



Standard Test Method for Water Vapor Transmission of Pressure-Sensitive Tapes¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D 3833/D3833M; 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.

This standard has been approved for use by agencies of the Department of Defense.

^{ε1} NOTE—D 3833 and D 3833M were combined editorially in December 1997.

1. Scope

1.1 This test method provides one procedure for measuring the water vapor transmission rate of pressure-sensitive tape.

1.2 The values stated in either SI 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 must be used independently, without combining values in any way.

1.3 *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.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:

- D 996 Terminology of Packaging and Distribution Environments²
- D 3715/D3715M Practice for Quality Assurance of Pressure-Sensitive Tapes²
- D 4332 Practice for Conditioning Containers, Packages, or Packaging Components for Testing²
- E 96 Test Methods for Water Vapor Transmission of Materials³
- E 122 Practice for Choice of Sample Size to Estimate a Measure of Quality for a Lot or Process⁴

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—General terms in this test method are defined in Terminology D 996.

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 The pressure-sensitive tape is secured by its adhesive to

a test cup containing a desiccant. The assembly is exposed to a controlled atmosphere and weighed after two intervals of that exposure. The gain in weight is used to calculate the water vapor transmission rate (WVTR).

5. Significance and Use

5.1 The results of this test method will indicate the relative permeability by water vapor of the tape through its smallest dimension (generally normal to the tape's backing).

5.1.1 The pathway for the water vapor parallel to the adhesive-cup interface is great compared to the tape's thickness and the latter is usually the nearly exclusive source of transmitted vapor.

5.1.2 Some tape types allow a relatively free path in a direction normal to the backing or along backing pathways parallel to the adhesive-cup interface allowing the adhesive to become the principal barrier.

5.2 If the adhesive does not continue to adhere to the cup flange during the exposure periods allowing unintended pathways for water vapor to occur, the measurement should be considered as not having been made. Consequently, the tape might be considered as being inappropriate for use on surfaces like the cup flange under moisture conditions approximating those of the test.

NOTE 1—It may be that the interest is simply in the tape material as a water vapor barrier. In this case, how well the tape adheres to the cup flange may be of little consequence, and steps to prevent any edge effects are in order. These are referred to in Section 10.

6. Apparatus

6.1 *Test Cups*⁵, made from materials that are nonhygroscopic. The cup shall have a *zero* WVTR. The cups shall be rectangular with a flat, smooth, rigid flange, and shall have the following dimensions:

Flange:

Outside—50.8 by 152.4 ± 0.5 mm [2.0 by 6.0 ± 0.02 in.]

Inside (opening)—25.4 by 101.6 ± 0.5 mm [1.0 by 4.0 ± 0.02 in.]

Body:

⁵ Available from Chemsultants International, 9349 Hamilton Dr., Mentor, OH 44061-1118.

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D-10 on Packaging and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D10.14 on Tape and Labels.

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² *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 15.09.

³ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 04.06.

⁴ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 14.02.