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Standard Specification for Performance of Flame Mitigation Devices Installed in Disposable and Pre-Filled Flammable Liquid Containers¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation F3429/F3429M; 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 reappraisal. A superscript epsilon (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reappraisal.

1. Scope

1.1 This specification establishes performance requirements for the performance of flame mitigation devices (FMDs) installed in disposable and pre-filled liquid containers, intended for consumer use where the liquid flashpoint is below 60 °C [140 °F].

1.1.1 Uses of disposable and pre-filled flammable liquid containers include but are not limited to fuels, fire starters, and additives for internal combustion engines.

1.1.2 An FMD that complies with this specification minimizes the potential of flame jetting or container rupture from occurring.

1.1.3 Containers without a significant area reduction at the container opening are not covered because there is no hazard of a flame jet or container rupture because an internal pressure rise does not result from an internal ignition. (See [Appendix X1](#).)

1.2 This specification does not apply to the following containers:

1.2.1 Containers greater than 20 L [5.3 gal] or smaller than 100 mL [3.4 oz] in volume.

1.2.2 Containers intended for beverages.

1.2.3 Portable fuel containers as defined in Specification [F852/F852M](#).

1.2.4 One-time use portable emergency fuel containers for use by consumers as defined in Specification [F2874](#).

1.2.5 Containers not intended to be open to ambient conditions such as those for liquefied petroleum gas.

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 are not necessarily exact equivalents; therefore, to ensure conformance with the standard, each system shall be used independently of the other, and values from the two systems shall not be combined.

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.* Information on specific hazards associated with the test methods in this specification is shown in Section [4.4](#).

1.5 This specification does not address hazards caused by fire and explosion nor hazards from vapors external to the container when the fuel in the container does not ignite. Further, this specification does not consider scenarios where confinement, obstructions, or preheating cause flame acceleration prior to the flame front reaching the interior of the container.

1.6 This standard is used to measure and describe the response of materials, products, or assemblies to heat and flame under controlled conditions, but does not by itself incorporate all factors required for fire-hazard or fire-risk assessment of the materials, products, or assemblies under actual fire conditions.

1.7 Fire testing is inherently hazardous. Adequate safeguards for personnel and property shall be employed in conducting these tests.

1.8 *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

[D3828](#) Test Methods for Flash Point by Small Scale Closed Cup Tester

[D4359](#) Test Method for Determining Whether a Material Is a Liquid or a Solid

[F852/F852M](#) Specification for Portable Gasoline, Kerosene, and Diesel Containers for Consumer Use

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F15 on Consumer Products and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F15.72 on Pre-Filled Containers of Flammable and Combustible Liquids.

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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.

F2874 Specification for One Time Use Portable Emergency Fuel Containers (PEFC) for Use by Consumers

2.2 *NFPA Standards*:³

NFPA 68 Standard on Explosion Protection by Deflagration Venting

NFPA 497 Recommended Practice for the Classification of Flammable Liquids, Gases, or Vapors and of Hazardous (Classified) Locations for Electrical Installations in Chemical Process Areas

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions:

3.1.1 *disposable and pre-filled flammable liquid container, n*—a vessel, which includes a closure for storage or dispensing pre-filled with flammable liquids, that is intended and designed to be poured and discarded or recycled (and not re-filled) after the flammable liquids are fully consumed in one or multiple uses.

3.1.1.1 *Discussion*—In this specification, “container” means “disposable and pre-filled flammable liquid fuel container.”

3.1.2 *equivalence ratio, n*—the ratio of fuel concentration in the actual fuel-air mixture divided by the fuel concentration in a stoichiometric mixture.

3.1.3 *flame jetting, n*—phenomenon where an external ignition source causes a sudden ignition within a liquid container that directionally propels burning vapor and liquid from the mouth of the container.

3.1.3.1 *Discussion*—Flame jetting requires the burning vapor and liquid to travel a lengthy distance from the container, relative to the intended use and application. Often, flame jetting will occur when pouring from the container; in these situations flame jetting occurs only when the burning liquid and vapor are propelled reasonably beyond the pouring target. The presence of a small flame in the immediate vicinity of the mouth of the container is not considered flame jetting.

3.1.4 *flame mitigation device (FMD), n*—a device or feature attached to, installed in, or otherwise integral to, a container that is expected to inhibit the propagation of an external flame into the container.

3.1.4.1 *Discussion*—A flame arrester is a type of FMD that prevents the propagation of flame through quenching, or removal of heat from the flame. Other examples of FMDs include, but are not limited to, expanded metal mesh, screens, bladders, pinhole restrictors, and pumps.

