



Designation: D 6841 – 02

Standard Practice for Calculating Design Value Treatment Adjustment Factors for Fire-Retardant-Treated Lumber¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D 6841; 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.

1. Scope

1.1 This practice covers procedures for calculating treatment adjustment factors to be applied to design values for fire-retardant-treated lumber used at ambient temperatures [service temperatures up to 100°F (38°C)] and as framing in roof systems.

1.2 These design value treatment adjustment factors for the properties of extreme fiber in bending, tension parallel to grain, compression parallel to grain, horizontal shear and modulus of elasticity are based on the results of strength tests of matched treated and untreated small clear wood specimens after conditioning at nominal room temperatures [72°F (22°C)] and of other similar specimens after exposure at 150°F (66°C). The test data are developed in accordance with Test Method D 5664. Guidelines are provided for establishing adjustment factors for the property of compression perpendicular to grain and for connection design values.

1.3 Treatment adjustment factors for roof framing applications are based on computer generated thermal load profiles for normal wood roof construction used in a variety of climates as defined by weather tapes of the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers, Inc. (ASHRAE).² The solar loads, moisture conditions, ventilation rates and other parameters used in the computer model were selected to represent typical sloped roof designs. The thermal loads in this practice are applicable to roof slopes of 3 in 12 or steeper, to roofs designed with vent areas and vent locations conforming to national standards of practice and to designs in which the bottom side of the roof sheathing is exposed to ventilation air. For designs that do not have one or more of these base-line features, the applicability of this practice needs to be documented by the user.

1.4 The procedures of this practice parallel those given in Practice D 6305. General references and commentary in Practice D 6305 are also applicable to this practice.

1.5 This practice is written in inch-pound units with SI units provided in parentheses for information only.

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

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:

D 9 Terminology Relating to Wood³

D 5664 Test Method for Evaluating the Effects of Fire-Retardant Treatments and Elevated Temperatures on Strength Properties of Fire-Retardant-Treated Lumber³

D 6305 Practice for Calculating Bending Strength Design Adjustment Factors for Fire-Retardant-Treated Plywood Roof Sheathing³

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions:

3.1.1 Definitions used in this practice are in accordance with Terminology D 9.

3.2 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.2.1 *bin mean temperature*—10°F (5.5°C) temperature ranges having mean temperatures of 105 (41), 115 (46), 125 (52), 135 (57), 145 (63), 155 (68), 165 (74), 175 (79) and 185°F (85°C).

3.2.2 *thermal load profile*—the cumulative time per year in each 10°F (5.5°C) temperature bin.

4. Summary of Practice

4.1 Test results developed in accordance with Test Method D 5664 are used in conjunction with computer generated thermal load profiles to calculate treatment factors that are applied to published design values for untreated lumber. These treatment adjustment factors account for the combined effect of fire-retardant-treatment and service temperatures.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 Fire-retardant-treatments are used to reduce the flame-spread characteristics of wood. Chemicals and redrying conditions employed in treatments are known to modify the strength properties of the wood product being treated. This practice

¹ This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D07 on Wood and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D07.07 on Fire Performance of Wood. Current edition approved Nov. 10, 2002. Published January 2003.

² American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers, Inc. (ASHRAE), 1791 Tullie Circle, NE, Atlanta, GA 30329.

³ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 04.10.

gives procedures for fire-retardant chemical manufacturers to use to calculate the effects of their treatment on lumber used in normal and elevated temperature service conditions.

5.2 The effect of fire-retardant treatments on the strength of lumber used in roof framing applications is time related. In this practice, the cumulative effect on strength of annual thermal loads from all temperature bins is increased 50 times to establish treatment adjustment factors for fire-retardant treated lumber roof framing.

5.3 The procedures of Test Method D 5664 employ an elevated temperature intended to produce strength losses in a short period of time. Although the exposure is much more severe than that which occurs in an actual roof system, the chemical reactions that occur in the laboratory test are considered to be the same as those occurring over long periods of time in the field.

5.4 Treatment adjustment factors developed under this practice apply to lumber installed in accordance with construction practices recommended by the fire-retardant chemical manufacturer which include avoidance of direct wetting, precipitation or frequent condensation. Application of this practice is limited to roof applications with design consistent with 1.3.

