



## Standard Test Methods for Flexible Cellular Materials Made From Olefin Polymers<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D 3575; 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 These test methods apply to flexible closed cell materials made from olefin polymers or blends of olefin polymers with other polymers as defined in Section 3.

1.2 This test method covers test procedures only. Product requirements are outlined in Specification D 4819.

1.3 Unless specifically stated otherwise, by agreement between the purchaser and supplier, all tests shall be performed in accordance with the test methods specified in this standard.

1.4 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as the standard.

1.5 *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 or regulatory limitations prior to use.*

### 2. Referenced Documents

#### 2.1 ASTM Standards:

C 177 Test Method for Steady-State Heat Flux Measurements and Thermal Transmission Properties by Means of the Guarded-Hot-Plate Apparatus<sup>2</sup>

C 518 Test Method for Steady-State Heat Flux Measurements and Thermal Transmission Properties by Means of the Heat Flow Meter Apparatus<sup>2</sup>

D 412 Test Methods for Vulcanized Rubber and Thermoplastic Rubbers and Thermoplastic Elastomers—Tension<sup>3</sup>

D 624 Test Method for Tear Strength of Conventional Vulcanized Rubber and Thermoplastic Elastomers<sup>3</sup>

D 1056 Specification for Flexible Cellular Materials—Sponge or Expanded Rubber<sup>4</sup>

D 1349 Practice for Rubber—Standard Temperatures for Testing<sup>3</sup>

D 1596 Test Method for Absorbing Shock Cushioning Characteristics of Package Cushioning Materials<sup>5</sup>

D 1667 Specification for Flexible Cellular Materials—

Vinyl Chloride Polymers and Copolymers (Closed-Cell Foam)<sup>4</sup>

D 2863 Test Method for Measuring the Minimum Oxygen Concentration to Support Candle-Like Combustion of Plastics (Oxygen Index)<sup>6</sup>

D 4483 Practice for Determining Precision for Test Method Standards in the Rubber and Carbon Black Industries<sup>3</sup>

D 4819 Specification for Flexible Cellular Materials Made from Polyolefin Plastics<sup>7</sup>

F 355 Test Method for Shock-Absorbing Properties of Playing Surface Systems and Materials<sup>8</sup>

### 3. Terminology

#### 3.1 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.1.1 *blend*—mixture of olefin polymers with other monomer(s) or polymer(s) in which at least 51 mass percent is the olefin polymer.

3.1.2 *cellular material, flexible*—a cellular organic polymeric material that will not rupture when a specimen 200 by 25 by 25 mm (8 by 1 by 1 in.) is bent around a 25-mm (1-in.) diameter mandrel at a uniform rate of one lap in 5 s at a temperature between 18 and 29°C.

3.1.3 *constant compression creep*—the time-dependent change in thickness of a material under a constant compressive stress or compression force.

3.1.4 *olefin polymers*—polymers made by the polymerization of olefins or copolymerization of olefins with other monomers, the olefins being at least 51 mass percent.

### 4. Summary of Test Methods

4.1 Table 1 contains a list of all the assigned suffix letters that may be used in describing the cellular products covered by these test methods.

4.2 These test methods do not contain test methods for all the suffix letters listed in Table 1. Where the test method is not included, it shall be arranged between the purchaser and supplier.

4.3 Test methods included in this standard are indicated in Table 1 by showing the applicable section numbers after the suffix letter.

4.4 In cases involving referee decisions, SI units shall be used.

<sup>1</sup> These test methods are under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D20 on Plastics and are the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D20.22 on Cellular Plastics.

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<sup>2</sup> *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 04.06.

<sup>3</sup> *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 09.01.

<sup>4</sup> *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 08.01.

<sup>5</sup> *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 15.09.

<sup>6</sup> *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 08.02.

<sup>7</sup> *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 08.03.

<sup>8</sup> *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 15.07.

**TABLE 1 Suffix Letter Designations**

NOTE 1—These suffix letters have been assigned by Subcommittee D11.33 and are consistent with those in Specifications D 1056 and D 1667.

