive departure from planeness, which adversely affect service qualities.

10. Qualification Requirements

10.1 Unless otherwise specified, the following requirements shall be employed for the purpose of initial material or product qualification.

- 10.1.1 Compressive strength,
- 10.1.2 Screw holding strength,
- 10.1.3 Linear shrinkage and temperate of use,
- 10.1.4 Apparent thermal conductivity, and
- 10.1.5 Combustion characteristics.

11. Sampling

11.1 Calcium silicate structural insulating boards shall be sampled in accordance with Practice C390. Specific provisions for sampling shall be agreed upon between the purchaser and the supplier.

12. Test Methods

12.1 *Dimensions and Density*—Use Test Method C303, except that specimens shall be full-size sheets for determination of length and width and at least 12-in. (300-mm) square for determination of thickness and density.

12.2 *Flexural Strength*—Use Test Methods C203 on a 1-in. (25-mm) thick specimen.

12.3 *Compressive Strength*—Use Test Methods C165. Specimen thickness shall be 1½ in. (38 mm). Compress specimen to 10 % deformation and calculate on maximum load value.

12.4 *Screw Holding Strength*—Use Test Methods D1037, Direct Screw Withdrawal Test. Test at least three specimens,

4.2 The structural insulating boards shall be of the following grades:

- 4.2.1 *Grade 1*—Typical density 36 lb/ft³ (577 kg/m³).
- 4.2.2 *Grade 2*—Typical density 46 lb/ft³ (737 kg/m³).
- 4.2.3 *Grade 3*—Typical density 60 lb/ft³ (961 kg/m³).
- 4.2.4 *Grade 4*—Typical density 14 lb/ft³ (224 kg/m³).
- 4.2.5 *Grade 5*—Typical density 18 lb/ft³ (288 kg/m³).
- 4.2.6 *Grade 6*—Typical density 28 lb/ft³ (449 kg/m³).
- 4.2.7 *Grade 7*—Typical density 40 lb/ft³ (641 kg/m³).
- 4.2.8 *Grade 8*—Typical density 60 lb/ft³ (961 kg/m³).

5. Ordering Information

5.1 The type, grade, and dimensions shall be specified by the purchaser.

5.2 When a certification or test report, or both, are required, it shall be specified by the purchaser.

6. Materials and Manufacture

6.1 Calcium silicate structural insulating board shall be composed of hydrated calcium silicate with natural or man-made fibers or fillers, or a combination thereof. Asbestos shall not be used as an ingredient or component of the product.

7. Other Requirements

7.1 Calcium silicate structural insulating board shall conform to the physical and mechanical requirements specified in Table 1.

8. Dimensions and Permissible Variations

8.1 Calcium silicate structural insulating board is typically available in lengths 48 or 96 in. (1219 or 2438 mm), widths of 24 or 48 in. (610 or 1219), and thicknesses from ½ to 3in. (13 to 76 mm).

8.2 Dimensions shall be within the following tolerances of specified values:

TABLE 1 Physical and Mechanical Requirements

	Type I					Type II			
	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	
Temperature of use, max, °F (°C)	1400 (760)	1400 (760)	1400 (760)	1700 (927)	1700 (927)	1700 (927)	1700 (927)	1700 (927)	
Density, typical, lb/ft ³ (kg/m ³)	36 (577)	46 (737)	60 (961)	14 (224)	18 (288)	28 (449)	40 (641)	55 (881)	
Flexural strength, min, psi (kPa)	350 (2413)	550 (3792)	900 (6206)	100 (690)	200 (1379)	350 (2413)	800 (5516)	1200 (8274)	
Compressive strength, min, psi (kPa)	900 (6206)	1000 (6895)	2000 (13 790)	200 (1379)	300 (2069)	600 (4137)	2000 (13 790)	4000 (27 580)	
Screw-holding strength, min, lb (N)	80 (356)	120 (534)	150 (667)	NA	NA	20 (89)	150 (667)	200 (890)	
Linear shrinkage, 24 h at max use temp, max. %	2.0	2.0	3.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	
Apparent thermal conductivity, max, Btu-in./h-ft ² °F (mW/m·K):									
Test Conditions	Approximate ΔT								
Mean Temperature	Recommended								
200°F (93°C)	0.71 (102)	0.92 (133)	...	0.42 (61)	0.54 (78)	0.61 (88)	0.73 (105)	...	
400°F (204°C)	0.74 (107)	0.89 (128)	1.26 (182)	0.52 (75)	0.61 (88)	0.66 (95)	0.75 (108)	0.97 (140)	
600°F (316°C)	0.80 (115)	0.87 (125)	1.28 (185)	0.67 (97)	0.67 (97)	0.73 (105)	0.78 (113)	0.99 (143)	
800°F (427°C)	0.88 (127)	0.90 (130)	1.29 (186)	0.87 (125)	0.73 (105)	0.80 (115)	0.84 (121)	1.05 (151)	
Combustion characteristics, Test Method E136:	Passing	Passing	Passing	Passing	Passing	Passing	Passing	Passing	
Hot-surface Performance									
Warpage, in. (mm)	max				¼ in. (6 mm)				
Cracking	No cracks completely through the insulation thickness. Surface cracks on hot face are acceptable.								