



Designation: D2746/D2746M – 18 (Reapproved 2023)

Standard Test Method for Staining Tendency of Asphalt (Stain Index)¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D2746/D2746M; 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 test method covers the determination of the staining tendency of asphalt and the assignment of a stain index proportional to the extent of staining observed.

1.2 This test method is applicable to asphalts having ring-and-ball softening points of 85 °C [185 °F] or greater.

NOTE 1—This test method may be modified for use with other bituminous materials with softening points less than 85 °C [185 °F] by using a different temperature than specified in Section 7 by agreement of the interested parties. The report of results from such a test may cite this method but must clearly state the temperature employed in the exception and acknowledge that the interpretation of results in Section 9 and the precision and bias stated in Section 10 may not apply.

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 nonconformance with the standard.

1.4 *This standard does not purport to address 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. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D08 on Roofing and Waterproofing and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D08.02 on Steep Roofing Products and Assemblies.

Current edition approved May 1, 2023. Published May 2023. Originally approved in 1991. Last previous edition approved in 2018 as D2746/D2746M – 18. DOI: 10.1520/D2746_D2746M-18R23.

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.

D36/D36M Test Method for Softening Point of Bitumen (Ring-and-Ball Apparatus)

D140/D140M Practice for Sampling Asphalt Materials
E230/E230M Specification for Temperature-Electromotive Force (emf) Tables for Standardized Thermocouples

E1137/E1137M Specification for Industrial Platinum Resistance Thermometers

E2251 Specification for Liquid-in-Glass ASTM Thermometers with Low-Hazard Precision Liquids

3. Summary of Test Method

3.1 A horizontal disc of asphalt, cast in a brass retaining ring, is placed on a sheet of filter paper supported on a flat plate and heated at 80 °C [175 °F] for 120 h. The diameter of the resulting stained circle on the paper is compared to the inside diameter of the brass ring to determine the staining characteristic of the asphalt. The stain index is the difference between the diameter of the stained circle and the initial disc diameter measured to the nearest 0.5 mm [$1/64$ in.].

4. Significance and Use

4.1 This test method measures the tendency for oil components to separate spontaneously from asphalt. The separation of oil components can cause staining in asphalt roofing products and adjacent materials in storage and use.

4.2 The stain index is related to the thermal stability of the asphalt. Higher stain index values indicate lower stability and greater tendency for staining.

4.3 Use this procedure to determine the staining tendency of asphalt and to compare the results against a material for which the staining tendency is known.

5. Apparatus

5.1 *Rings*—Square shouldered brass retaining rings conforming to the dimensions required for use in the ring-and-ball softening point apparatus (see Fig. 1(a) of Test Method D36/D36M).

5.1.1 The inside diameter of the ring to be placed in contact with the filter paper during the test is 16 mm [$40/64$ in.].

NOTE 2—This test method depends on accurate measurement of diameter and precise alignment of the face and rim of the ring on a flat surface. Therefore, deformed rings must not be used.

5.2 *Pouring Plate*—A flat, smooth, brass plate approximately 50 by 75 mm [2 by 3 in.].

5.3 *Paper*—Filter paper of the standard double acid-washed analytical grade.³

5.3.1 The filter paper must be of sufficient area to accommodate the number of samples and the known material arranged as described in 7.3.

5.4 *Support Plate*—A flat, clean, smooth metal plate approximately 1.5 mm [$1/16$ in.] thick and area at least sufficient to support the size of filter paper being used.

5.5 *Oven*—A constant temperature oven capable of maintaining the test temperature of 80 °C [175 °F] within ± 1 °C [± 2 °F].

5.6 *Thermometric Device*—The thermometric device used shall be at least: (1) of equal accuracy to that of the S12C (or S12F) thermometer specified in Specification E2251, (2) capable of indicating temperature to within 1 °C [2 °F], and (3) stable to within 1 °C [2 °F] for the duration of the exposure.

5.6.1 When used, platinum resistance thermometers shall be in accordance with the requirements of Specification E1137/E1137M.