Suffix Letter	Property	Section
A	Heat resistance	10-16
B	Compression set under constant deflection	
C	Ozone or weather resistance	
D	Compression deflection	17-23
E	Oil resistance	
F	Low temperature	
G	Tear resistance	24
H	Flex resistance	
I	Not assigned because of similarity to numeral 1	
J	Abrasion resistance	
K	Adhesion capability	
L	Water absorption	25-29
M	Flammability resistance	31
N	Impact resistance	
O	Electrical properties	
P	Staining resistance	
Q	Not assigned because of similarity to letter O	
R1	Resilience	
R2	Energy absorption	32
S	Thermal stability	33-39
T	Tensile strength and elongation	40
U	Not assigned	
V	Thermal conductivity	41 and 42
W	Density	43
X	Not assigned	
Y	Not assigned	
Z	Special requirements	
AA	Buoyancy	45-50
BB	Constant compressive creep	51-58
CC	Dynamic cushioning	59
DD	Open cell	
EE	Not assigned	
FF	Water vapor transmission	

## 5. Significance and Use

5.1 The test procedures provide a standard method of obtaining data for research and development, quality control, acceptance and rejection under specifications, and special purposes.

5.2 The data obtained by these test methods are applicable to the material under conditions of the particular test and are not necessarily the same as obtained in other environments or use conditions.

## 6. Sampling

6.1 When possible, use the completed manufactured product for the tests specified. Randomly select representative samples of the lot being examined, as required.

6.2 Extruded or molded shapes or sizes too small for cutting standard test specimens are difficult to classify or test by these test methods and will usually require special testing procedures or the use of standard test sheets.

6.3 When it is necessary or advisable to obtain test specimens from the article, as in those cases where the entire sample is not required or adaptable for testing, specify the method of cutting and the exact position from which specimens are to be taken. The apparent density and the state of crosslinking may vary in different parts of the finished product, especially if the

article is of complicated shape or of varying thickness, and these factors affect the physical properties of the specimens. Also, the apparent density is affected by the number of cut surfaces as opposed to the number of skin-covered surfaces on the test specimen.

6.4 When the finished product does not lend itself to testing or to the taking of test specimens because of complicated shape, small size, metal or fabric inserts, solid covers, adhesion to metal, or other reasons, prepare standard test sheets. When differences due to the difficulty in obtaining suitable test specimens from the finished part arise, the manufacturer and purchaser may agree on acceptable deviations. This can be done by comparing the results of standard test specimens and those obtained on actual parts.

6.5 If the material to be tested is anisotropic, prepare the test specimens so as to measure the property in the direction of interest in the application.

## 7. Conditioning

7.1 Conduct tests under known conditions of temperature and humidity or as specified in the individual test procedure. In case of dispute, conduct the test at a temperature of  $23 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$  ( $73.4 \pm 3.6^\circ\text{F}$ ) and in an atmosphere of  $50 \pm 5\%$  relative humidity. The product shall be conditioned, undeflected, and undistorted, at the temperature and humidity of test for at least 24 h before being tested.

7.2 It is recommended, for referee purposes, that all tests shall be performed 96 h or more after the foam has been manufactured.

## 8. Measurement of Test Specimens

8.1 Measure dimensions up to and including 25 mm (1 in.) using a dial-type gage with a minimum foot area of  $650\text{ mm}^2$  ( $1\text{ in.}^2$ ). Pressure on the foot shall be held to  $190 \pm 50\text{ Pa}$  ( $0.028 \pm 0.007\text{ psi}$ ).

NOTE 1—Where foam is appreciably compressed by this test method, foot area and loading shall be as agreed upon between the purchaser and the supplier.

NOTE 2—Thickness of materials having irregular surface characteristics shall be measured as agreed upon between the purchaser and the supplier.

8.2 Dimensions over 25 mm (1 in.) may be measured with a dial gage, scale, or tape. Take care not to distort the test specimen.

8.3 The scale, tape, or gage shall be graduated to permit measurements within  $\pm 1\%$  of the dimension to be measured.

8.4 Results reported shall be the average of a minimum of three equally spaced measurements of length and width and for thickness shall be the average of the center and four equally spaced measurements around the perimeter of the specimens.

## 9. Precision

9.1 The repeatability standard deviations for each test method has been determined. The reproducibility of these test methods is being determined and will be available on or before April 2005.

