



Designation: F1409 – 23

# Standard Test Method for Straight Line Movement of Vacuum Cleaners While Cleaning Carpets<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation F1409; 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 ( $\epsilon$ ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

## 1. Scope

1.1 This test method covers a measurement of the relative work required to move an upright, canister, stick, or combination vacuum cleaner in a straight line with forward and backward stroking on a selection of typical carpeted surfaces.

1.1.1 This test method measures only the horizontal component of work required to move the vacuum cleaner on carpet.

1.2 This test method can be used in the testing of household and commercial vacuum cleaners.

1.3 This test method measures the relative work needed to move the vacuum cleaner with its motor or motors in operation.

1.4 This test method applies to the vacuum cleaning of carpets only.

1.5 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.

1.6 *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.*

NOTE 1—The F11.21 subcommittee is actively pursuing new market relevant carpets with the assistance of the carpet industry. Section 12 has been revised to remove carpets that are no longer available (that is, plush, Frieze).

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.*

<sup>1</sup> This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F11 on Vacuum Cleaners and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F11.20 on Performance (Test Methods).

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## 2. Referenced Documents

### 2.1 ASTM Standards:<sup>2</sup>

F608 Test Method for Evaluation of Carpet Embedded Dirt Removal Effectiveness of Household/Commercial Vacuum Cleaners

F655 Specification for Test Carpets and Pads for Vacuum Cleaner Testing (Withdrawn 2022)<sup>3</sup>

F884 Test Method for Motor Life Evaluation of a Built-In (Central Vacuum) Vacuum Cleaner

F922 Test Method for Motor Life Evaluation of an Electric Motorized Nozzle

F1038 Test Method for Motor Life Evaluation of a Canister, Hand-held, Stick, and Utility Type Vacuum Cleaner Without a Driven Agitator

F1334 Test Method for Determining A-Weighted Sound Power Level of Vacuum Cleaners

## 3. Summary of Test Method

3.1 Mobility equipment is to be constructed and used to push the vacuum cleaner back and forth on the test carpet in a prescribed manner during the test. The mobility equipment is to employ a handle clamp assembly with a strain gauge, to be attached to the vacuum cleaner handle. This strain gauge measures the horizontal forces involved in moving only the vacuum on the test carpet.

3.2 Simultaneously, the incremental distance that the vacuum cleaner moves is also monitored and collected. The force and distance measurements are then used for calculating the work required to push and pull the vacuum on the test carpet.

3.3 The design of the mobility equipment used in this method is left to the user to develop and construct as there are numerous design approaches that may be employed for this evaluation. The mobility equipment may be designed to move the vacuum automatically or manually. Photographs of one

<sup>2</sup> For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, [www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org), or contact ASTM Customer Service at [service@astm.org](mailto:service@astm.org). For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

<sup>3</sup> The last approved version of this historical standard is referenced on [www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org).

design used in the industry to move the vacuum without the assistance of a technician is provided in Figs. 1-3. It is highly recommended that data acquisition and computerization, with a data sampling rate of at least ten samples per second, be utilized to improve the speed and accuracy of data measurements.

**4. Significance and Use**

4.1 This test method measures the horizontal component of the relative work required by the user during the cleaning operation for the movement of a vacuum cleaner in the home or other cleaning location on standardized laboratory carpeting. Work is determined from the forces measured in the horizontal direction only by the mobility equipment.

4.2 This measurement is relative to the work performed by the user of vacuum cleaners and may be used for comparison between vacuum cleaners.

4.3 The relation between actual vacuum cleaner usage and the method of operation is valid only if the vacuum cleaner user operates the vacuum cleaner properly and in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions.

**5. Apparatus**

5.1 *Mobility Equipment*, to move the vacuum cleaner for measuring and determining relative work. This equipment is to be designed and developed by the user.

