



Designation: D 3181 – 95 (Reapproved 2002)

## Standard Guide for Conducting Wear Tests on Textiles<sup>1</sup>

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### 1. Scope

1.1 This guide is designed to provide data on which a prediction can be based concerning the expected wear performance of a wide variety of textiles in end-use conditions.

1.2 *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 123 Terminology Relating to Textiles<sup>2</sup>
- D 1335 Test Method for Tuft Bind of Pile Floor Coverings<sup>2</sup>
- D 1683 Test Method for Failure in Sewn Seams of Woven Fabrics<sup>2</sup>
- D 2051 Test Method for Durability of Finish of Zippers to Laundering<sup>2</sup>
- D 2052 Test Method for Colorfastness of Zippers to Drycleaning<sup>2</sup>
- D 2057 Test Method for Colorfastness of Zippers to Laundering<sup>2</sup>
- D 2058 Test Method for Durability of Finish of Zippers to Drycleaning<sup>2</sup>
- D 2062 Test Method for Operability of Zippers<sup>2</sup>
- D 2401 Test Method for Service Change of Appearance of Pile Floor Coverings<sup>3</sup>
- D 2960 Test Method of Controlled Laundering Test Using Naturally Soiled Fabrics and Household Appliances<sup>4</sup>
- D 3511 Test Method for Pilling Resistance and Other Related Surface Changes of Textile Fabrics: Brush Pilling Tester Method<sup>5</sup>
- D 3512 Test Method for Pilling Resistance and Other Related Surface Changes of Textile Fabrics: Random Tumble Pilling Tester Method<sup>5</sup>

- D 3514 Test Method for Resistance of Apparel Fabrics to Pilling (Elastomeric Pad Method)<sup>5</sup>
  - D 3597 Performance Specification for Woven Upholstery Fabrics—Plain, Tufted, or Flocked<sup>5</sup>
  - D 3884 Test Method for Abrasion Resistance of Textile Fabrics (Rotary Platform, Double-Head Method)<sup>5</sup>
  - D 3885 Test Method for Abrasion Resistance of Textile Fabrics (Flexing and Abrasion Method)<sup>5</sup>
  - D 3886 Test Method for Abrasion Resistance of Textile Fabrics (Inflated Diaphragm Method)<sup>5</sup>
  - D 3936 Test Method for Delamination Strength of Secondary Backing of Pile Floor Coverings<sup>5</sup>
  - D 3938 Guide for Evaluation of Textile Products in Relation to Refurbishing Described on Care Labels<sup>5</sup>
  - D 3939 Test Method for Snagging Resistance of Fabrics (Mace Test Method)<sup>5</sup>
  - D 4157 Test Method for Abrasion Resistance of Textile Fabrics (Oscillatory Cylinder Method)<sup>5</sup>
  - D 4158 Test Method for Abrasion Resistance of Textile Fabrics (Uniform Abrasion Method)<sup>5</sup>
  - D 4231 Practice for Evaluation of Men's and Boy's Home Launderable Woven Dress Shirts and Sport Shirts<sup>5</sup>
  - D 4390 Practice for Evaluating the Performance of Terry Bathroom Products for Household Use<sup>5</sup>
  - D 4720 Practice for Evaluation of the Performance of Soft Window Coverings<sup>5</sup>
  - D 4721 Practice for Evaluating the Performance of Woven and Knit Machine Washable and Drycleanable Bedcoverings and Accessories<sup>5</sup>
  - D 4852 Practice for Evaluation of Attached Upholstery Fabrics<sup>5</sup>
- #### 2.2 AATCC Standards:
- 5 Evaluation Procedure: Subjective Evaluation of Fabric Hand<sup>6</sup>
  - 8 Colorfastness to Crocking: AATCC Crockmeter Method<sup>6</sup>
  - 88B Appearance of Seams in Wash-and-Wear Items After Home Laundering<sup>6</sup>
  - 88C Appearance of Creases in Wash-and-Wear Items After Home Laundering<sup>6</sup>
  - 96 Dimensional Changes in Laundering of Woven and

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<sup>2</sup> *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 07.01.

<sup>3</sup> Discontinued; see 1992 *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 07.01.

<sup>4</sup> *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 15.04.

<sup>5</sup> *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 07.02.