NOTE 3—The repeatability study was performed on two materials in two laboratories. For density (Method B), buoyancy, and compression creep, the material tested was a typical  $64\text{-kg/m}^3$  density, crosslinked

closed-cell olefin. For density (Method A), compression deflection, thermal stability, and water absorption, the material tested was a typical 32-kg/m<sup>3</sup> density, crosslinked closed-cell olefin.

### Suffix Tests

#### Suffix B—Compression Set Under Constant Deflection

#### 10. Scope

10.1 This test method covers the deflection of the foam specimen under a compressive force and under specified conditions of time and temperature, then noting the effect on the thickness of the specimen after releasing the compressive force.

#### 11. Apparatus

11.1 *Compression Device*, consisting of two or more flat plates arranged so the plates are held parallel to each other by bolts or clamps, and the space between the plates is adjustable to the required deflection thickness by means of spacers.

#### 12. Test Specimens

12.1 The test specimens shall have parallel top and bottom surfaces and essentially perpendicular sides.

12.2 Specimens shall be 50 by 50 by 25 mm (2 by 2 by 1 in.) unless otherwise specified. Specimens less than 25 mm in thickness shall be plied up, without the use of an adhesive, to produce a total thickness of 25 mm.

NOTE 4—To obtain accurate data when testing foams with large cells or irregular surfaces, or both, larger samples approximately 100 by 100 by 25 mm (4 by 4 by 1 in.) are recommended.

#### 13. Number of Specimens

13.1 Test three specimens for each sample. The values reported shall be the mean of those observed. If any value deviates more than 20 % from this mean, test two additional specimens and report the mean for all five values.

#### 14. Procedure

14.1 Perform the entire test procedure at 23 ± 2°C (73.4 ± 3.6°F) and in an atmosphere of 50 ± 5 % relative humidity.

NOTE 5—See Practice D 1349 if conditions other than these are desired.

14.2 Measure the test specimen original thickness ( $t_o$ ) in accordance with the procedure in Section 8.

14.3 Place the test specimen in the apparatus and compressively deflect it to 50 % of its thickness.

14.4 Allow the test specimen to remain deflected in the apparatus for 22 h.

14.5 Remove the specimen from the test apparatus at the end of the 22-h period. Measure the final thickness ( $t_f$ ) after 24 h of recovery.

#### 15. Calculation

15.1 Calculate the constant deflection compression set, expressed as a percentage of the original thickness, as follows:

$$C_d = \frac{(t_o - t_f)}{t_o} \times 100 \quad (1)$$

where:

$C_d$  = compression set expressed as a percent of the original thickness,

$t_o$  = original thickness, mm (in.), and

$t_f$  = thickness of the specimen after the specified recovery period, mm. (in.)

#### 16. Report

16.1 Report the average compression set value, of the three specimens tested, for each sample, except as noted in 14.1.

#### 17. Precision

17.1 The repeatability standard deviation has been determined to be 2.06. The reproducibility of this test method is being determined and will be available on or before April 2005. Values of data ranged from 14.36 to 21.37.

Compression Set	
1	14.36
2	14.89
3	15.03
4	15.2
5	15.22
6	15.45
7	15.66
8	16.94
9	17.45
10	21.37
Average	16.157
Standard deviation	2.06

#### Suffix D—Compression Deflection (Also called Load Deflection or Compressive Strength)

#### 18. Scope

18.1 This test method covers the measurement of the force necessary to produce a 25 % compression over the entire top area of the foam specimen.

NOTE 6—Compression deflection tests other than at 25 % may be specified as agreed upon between the purchaser and the supplier.

#### 19. Apparatus

19.1 An apparatus shall be provided having a flat compression foot, larger than the specimen to be tested, connected to a force-measuring device and mounted in a manner such that the product or specimen can be deflected (compressed) at a speed of 0.2 to 4 mm/s (0.5 to 2 in./min). The apparatus shall be arranged to support the specimen on a level horizontal plate.

#### 20. Test Specimens

20.1 The test specimen shall be a right cylinder with parallel top and bottom surfaces. The thickness shall be no greater than 75 % of the minimum top dimension.

20.2 Specimens shall be a minimum of 2500 mm<sup>2</sup> (4 in.<sup>2</sup>) in area and have a minimum thickness of 25 mm (1 in.). Specimens less than 25 mm thick shall be plied up, without the use of cement, to a minimum of 25 mm.