5.2 *Calibration Weights*—Precision weights for calibrating the force measuring instrumentation. At least three calibration weights shall be employed to check and ensure linear calibration of the instrumentation. The precision weights are based on the maximum rating of the load cell/strain gauge that is used, and shall include a 5 lb weight, a half-scale weight, and a full-scale weight.

5.3 *Test Carpets*, as specified in Specification F655. Test carpets shall be stored in a vertical position with no weight on the test surface.

NOTE 2—The test carpets for relative work testing should be limited to that use and not used for other tests such as cleanability.

5.4 *Padding*, beneath test carpet, as specified in Specification F655.

5.5 *Temperature and Humidity Indicators*, to provide temperature measurements accurate to  $\pm 1$  °F ( $\pm 0.5$  °C) and  $\pm 2$  % relative humidity.

5.6 *Voltmeter*, to measure input voltage to the vacuum cleaner, capable of providing measurements accurate within  $\pm 1$  %.

5.7 *Voltage Regulator System*, to control input voltage to the vacuum cleaner. The regulator system shall be capable of maintaining the vacuum cleaner’s rated voltage  $< 1$  % and rated frequency  $< 1$  Hz having a wave form that is essentially sinusoidal with 3 % maximum harmonic distortion for the duration of the test.

5.8 *Rotating Agitator Reference Cleaner*, for calibrating test carpets (see 7.1.3).

5.9 *Straight Air Canister Reference Cleaner*, for calibrating test carpets (see 7.1.3).

**6. Sampling**

6.1 A minimum of three units of the same model vacuum cleaner, selected at random in accordance with good statistical practice, shall constitute the population sample.

6.1.1 To determine the best estimate of the total relative work for the population of the vacuum cleaner model being tested, the arithmetic mean of the relative work of the sample

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FIG. 1 ASTM Mobility Equipment