6. Test Data

6.1 Test Method D 5664 describes the procedures used to obtain the data needed to calculate the ratios of average treated and average untreated values for the strength properties.

6.1.1 Procedure 1 of Test Method D 5664 provides data for comparing the initial effects of fire-retardant treatments to untreated controls for bending, tension parallel, compression parallel, and horizontal shear properties. The procedure uses small clear specimens.

6.1.2 Procedure 2 of Test Method D 5664 provides data for assessing the differential trends between treated and untreated specimens on bending and tension parallel properties over the course of a prolonged exposure to elevated temperature. The procedure uses small clear specimens.

6.1.3 Procedure 3 of Test Method D 5664 is an optional procedure to provide additional information on size effects. The results are used to modify the test results for the small clear specimens of Procedure 1 and 2.

6.2 Specimens subjected to prolonged exposure to elevated temperature are exposed in a controlled environment of $150 \pm 4^\circ\text{F}$ ($66 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$) and $\geq 50\%$ relative humidity. Durations of exposure are 36, 72, and 108 days.

7. Calculation of Strength Loss Rates

7.1 For each species and property evaluated, calculate the ratio of the average treated value to the average untreated value for the specimens conditioned at room temperature only (unexposed specimens) and for specimens exposed for the same period of time at elevated temperature.

7.1.1 The treated and untreated specimen averages used to calculate each ratio shall include the same number of specimens and each treated specimen value shall be matched to an untreated specimen value obtained from the same source piece of lumber.

NOTE 1—Test data show that the ratio of average treated and average

untreated values is a more conservative measure of treatment effect than the median or the average of the individual matched specimen ratios.

7.2 The ratio of the average property value for unexposed treated specimens to the average value for unexposed untreated specimens shall be designated the initial treatment ratio, R_o .

7.3 Using the ratios of average treated to untreated specimens exposed to elevated temperature for the same period of time, R_{it} , determine by least squares the linear regression.

$$R_{it} = a + k_t(D) \quad (1)$$

where:

R_{it} = ratio of average treated to untreated values,

D = number of days specimens exposed at elevated temperature,

a = intercept, and

k_t = slope, strength loss rate.

7.3.1 The ratio, R_o , for unexposed specimens (conditioned at room temperature only) shall be included in the regression analysis.

7.3.2 A property for which the strength loss rate, k_t , is not negative is assumed to be unaffected by the elevated temperature exposure.

7.3.3 The strength loss rate, k_t , shall be adjusted to a 50 percent relative humidity (RH) basis by the equation:

$$k_{50} = k_t(50/RH_t) \quad (2)$$

where:

k_{50} = strength loss rate at 50 % RH, and

RH_t = elevated temperature test RH.

7.4 Calculate strength loss per day rates for bin mean temperatures of 105 (41), 115 (46), 125 (52), 135 (57), 145 (63), 155 (68), 165 (74), 175 (79), and 185°F (85°C) using the Arrhenius equation:

$$\ln(k_{50}/k_2) = [E_a(T_1 - T_2)] / RT_1T_2 \quad (3)$$

where:

k_2 = strength loss rate at bin mean temperature,

E_a = 21 810 cal/mol,^{4,5} (91 253 J/mol),

R = 1.987 cal/mol-K (8.314 J/mol-K), gas constant,

T_1 = test temperature, K, and

T_2 = bin mean temperature, K.

7.4.1 Where the treatment effect was evaluated at more than one elevated temperature [for example 130°F (54°C) and 150°F (66°C)], the strength loss rates associated with the bin mean temperatures shall be calculated for each temperature separately and the rates averaged for determination of capacity loss values associated with thermal load profiles.

8. Calculating Capacity Loss for Roof Framing Applications

8.1 Thermal load profiles applicable to roof framing are given in Table 1. The loads represent the cumulative days per year framing temperatures fall within 10°F (5.5°C) of the bin mean temperatures of 105 (41), 115 (46), 125 (52), 135 (57),

⁴ Pasek, E. A. and McIntyre, C. R., Heat Effects on Fire-Retardant Treated Wood, *J. Fire Sci.*, 8, Nov.-Dec. 1990, pp. 405-420.

⁵ Pasek and McIntyre have shown that the Arrhenius parameter, E_a , for phosphate-based retardants for wood averages 21 810 cal/mol (91 380 J/mol).