3.1.5 *fundamental burning velocity, n*—the velocity of a laminar flame under stated conditions of composition, temperature, and pressure through a mixture of unburnt fuel and oxidizer gases.

3.1.6 *maximum experimental safe gap (MESG), n*—a standardized measurement of how easily a gas flame will pass through a narrow gap bordered by heat absorbing metal.

3.1.6.1 *Discussion*—Industry practice is to report MESG in millimeters (mm), therefore MESG is only reported in millimeters (mm) in this specification.

³ Available from National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169-7471, <http://www.nfpa.org>.

3.1.7 *removable spout, n*—a device included with the container that is intended and allows for the consumer can easily attach, remove, and reattach without the use of tools.

3.1.7.1 *Discussion*—While a removable spout is not required in order to pour liquid from a container, the spout will allow, when attached, flammable liquid to pass through it.

4. Significance and Use and Limitations

4.1 These test methods are intended to provide a challenge as severe as possible to FMDs made of polymers or other materials that have the potential to swell, melt, or self-close in some other fashion when exposed to direct flame impingement.

4.2 The endurance flame test required by 5.2 and described in Section 8 is intended to challenge the performance of such FMDs when exposed to sustained thermal exposures.

4.3 The flashback flame test required by 5.3 and described in Section 9 does not necessarily provide the most severe test to such FMDs. It is intended to challenge the performance of such FMDs.

4.4 Hazards:

4.4.1 The test methods in Sections 8 and 9 require exposure to open flames and pre-mixed flammable gases. Consider and address the inherent dangers of testing with open flames and the storage, handling, and transport of flammable gases.

4.4.2 Utilize appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) as necessary. Appropriate PPE will potentially include gloves, glasses, safety shields, and respiratory equipment, as necessary to protect from exposure to flames, heat, smoke, and combustion products.

4.4.3 The test methods require controlled pre-mixing of flammable gas and air.

4.4.3.1 Control and port the gases separately from the supply to the container under test. Mix the flammable gas and air as close as possible to the inlet to the container to limit the potential for supply line flashback.

4.4.3.2 Use an inline flame arrester placed in the pre-mixed flow path to protect from potential flashback.

(1) Use caution when selecting an inline flame arrester to be certain that it provides sufficient protection for this application. Inline flame arresters intended for protection of gases with lower maximum experimental safe gap (MESG) than the test gas are sufficient for this purpose.

4.4.4 Separate the operator from the test apparatus by a rigid wall, window, or other separation.

4.4.5 The pre-mixed flammable gases will flow for an extended duration prior to ignition. Conduct the test in an area with sufficient ventilation to remove all flammable gases from the area while limiting direct air movement around the opening to the container. Compare the calculations of total gas flow rate made in accordance with Section 7 to the volume of the test area and the volumetric flow rate of the exhaust system to prevent hazardous buildup of flammable gases.

4.4.6 Internal ignition of the pre-mixed gases occurs if a flame penetrates a container. A means to vent the internal ignition is required in 6.1.1.4 with the intention of preventing any hazardous rupture or failure of the container. It is possible

that flames will project from such means. Do not locate instrumentation or operators within the direct projection of any such means.

5. Requirements

5.1 General Requirements:

5.1.1 Confirm that the contents of the container are liquid at ambient conditions. For viscous substances, use Test Method **D4359** or equivalent to determine if the contents of the container are liquid. If the contents are not liquid, this specification does not apply.

5.1.2 Determine if the liquid is flammable. For this specification, a liquid is flammable if the flashpoint is below 60 °C [140 °F]. If the flash point of the liquid is not provided, use Test Methods **D3828**, or equivalent, to determine if the liquid has a flash point below 60 °C [140 °F]. If the liquid has a flash point at or above 60 °C [140 °F], this specification does not apply.

5.1.3 For the purposes of this specification, a valid test shall be a test conducted on an exemplar or production container, following each step in the applicable test method (Section 8 or Section 9) where no testing or environmental situation arises that would question the results of that test. Any test that is determined to be invalid requires a repeat of the test with a new test specimen.

5.2 Determine the Test Gas:

5.2.1 The MESH of the liquid fuel stored within the container shall be used to determine the test gas.

5.2.2 When the liquid is a mixture of multiple chemical constituents, the liquid shall be classified by the chemical constituent with the smallest value of MESH.

5.2.3 For liquids with a MESH greater than or equal to 0.89 mm, ethylene shall be the test gas.

NOTE 1—Ethylene has a MESH of 0.65 mm, as determined in accordance with NFPA 497.