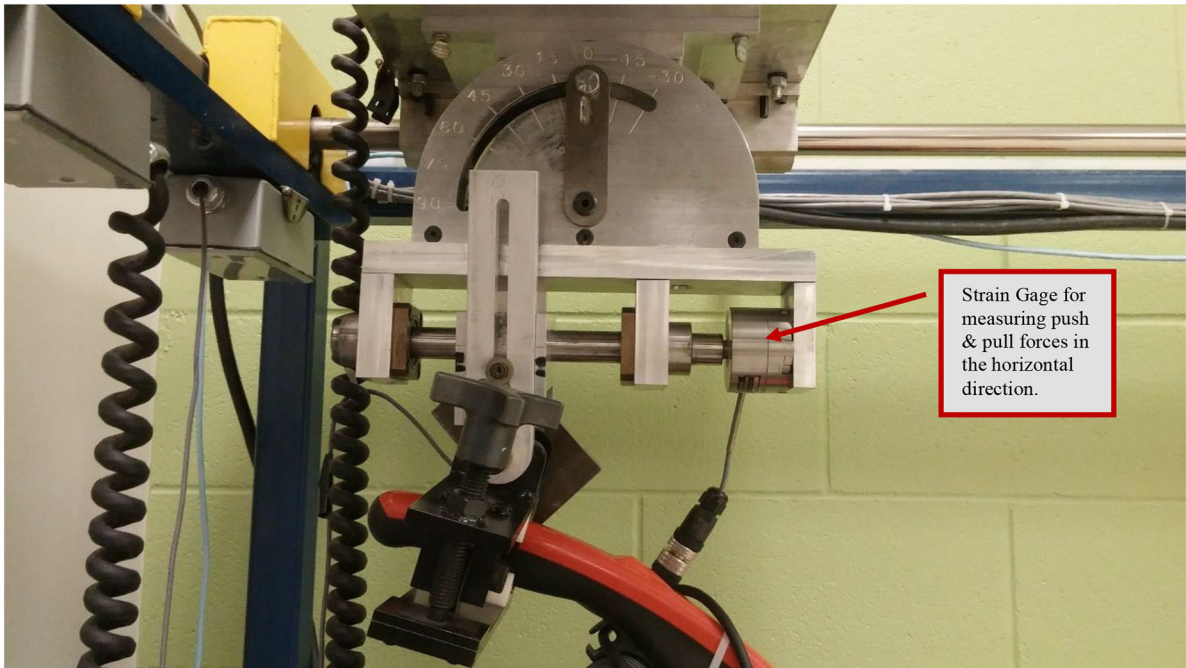


FIG. 2 Strain Gauge and Handle Clamp



FIG. 3 Motion Drive and Data Collection Computer

from the population shall be established by testing it to a 90 % confidence level within 5 % of the mean.

6.1.2 **Annex A1** provides a procedural example for determining the 90 % confidence level and when the sample size shall be increased (see **Note 3**).

NOTE 3—See **Annex A1** for method of determining 90 % confidence level.

## 7. Preparation of Apparatus and Test Cleaner

### 7.1 *Preconditioning for New Test Carpet Samples:*

7.1.1 Cut a sample of each test carpet to a size of 27 in. by 72 in. (690 mm by 1830 mm) minimum. If the warp direction or “lay” of the carpet can be determined, it shall be in the 72 in. direction. Carpets shall be bound on all sides.

7.1.2 Precondition the entire carpet by cleaning with a rotating agitator-type cleaner. Continue the operation until less than 2 g of carpet fibers are picked up in 5 min.

7.1.3 After the preconditioning is completed, run calibration tests on each of the carpets to establish a reference rating for one reference rotating agitator cleaner and one reference straight air canister cleaner to determine when the test carpets need to be replaced. The reference rating, or relative work for each cleaner, is established using the procedure described in 9.1 – 9.3. The relative work thus determined for the rotating agitator cleaner and the straight air canister are the reference ratings for the carpets in new condition.

7.1.4 Repeat the calibration tests after every 50 tests on the carpets, using the same reference cleaners. The performance of these reference cleaners should be maintained through the carpet calibration period. When the total for either reference cleaner varies by more than 5 ft·lbf from the original reference rating, replace the test carpet.

7.2 Prior to each of the basic testing segments, lay the padding (see 5.4) on the platform and place the appropriate carpet on top of the padding, without stretching either one. Position the carpet in such a way that the forward test strokes of the cleaner to be tested are with the lay of the carpet.

NOTE 4—The extremes of the stroke can be marked by a tape applied to the test carpet for operator convenience.

### 7.3 *Preconditioning a Test Cleaner:*

7.3.1 Run-in the test cleaner at a rated voltage  $\pm 1\%$  and rated frequency  $\pm 1$  Hz with filters in place, to ensure that the motor brushes are properly seated and to precondition the agitator brushes.

7.3.1.1 *Preconditioning a Rotating Agitator-Type Cleaner*—In a stationary position, operate the cleaner for 1 h with the agitator bristles not engaged on any surface.

7.3.1.2 *Preconditioning a Straight Air Canister Cleaner*—Operate for 1 h with wide open inlet (without hose).

### 7.4 *Calibration Check of the Strain Gauge:*

7.4.1 Set the handle clamp of the mobility equipment at 32.5 in. above the carpet test platform (carpet and pad not in place).

7.4.2 Using the calibration weights per 5.2, check calibration and linearity of the mobility equipment's strain gauge.

### 7.5 *Test Cleaner Settings:*

7.5.1 If various settings are provided, set the motor speed setting, suction regulator, or nozzle height, or combination thereof, using the manufacturer's specifications as provided in the instruction manual for each type of test carpet. Contact the manufacturer if no instructions are given, or if the instructions are unclear or inadequate.

7.5.1.1 The settings used for this test method (nozzle, motor speed, suction regulator, and so forth) for each specific carpet shall be applied for all embedded dirt cleaning effectiveness (Test Method F608), sound power (Test Method F1334), and motor life evaluation (Specification F655, Test Methods F884, F922, and F1038) tests.