5.6.2 When used, thermocouples shall be in accordance with the requirements of Specification E230/E230M.

5.7 *Measuring Rule*—A steel rule graduated in 0.5 mm [64ths of an inch].

5.7.1 *Hole Template*—A metal or plastic template provided with holes of diameter from 16 to 24 mm [$40/64$ to $60/64$ in.] in 0.5 mm [$1/64$ in.] increments may be used as an alternative to the steel rule to measure the diameter of the stain circle after the test.

6. Sampling

6.1 Sample the material in accordance with Practice D140/D140M.

7. Procedure

7.1 Melt the asphalt sample and pour into the preheated brass softening point ring, allow to cool, and trim off the excess asphalt from each face of the ring as described in Test Method D36/D36M.

7.1.1 It is important that the lower face and rim of the ring (16 mm [$40/64$ in.] inside diameter) be clean and that the asphalt disc completely fill the ring and be flush with the lower face. There should be no trace of any release agent which may have been used on the pouring plate (see Test Method D36/D36M) on either the lower face of the ring or the asphalt.

7.2 Place the filter paper on the flat support plate and put the filled and trimmed softening point rings on the paper with the 16 mm [$40/64$ in.] diameter asphalt disc face in contact with the paper. Each ring should be no closer than 40 mm [1.5 in.] from the edge of the filter paper or from another ring.

7.2.1 The known material (Note 3) must be placed on the same piece of filter paper and support plate as the sample(s) being tested.

NOTE 3—The “known” material for the purpose of this test is a material whose staining tendency is known to the investigator and which is used to compare with the material being tested (see also Note 6).

7.2.2 Identify each asphalt sample and known material by appropriately marking the filter paper in pencil near each ring.

7.3 Place the entire assembly on the support plate in the oven, preheated to 80 ± 1 °C [175 ± 2 °F], and allow to remain at that temperature for 120 ± 1 h.

7.4 Remove the assembly on the support plate from the oven and allow to cool to room temperature (about 24 °C [75 °F]).

7.5 Remove the ring and the asphalt disc from the filter paper, taking care to avoid tearing of the paper.

7.6 Determine and record the average of three measurements, taken at about 120° apart, of the diameter of the stained circle on the filter paper expressed numerically in 0.4 mm units [64ths of an inch] to the nearest 0.4 mm [$1/64$ in.] using a steel rule.

7.6.1 Alternatively, use the hole template and determine the diameter of the hole which best fits the stained circle on the filter paper and record the result numerically in 0.4 mm units [64ths of an inch] to the nearest 0.4 mm [$1/64$ in.].

8. Calculation and Interpretation of Results

8.1 Subtract the initial diameter of the asphalt disc expressed numerically in 0.4 mm units [64ths of an inch], that is, 40 from the average, or best fit, diameter of the stained circle on the filter paper expressed numerically in 0.4 mm units [64ths of an inch] to obtain the stain index.

NOTE 4—If the dimensional measurements have been made in metric units, the average diameter *must* be converted to inch units at this point in order to compute the numerical value for stain index which is derived from the diameter expressed numerically in 64ths of an inch.

NOTE 5—Example: If the average, or best fit, diameter of the stained circle on the filter paper is 19.5 mm [$49/64$ in.], then the stain index = $49 - 40 = 9$.

8.2 *Interpretation of Results*—The following ranges of stain index have been determined to represent the staining tendency of asphalts used in the production of asphalt roofing shingles.

Stain Index	Staining Tendency
0 to 10	low
10 to 20	moderate
Greater than 20	high

The staining tendency in roofing products is strongly influenced by storage conditions, especially temperature and time, by the pressure generated in stacked material from the mass of material in the overlying stack, and by the nature, amount, and distribution of backsurfacing material.

9. Report

9.1 Report the stain index value determined as in 8.1.

10. Precision and Bias

10.1 Results of two properly conducted tests by a single operator should not differ by more than two stain index

³ The sole source of supply of the paper known to the committee at this time is Whatman No. 40 filter paper, available from laboratory supply and service companies. If you are aware of alternative suppliers, please provide this information to ASTM International Headquarters. Your comments will receive careful consideration at a meeting of the responsible technical committee,¹ which you may attend.