5.2.4 For liquids with a MESH less than 0.89 mm, the test gas shall be a gas with a MESH at least 0.24 mm less than the determined liquid MESH.

NOTE 2—NFPA 497 contains a list of MESHs for many flammable liquids. **Table 1** lists some common liquids used in consumer products and their MESH values.

5.3 When tested in accordance with the endurance test in Section 8, using the test gas identified in 5.2, there shall be no internal ignitions in any valid test.

5.3.1 If the container is provided with a removable spout, there shall be no internal ignitions in any valid test when the container is separately tested both with the spout attached and with the spout removed.

5.4 When tested in accordance with the flashback flame test in Section 9, using the test gas identified in 5.2, there shall be no internal ignitions in any valid test.

5.4.1 If the container is provided with a removable spout, there shall be no internal ignitions in any valid test when the container is separately tested both with the spout attached and with the spout removed.

5.5 Functional test of the container. (Reserved, see **Appendix X2**.)

5.6 Retention test of the FMD on the container (Reserved, see **Appendix X3**.)

5.7 A container found acceptable for one flammable liquid shall also be acceptable for other flammable liquids with a MESH no less than 0.89 mm, if tested with ethylene. Alternatively, if the container has been tested with a test gas other than ethylene, it shall be acceptable for other flammable liquids with a MESH no less than that of the liquid considered in 5.2.4.

5.8 A container with the same FMD, and its attachment to the container opening, as a container which has met the requirements of this specification shall be considered as compliant with this specification.

6. General Specimen Preparation and Test Apparatus

6.1 Specimen Preparation:

6.1.1 Prepare each container as follows:

6.1.1.1 Create a sealed penetration for the influx of pre-mixed flammable gas that is at least 100 mm [4 in.] from the container opening. In order to prevent explosions in the test gas supply, protect the pre-mixed flammable gas outlet from flashback by using an appropriately sized flame arrester or comparable device. Exhaust all gas through the container opening(s). Seal all other vents or openings.

NOTE 3—For containers less than 100 mm [4 in.], see 6.1.1.5 for enlarging the container.

6.1.1.2 Insert instrumentation to determine ignition into the container (5.3). Do not insert instrumentation through the container opening. Locate instrumentation no closer than 50 mm [2 in.] from the container opening.

6.1.1.3 If the FMD fills the container volume, such as an expanded metal mesh type FMD, insert all the instrumentation and gas supply into the FMD such that the void space behind the FMD is no greater than 10 % of the volume of the FMD. If the FMD does not fill the entire container volume, locate the instrumentation in the void space.

6.1.1.4 Provide a means for venting a container ignition.

NOTE 4—When using SI units, one or more sealed explosion vents with a total area, in square centimeters, equal to or greater than the container ignitable volume, in liters, multiplied by 15, has been shown to be acceptable. [When using inch-pound units, one or more sealed explosion vents with a total area, in square inches, equal to or greater than the container ignitable volume, in gallons, multiplied by 8.8, has been shown to be acceptable.]

6.1.1.5 It is acceptable to remove a bottom portion of the container, leaving the FMD and shoulder of the container

TABLE 1 MESH of Class I Group D Flammable Liquids

Liquid Fuel	MESH (mm)
Ethanol	0.89
Methanol	0.92
n-Heptane	0.94
Ethyl Acetate	0.99
Isopropanol	1.00
Acetone	1.02

intact. Mount the container to a rigid metal or plastic base, creating a test container. Seal all penetrations and joints with an appropriate adhesive.

(I) If the FMD fills the container volume, such as an expanded metal mesh type FMD, keep all dimensions of the FMD and the container constant between the original container and the test container.

6.1.2 Seal the container opening under test and pressurize the container to a minimum of 1.1 times the absolute atmospheric pressure (~111 kPa [16.2 psi] absolute) prior to testing. Verify that the pressure loss is no greater than 0.01 times the absolute atmospheric pressure (~1.0 kPa [0.15 psi]) after 5 min.

6.1.3 Measure and record the size and location of any openings in the FMD. Calculate and record the total open area at the opening of the container and the test container volume.

6.2 Test Apparatus:

6.2.1 Mount the container securely such that the center of the opening is projected at an angle of 45° to 60° below the horizontal, as required to orient the impinging flame directly on the FMD.

6.2.2 Flammable Gas and Air Delivery:

6.2.2.1 Select the required flammable test gas in accordance with 5.2. Use a minimum of 99.5 % purity for the test gas.

6.2.2.2 Use compressed air with an inline dryer or bottled air with a certified oxygen content of between 20.4 % and 21.4 %, by volume, for the flow control and measurement apparatus.