### 7.6 *Mobility Equipment Set-up for Cleaner Testing:*

7.6.1 Vacuum the entire test carpet thoroughly for 2 min with a rotating agitator-type cleaner just prior to the relative work test to remove any residual dirt that may have accumulated.

7.6.2 Place the test carpet and pad on the carpet test platform of the mobility equipment with the lay of the carpet in the forward direction.

7.6.3 The cleaner to be tested should be thoroughly cleaned to remove any residual test dirt or dust that could be drawn into the cleaner's filtration system.

7.6.4 For vacuum cleaners using disposable filters as the primary filters, use a new disposable primary filter from the manufacturer for each test.

7.6.5 For vacuum cleaners using non-disposable dirt receptacles, empty in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions before each test.

7.6.6 For vacuum cleaners using water as the primary filter, empty the receptacle and refill as recommended by the manufacturer before each test.

7.6.7 If the cleaner has a pivoting handle or wand, raise or lower the carriage handle clamp assembly of the mobility equipment so that the handle clamp pivot point is 31.5 in. (0.8 m) from the top of the carpet pile. If the handle or wand does not pivot, adjust for a handle height that will provide maximum suction at the nozzle and a parallel contact between the carpet pile and the bottom surface of the nozzle as determined in 7.5.1. Ensure that the strain gauge of the mobility equipment is adjusted to measure only the horizontal motion forces. A digital level is recommended to ensure accuracy of the strain gauge placement.

7.6.8 Mount the vacuum cleaner handle to the handle clamping assembly in a manner that securely clamps the handle gripping area so that the center of the clamping assembly is positioned at the center of the handle gripping area.

7.6.9 Operate the mobility equipment to move the vacuum forward and backward several times and readjust the carriage handle clamp as necessary to ensure that the vacuum follows a straight path on the test carpet.

7.6.10 Set the test cleaner settings in accordance with 7.5.1.

## 8. Conditioning

8.1 *Test Room*—Maintain the test room in which all conditioning and cleaner testing is done at  $70\text{ °F} \pm 5\text{ °F}$  ( $21\text{ °C} \pm 3\text{ °C}$ ) and 45 % to 55 % relative humidity.

8.2 All components involved in the test must remain and be exposed in the controlled environment for at least 16 h prior to the start of the test.

## 9. Procedure

9.1 Perform this procedure on all test carpets specified in 5.3 with the cleaner motor or motors operating at the cleaners nameplate rated voltage  $\pm 1\%$  and frequency  $\pm 1$  Hz. For vacuum cleaners with dual nameplate voltage ratings, conduct testing at the highest voltage.

9.2 Operate the mobility equipment to push the vacuum cleaner forward in a straight line for 48 in. (1.22 m) at a rate of 1.8 ft/s (0.55 m/s), and to pull the cleaner backward in a straight line for the same distance at the same rate.

9.3 Repeat the operations described in 9.2 for ten uninterrupted cycles recording both the force and distance on the mobility equipment’s data collection system.

9.4 9.1 – 9.3 are considered to be one test run. Repeat 9.1 – 9.3 two additional times, for a total of three test runs. The test results of each test run shall be recorded separately.

**10. Calculation**

10.1 From the data collected by the mobility equipment’s data collection system, calculate the average work in ft-lb for the ten forward strokes of a single test run by multiplying the average force measured for the ten forward strokes by the travel distance of 48 in. This equates to determining the average area under the stroke curves (above the zero line) for ten forward strokes (see Fig. 4), and represents the work in ft-lb required to push the vacuum in the forward direction on the specified carpet. Repeat this calculation to determine the average work for the ten reverse strokes for each test run. Record the forward and reverse stroke values separately for each test run.

10.2 Make the necessary calculations to determine if the 90 % confidence level has been met along with the repeatability and reproducibility requirements for precision and bias. See Annex A1.