<sup>6</sup> *Annual AATCC Technical Manual*, available from American Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists, P.O. Box 12215, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709.

- Knitted Textiles (Excluding Wool)<sup>6</sup>
- 119 Color Change Due to Flat Abrasion (Frosting): Screen Wire Method<sup>6</sup>
- 120 Color Change Due to Flat Abrasion (Frosting): Emery Method<sup>6</sup>
- 121 Carpet Soiling: Visual Rating Method<sup>6</sup>
- 122 Carpet Soiling: Service Soiling Method<sup>6</sup>
- 123 Carpet Soiling: Accelerated Soiling Method<sup>6</sup>
- 124 Appearance of Fabrics After Repeated Home Launderings<sup>6</sup>
- 128 Wrinkle Recovery of Fabrics: Appearance Method<sup>6</sup>
- 130 Soil Release: Oily Stain Release Method<sup>6</sup>
- 150 Dimensional Changes in Automatic Home Laundering of Woven Garments<sup>6</sup>
- 158 Dimensional Changes on Drycleaning in Perchloroethylene: Machine Method<sup>6</sup>
- 163 Color Fastness: Dye Transfer in Storage: Fabric-to-Fabric<sup>6</sup>
- 2.3 *Other Documents:*
- Knit Upholstery Fabric Standards and Guidelines <sup>7</sup>
- Woven Upholstery Fabric Standards and Guidelines <sup>8</sup>

### 3. Terminology

#### 3.1 Definitions:

3.1.1 *control textile, n*—a textile having a known history, the performance of which in a specific end-use has been established previously, and which is used as a standard of comparison.

3.1.2 *end-use, n*—in wear testing, the use for which a textile is intended.

3.1.3 *evaluation period, n*—the period of time an item is used before being evaluated on the specific performance properties.

3.1.4 *grade, n*—in textile testing, the symbol for any step of a multistep standard reference scale, for a quality characteristic.

3.1.4.1 *Discussion*—The grade is assigned to test specimen exhibiting a degree of the quality comparable to that step of the standard. Numerical grades assigned to different specimens from a sample, or by different observers are commonly averaged (AATCC).

3.1.5 *participant, n*— in wear testing, any individual that uses a test or control textile during a wear test.

3.1.5.1 *Discussion*—The term does not include additional personnel contributing other services needed to carry out a test.

3.1.6 *performance property, n*— in wear testing, any chemical or physical property of a fiber, yarn, or fabric that is evaluated during the wear-refurbishing cycles.

3.1.7 *rating, n*—in textile testing, the process for determining or assigning a grade to a material by comparing it to a standard reference scale.

3.1.8 *wear level, n*—the number of wear-refurbishing cycles to which an item has been subjected.

3.1.9 *wear-refurbishing cycle, n*—for a specific wear testing program, one complete series of events that may be terminated by laundering or dry cleaning.

3.1.9.1 *Discussion*—A description of a wear-refurbishing cycle usually includes the number of hours worn or used and the number of wearing or uses an item receives prior to refurbishing (that is, laundering or drycleaning), or both.

3.1.10 *wear-service condition, n*—the specific conditions under which a textile is used.

3.1.11 *wear test, n*—a test in which textiles are subjected to wear-service conditions and evaluated for performance.

3.1.12 For definitions of other textile terms used in this practice, refer to Terminology **D 123**.

### 4. Summary of Guide

4.1 Textiles are subjected to actual wear under service conditions. This practice recommends a control textile having a known wear performance history to be included with other items being tested. Statistical methods for design of test and analysis of data are included that are applicable to all wear tests. Standard procedures for evaluation of textiles are provided.

### 5. Significance and Use

5.1 This guide may be used to evaluate textiles used in apparel, upholstered furniture, floor coverings, window treatments, and bed, bath and table linens.

5.2 This guide may be used for several purposes:

5.2.1 To determine the comparative performance of new or existing products,

5.2.2 To determine the suitability of current products in different end-uses, and

5.2.3 To evaluate and compare the effect of wear of construction details as well as specific fabrics, fibers, dyeings, finishing, fabrication techniques, etc.

5.3 This guide provides for flexibility in design and evaluation since the information sought from each wear test will vary (see **Appendix X1**).

5.4 This guide may be used to compare the wear performance of two or more textiles when these are included in the same test, or to compare a textile whose properties have not been evaluated with one having a known performance history.