6.2.2.3 Electronically control and record the mass flow rates of the flammable test gas and air with minimum resolution of no greater than 2 % of the combined flammable mixture flowrate, as determined by Section 7.

6.2.2.4 Mount an open tube burner below the container under test. Use non-mixed test gas for the burner. Have a means of adjusting the flow rate to the burner based on visible flame height.

6.2.2.5 Provide a means of remotely igniting the flow of flammable gas such as a spark igniter or other electronic igniter.

6.2.3 Instrumentation:

6.2.3.1 Record data at no less than 1 Hz using a data acquisition system, except record pressure at no less than 50 Hz.

6.2.3.2 Connect all instrumentation, including thermocouples, used to the data acquisition system.

6.2.4 Ensure that a means is present to prevent flashback from the container to the supply of pre-mixed gases. See 4.4.3.2.

7. Gas Flow Calculation

7.1 Calculate the flow rates of air and flammable gas based on the container opening area and the required stoichiometry of the mixture, as shown below.

7.2 Determine the container opening area, A_o .

7.2.1 Ensure that the FMD constrictions in the container mouth are accounted for. For complex FMDs, the container opening area can be calculated by multiplying the container

mouth area by the ratio of the free (open) volume within the FMD to the total volume of the FMD.

7.3 Determine the fundamental burning velocity of the test gas, v_f . NFPA 68 lists fundamental burning velocities for a number of gases. For ethylene, use a fundamental burning velocity of 0.80 m/s [31.5 in./s].

7.4 Calculate the combined flow rate of air and fuel, \dot{V}_T , by using:

$$\dot{V}_T = 1.125(A_o)(V_1) \quad (1)$$

7.4.1 Do not exceed a combined flow rate, V_T , of 815 SCCM.

7.5 Calculate the volume ratio of the fuel in the total flow, based on stoichiometry.

7.5.1 Use a slightly rich equivalence ratio equal to 1.05 times the stoichiometric ratio.

7.5.2 For ethylene use a volume ratio of 0.0735 of the total flow with the balance being air; this results in an equivalence ratio 1.05 times the stoichiometric ratio.

7.5.3 Multiply the calculated ratio by \dot{V}_T to determine the volumetric flow rate of the test gas.

7.5.4 Multiply one minus this calculated ratio by \dot{V}_T to determine the volumetric flow rate of air. The combined volumetric flow rate of the test gas and air will equal \dot{V}_T .

8. Endurance Test Method to Assess FMD Performance

8.1 Scope of the Test Method:

8.1.1 This test method evaluates a FMD installed in a container such that it ensures the external flame will not ignite the headspace inside a container during the described test.

8.2 Specimen Preparation:

8.2.1 Prepare no fewer than six (6) new, unused, empty containers representative of the finished product according to 6.1.

8.3 Test Apparatus:

8.3.1 Prepare the test containers according to the procedure in 6.2.

8.3.2 A general representation of the setup of the container for this test method, is provided in Fig. 1.

8.4 Test Procedure:

8.4.1 Connect the supply of air and of test gas to the container.

8.4.2 Calculate the flow rates of air and of flammable gas, in accordance with Section 7.

8.4.3 Verify that all connections are sealed and that the premixed gases do not leak from the container from any location other than the opening under test.

8.4.4 Provide an external exposure diffusion flame with a flame height of 50 mm ± 20 mm [2.0 in. ± 0.75 in.], by using the test gas placed under the container opening as indicated in Fig. 1. Position the tip of this flame at the bottom edge of the container opening.

8.4.5 Develop and maintain a steady flow of pre-mixed air and gas, at the appropriate air/gas ratio (in accordance with Section 7), through the container for a minimum of four test