NOTE 7—Specimens less than 25 mm (1 in.) thick may be tested without being plied up, but the thickness must be specified.

#### 21. Number of Specimens

21.1 Test three specimens for each sample. The values reported shall be the mean of those observed. If any value

deviates more than 20 % from this mean, test two additional specimens and report the mean for all five values.

## 22. Procedure

22.1 Place the specimen centered in the line of the axial load on the supporting plate of the apparatus.

22.2 Bring the compression foot into contact with the specimen and determine the thickness after applying a total pretest-pressure of  $190 \pm 50$  Pa ( $0.028 \pm 0.007$  psi) to the specimen area. Compress the specimen  $25 \pm 0.5$  % of this thickness at 12.5 mm/min (0.5 in./min) and take the reading of the load immediately, unless another speed is specified.

NOTE 8—Where foam is appreciably compressed by this pretest-pressure, foot area and loading shall be as agreed upon between the purchaser and the supplier.

## 23. Calculation

23.1 Calculate the 25 % compression deflection force, per unit area of specimen, expressed as kilopascals (or pounds-force per square inch), as follows:

$$CD = \frac{F}{A} \quad (2)$$

where:

$CD$  = compression deflection force per unit of specimen area, kPa (psi),

$F$  = force required to compress the specimen 25 % of the thickness as measured in 8.2, N (lbf), and

$A$  = specimen compression contact surface area,  $m^2$  ( $in.^2$ ).

## 24. Report

24.1 Report the average thickness after pretest pressure and the average compression deflection, for the three specimens tested, in kilopascals (or pounds-force per square inch), required for 25 % compression, except as noted in 22.1.

## 25. Precision

25.1 The repeatability standard deviation has been determined to be 1.74. The reproducibility of this test method is being determined and will be available on or before April 2005. Values of data ranged from 34.61 to 40.61.

Compression Deflection, kPa	
1	34.61
2	37.16
3	38.82
4	38.82
5	38.96
6	39.03
7	39.72
8	39.78
9	40.20
10	40.61
Average	38.77
Standard deviation	1.74

## Suffix G—Tear Resistance, Test Method D 624

### 26. Test Method D 624

26.1 Die C shall be used.

26.2 Test the material at the thickness to be supplied, unless otherwise arranged by agreement between the purchaser and the supplier.

## Suffix L—Water Absorption

### 27. Scope

27.1 This test method covers the measurement of the water absorbed by olefin polymer flexible cellular materials during submersion under pressure.

### 28. Test Specimens

28.1 Test specimens shall be 100 by 100 mm (4 by 4 in.) by the thickness of material being supplied. The specimen may or may not have natural skins on top, bottom, or both surfaces.

### 29. Number of Specimens

29.1 Test three specimens for each sample. The values reported shall be the mean of those observed. If any value deviates more than 20 % from this mean, test two additional specimens and report the mean for all five values.

### 30. Procedure

30.1 Measure the area of the cut surfaces in accordance with Section 8 and calculate the area of the cut surfaces.

30.2 Weigh the specimens and submerge under a 3-m (10-ft) head of water (equal to 30 kPa or 4.35 psi) at room temperature (18 to 29°C (65 to 90°F)) for 48 h. Then place the specimens in a stream of air for the minimum time required to remove visible water from the surfaces and reweigh.

### 31. Calculation

31.1 Calculate the water absorption, expressed in  $kg/m^2$  ( $lb/ft^2$ ) of cut surfaces (surfaces without skin or rind) as follows:

$$\text{Water Absorption} = \frac{W_2 - W_1}{A} \quad (3)$$

where:

$W_1$  = specimen mass before immersion, kg (lb),

$W_2$  = specimen mass after immersion, kg (lb), and

$A$  = area of cut surface,  $m^2$  ( $ft^2$ ).

### 32. Report

32.1 Report the average water absorption in  $kg/m^2$  ( $lb/ft^2$ ) of the three specimens tested, except as noted in 30.1.

### 33. Precision

33.1 The repeatability standard deviation has been determined to be 0.007. The reproducibility of this test method is being determined and will be available on or before April 2005. Values of data ranged from 0.034 to 0.055.