



Designation: D 1204 – 02

Standard Test Method for Linear Dimensional Changes of Nonrigid Thermoplastic Sheeting or Film at Elevated Temperature¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D 1204; 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.

1. Scope *

1.1 This test method covers the measurement of changes in linear dimensions of nonrigid thermoplastic sheeting or film that result from exposure of the material to specified conditions of elevated temperature and time.

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

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.*

NOTE 1—ISO/DIS 11501 describes a similar procedure for determining linear dimensional changes of thermoplastic polymers subjected to elevated temperatures.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:

D 618 Practice for Conditioning Plastics for Testing²

D 883 Terminology Relating to Plastics²

D 2732 Test Method for Unrestrained Linear Thermal Shrinkage of Plastic Film and Sheeting³

2.2 ISO Standard

ISO/DIS 11501, Plastics: Film and Sheeting—Determination of Dimensional Change on Heating⁴

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—Terms applicable to this test method are defined in Terminology D 883.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 This test method is particularly applicable to nonrigid thermoplastic sheeting or film made by the calender or extru-

sion process. The test gives an indication of lot-to-lot uniformity as regards to the degree of internal strains introduced during processing.

4.2 The heating medium in this test method is air and may not yield the same results as Test Method D 2732, which uses a liquid medium.

5. Apparatus

5.1 *Oven*—A mechanical convection oven capable of maintaining a temperature of $100 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$.

5.2 *Scale*, graduated in 0.25-mm (0.01-in.) divisions, 30 cm (12 in.) or more in length.

5.3 *Thermometer*, graduated in 1°C divisions, with a range suitable for the test temperature used.

5.4 *Timer*, graduated in minutes.

5.5 *Template*, 25 by 25 cm (10 by 10 in.), for cutting test specimens.

5.6 *Heavy Paper Sheets*, approximately 40 by 40 cm (15 by 15 in.), with smooth, wrinkle- and crease-free surfaces.

5.7 *Talc*, finely ground.

6. Test Specimens

6.1 The test specimens shall be two pieces of the sheeting or film 25 by 25 cm (10 by 10 in.), cut with the aid of the template, one from either of the two transverse edges and one from the center of the sheet as shown in Fig. 1. Each specimen shall be marked to show the direction of calendering or extrusion. The midpoint of each edge shall be marked for use as a reference point when final measurements are made.

7. Conditioning

7.1 *Conditioning*—Unless otherwise required in the appropriate materials specification or agreed between customer/supplier, condition the test specimens at $23 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ ($73.4 \pm 3.6^\circ\text{F}$) and $50 \pm 5\%$ relative humidity for not less than 40 h prior to test, in accordance with Procedure A of Practice D 618. In case of disagreements, the tolerances shall be $\pm 1^\circ\text{C}$ ($\pm 1.8^\circ\text{F}$) and $\pm 2\%$ relative humidity.

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D20 on Plastics and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D20.19 on Film and Sheeting.

Current edition approved November 10, 2002. Published January 2003. Originally approved in 1952. Last previous edition approved in 1994 as D 1204 - 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 (ANSI), 25 W. 43rd St., 4th Floor, New York, NY 10036.

*A Summary of Changes section appears at the end of this standard.