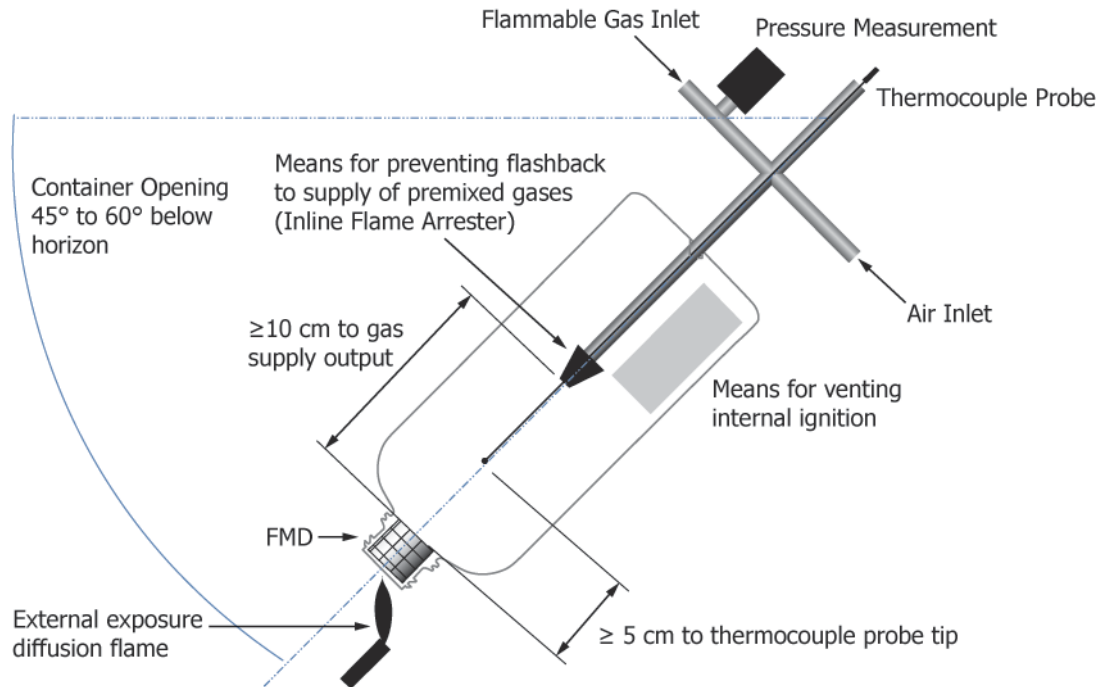


FIG. 1 Example Setup of Container for Endurance Test Method, Using a Thermocouple Probe and Pressure Measurement

container volume air changes. To ensure adequate mixing, do not exceed one (1) container volume change per minute. Reduce the combined flow rate as needed while maintaining the fuel to air ratio.

8.4.6 At the end of the required air changes in the container, initiate a flow of flammable gas through the open tube burner and then activate the remote igniter. Adjust the flame to a $50\text{ mm} \pm 20\text{ mm}$ [$2.0\text{ in.} \pm 0.75\text{ in.}$] height, which just initiates contact with the container opening.

8.4.7 Sustain the external ignition source and the flow of pre-mixed gas for a minimum period of 30 s.

8.4.8 At the end of the minimum 30 s pre-mixed gas flow period, immediately shut off the flow of pre-mixed gas through the test container.

8.4.9 Sustain the external flame exposure for 5 s after stopping the flow of pre-mixed gas.

8.4.10 Throughout the test, observe whether an internal ignition occurs. If an internal ignition is clearly observed at any point during the test, immediately stop the flow of gases and end the test.

8.4.11 If the test has been completed and no internal ignition has been observed before the end of test, determine whether internal ignition has occurred, in accordance with Section 10.

8.4.12 Repeat the steps in 8.4.1 through 8.4.12 for each separate container opening.

8.5 Repeat the test in accordance with 8.4 on no fewer than six total samples for each opening in the container.

8.6 If the container has a removable spout, test each of the six total samples with and without the removable spout attached.

8.7 Report the test as a failure if, at any time during the test, internal ignition has occurred in a test that was a valid test.

8.8 If no failures have occurred, report the test as a pass.

8.9 Precision and Bias:

8.9.1 The precision of this test method has not been determined.

8.9.2 This test method has no bias because the results are expressed purely in terms of this test method.

9. Flashback Flame Test Method to Assess FMD Performance

9.1 Scope of the Test Method:

9.1.1 This test method evaluates a FMD installed in a container such that it ensures the external flame will not ignite the headspace inside a container during the described test.

9.2 Specimen Preparation:

9.2.1 Prepare no fewer than six (6) new, unused, empty containers representative of the finished product according to 6.1.

9.3 Test Apparatus:

9.3.1 Prepare the test containers according to the procedure in 6.2.

9.3.2 Attach to the container opening a tube made of low-density polyethylene (LDPE). The LDPE tube shall have a thickness of $0.076\text{ mm} \pm 0.013\text{ mm}$ [$0.003\text{ in.} \pm 0.0005\text{ in.}$], a length of $300\text{ mm} \pm 100\text{ mm}$ [$12\text{ in.} \pm 4\text{ in.}$], and a width of between 2 and 5 times the maximum width or outside diameter of the container opening. If a removable spout is used in the test, attach the LDPE tube to the removable spout.

9.3.2.1 If the tube cannot be sealed around the container neck or top, it is acceptable to modify the external surface of the container neck to allow for a sealed connection. Do not modify the container opening or the FMD from the as-built design.