### 6. Apparatus

6.1 *Viewing Board*, with standard lighting, as specified in **AATCC 124**.

6.2 *Smoothness Appearance Replicas*, as specified in **AATCC 124**.

6.3 *Gray Scale for Color Change*, as specified in **AATCC Evaluation Procedure 1**.<sup>9</sup>

6.4 *Soil Release Replicas*, as specified in **AATCC 130-1981**.

6.5 *Pilling Standards*, as specified in **Test Method D 3512**.

6.6 *Seam Puckering Standards*, as specified in **AATCC 88B-1984**.

6.7 *Crease Retention Standards*, as specified in **AATCC 88C**.

<sup>7</sup> Issued in 1982 by the Joint-Industry Fabric Standards Committee. Available from the American Furniture Mfrs. Assc., P. O. Box Hp-7, High Point, NC 27261.

<sup>8</sup> Re-issued in 1986 by the Joint-Industry Fabric Standards Committee. Available from the American Furniture Mfrs. Assc., P. O. Box Hp-7, High Point, NC 27261.

<sup>9</sup> This is the same as ISO R105/1, Part 2.

6.8 Photographic Standards for Evaluating Shirt Components (collar, pocket, placket), as specified in Practice **D 4231**.  
 6.9 *Work Sheets*, to record data (see **Fig. 1**).

**7. Sampling, Selection, and Number of Specimens**

7.1 *Division into Lots*—For acceptance testing, divide the product into lots as agreed upon between the purchaser and the supplier.

7.2 *Lot Sample*—As a lot sample for acceptance testing, take at random the number of shipping cartons directed in an applicable material specification or other agreement between the purchaser and the supplier.

NOTE 1—A realistic specification or other agreement between the purchaser and the supplier requires taking into account the variability between shipping cartons, between items within a carton, and between specimens within an item so as to provide a sampling plan which has a meaningful producer’s risk, meaningful consumer’s risk, acceptable quality level, and limiting quality level.

7.3 *Laboratory Sample*—As a laboratory sample for acceptance testing, take at least two items from each shipping carton in the lot sample.

7.4 *Test Specimens*—Take test specimens from each item in the laboratory sample as directed in the individual test methods or as agreed upon between the purchaser and the supplier. Perform each test on the product as it will reach the consumer.

**8. Procedure**

- 8.1 Decide on the type and design of the textile to be tested.
- 8.2 Define the objectives of the test clearly.
- 8.3 List the information to be obtained from the test.

8.4 Select the performance properties that must be evaluated to obtain the necessary information. See **Table 1**.

8.5 Decide which specific areas of the textile will be evaluated for each property. See **Table 2**.

8.6 Establish how each performance property will be evaluated and what rating scale will be used.

8.7 For each performance property, decide what test value or grade will constitute a satisfactory or unsatisfactory performance to meet the objectives of the test (see **Note 2**).

NOTE 2—These values are established based on experience and may vary with end use. There are generally accepted techniques or references for establishing these values.

8.8 Identify which evaluation procedures are destructive and nondestructive. Nondestructive evaluations can occur during the total wear period at predetermined times. Destructive evaluations should occur at the end of the total wear period, unless additional textile items are included in the initial wear test plan for withdrawal and destructive testing.

8.9 Establish the wear period at which time the test is terminated automatically.

8.10 Alternatively, establish the percentage of specimens that must fail to constitute overall unsatisfactory performance. Terminate the test when the established level for failure has been reached (see **Note 2**).

8.11 Establish the number of wear-refurbishing cycles that will constitute overall satisfactory performance. The wear test may be terminated at this point even though no specimen may have failed.

8.12 Define the use-refurbishing cycle by establishing the number of hours (days) worn or used, and the number of uses

Wear Test Identification Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Wear Level \_\_\_\_\_  
 Fabric Identification \_\_\_\_\_

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	PARTICIPANTS										
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	etc.
Evaluation Date											
Times Worn											
Hours Worn											
Times Refurbished											
Abrasion											
Bagging											
Color Change											
Crease Retention											
Dimensional Stability											
Fabric Smoothness											
Holes											
% Length Change											
% Width Change											
Pilling											
Seam Puckering											
Snagging											
Washdown (Hand)											
Wear Wrinkling											
Etc.											

**FIG. 1 Wear Test Work Sheet**