**11. Report**

11.1 Report the following information:

11.1.1 The average of the three readings measured in Section 10.1 in foot-pounds force (newton metres or joules) for the forward stroke and the reverse stroke, and the absolute sum of these two readings as the total relative work for each carpet. The total relative work figures should be used in establishing the confidence level.

11.1.2 The temperature and humidity conditions existing during the test.

11.1.3 Record the height of the carriage handle clamp assembly for future reference and testing of that cleaner.

**12. Precision and Bias**

12.1 Precision statements are based on interlaboratory tests involving five laboratories and four units.

12.2 *Repeatability (Single-Operator Laboratory):*

12.2.1 *Plush Carpet, Upright Cleaner*—The standard deviation within a laboratory divided by the average (coefficient of variation) with the same analyst has been found to be 1.6 % or less. Two values should be considered suspect (at the 95 % confidence level) if they differ by more than 4.5 %.

12.2.2 *Shag Carpet, Upright Cleaner*—The standard deviation within a laboratory divided by the average (coefficient of variation) with the same analyst has been found to be 8.4 % or less. Two values should be considered suspect (at the 95 % confidence level) if they differ by more than 23.7 %.

12.2.3 *Single-Level Loop Carpet, Upright Cleaner*—The standard deviation within a laboratory divided by the average (coefficient of variation) with the same analyst has been found to be 4.2 % or less. Two values should be considered suspect (at the 95 % confidence level) if they differ by more than 11.8 %.

12.2.4 *Plush Carpet, Straight Air Canister Cleaner*—The standard deviation within a laboratory divided by the average (coefficient of variation) with the same analyst has been found to be 3.5 % or less. Two values should be considered suspect (at the 95 % confidence level) if they differ by more than 9.9 %.

12.2.5 *Shag Carpet, Straight Air Canister Cleaner*—The standard deviation within a laboratory divided by the average

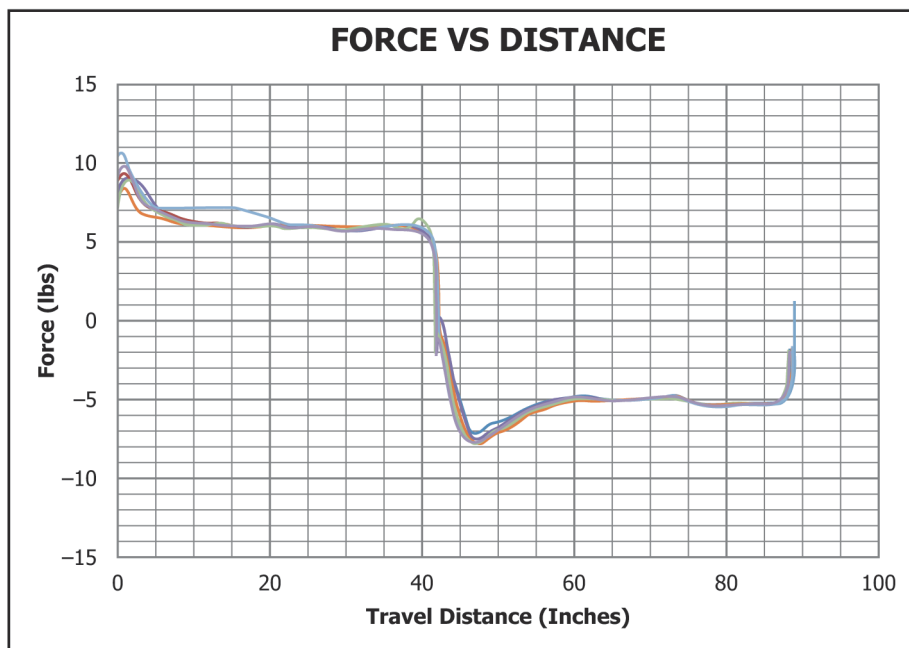


FIG. 4 Typical Graph of Forward and Reverse Stroke Curve

