



Standard Practice for Generic Marking of Plastic Products¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D 1972; 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 practice covers a system for uniform marking of products that have been fabricated from polymeric materials. Provision for the process or processes to be used for marking is outside the scope of this practice.

NOTE 1—Precise details of the marking, for example, the minimum size of the item to be marked, the size of the lettering, and the appropriate location of the marking, may be the subject to agreement between the manufacturer and the user.

1.2 The abbreviated terms used are to provide generic identification of the polymer(s).

1.3 This practice is especially pertinent for use with durable plastic components of products. This practice is not intended to supplant, replace, or in any way interfere with the requirements found in legislation for marking or labeling of packaging.

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 and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

NOTE 2—In many respects, this practice is similar to ISO 11469.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:

- D 883 Terminology Relating to Plastics²
- D 1600 Terminology for Abbreviated Terms Relating to Plastics²
- D 3935 Specification for Polycarbonate (PC) Unfilled and Reinforced Material³
- D 4000 Classification System for Specifying Plastic Materials³

2.2 ISO Standards:

- ISO 472:1988, Plastics—Vocabulary⁴
- ISO/DIS 1043-1:1995, Plastics—Symbols and Abbreviated Terms—Part 1: Basic Polymers and Their Special Characteristics⁴
- ISO 1043-2:1991 Plastics—Symbols—Part 2: Fillers and

Reinforcing Materials⁴

- ISO 1043-3:1988 Plastics—Symbols—Part 3: Plasticizers⁴
- ISO/DIS 1043-4: 1996 Plastics—Symbols—Part 4: Flame Retardants⁴
- ISO 1087:1990 Terminology—Vocabulary⁴
- ISO 8604:1988 Plastics—Prepregs—Definition of Terms and Symbols for Designations⁴
- ISO 11469:1993 Plastics—Generic Identification and Marking of Plastics Products⁴

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions:* Definitions are in accordance with Terminology D 883 unless otherwise specified.

3.2 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

3.2.1 *abbreviated term*—a term resulting from the omission of any part of a term while designating the same concept. (See ISO 1087.)

3.2.2 *Discussion*—“Abbreviated term” is a general term that includes abbreviations, initialisms, and acronyms (initialisms that can be pronounced as a word). International Standard definitions for each of these terms is included in ISO 1087.

3.2.3 *bulk molding compound (BMC)*—a product composed of thoroughly mixed resins and chopped reinforcing fibers with or without particulate fillers, supplied in mass form, capable of being molded under heat and pressure. (See ISO 8604.)

3.2.4 *matrix polymer*—the continuous phase in a polymeric blend or alloy.

3.2.5 *plastic products*—articles or stock shapes of plastic materials intended for useful purposes.

3.3 *Abbreviations*—Abbreviated terms used in this practice are from Terminology D 1600 and ISO 1043.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 This marking system is to provide assistance in identification of products for making subsequent decisions as to handling, recycling, or disposal.

4.2 The system is based on standard abbreviated terms relating to plastics published in the ISO 1043 series of standards and in ASTM D 1600.

4.3 A system for expanded generic marking is described in nonmandatory Appendix X1.

5. System for Marking Products

5.1 Plastic products may be marked at some place on the surface with the abbreviated term(s) set between the punctuation marks “>” and “<” (greater-than or less-than signs,

¹ This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D-20 on Plastics and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D20.95 on Recycled Plastics.

Current edition approved April 10, 1997. Published April 1998. Originally published as D 1972 – 91. Last previous edition D 1972 – 94.

² *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 08.01.

³ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 08.02.

⁴ Available from American National Standards Institute, 11 W. 42nd St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10036.