



Designation: D 333 – 01

Standard Guide for Clear and Pigmented Lacquers¹

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1. Scope

1.1 These test methods cover procedures for testing lacquers and lacquer coatings. The test methods included are listed in Table 1.

NOTE 1—In accordance with Terminology D 16, a lacquer is defined as a coating composition that is based on synthetic thermoplastic filmforming material dissolved in organic solvent(s) and that dries primarily by solvent evaporation. Typical lacquers include those based on nitrocellulose, other cellulose derivatives, vinyl resins, acrylic resins, etc.

NOTE 2—Lacquers may be applied under such diverse conditions, to so many different surfaces, and their dried films may be subjected to so many kinds of wear and exposure that it is not possible to assure desired performance from a single selection of test methods and numerical results therefrom. Those skilled in lacquer technology may find partial assurance of obtaining desired qualities in various types of lacquers through careful selection of the methods covered herein and intelligent interpretation of results therefrom.

NOTE 3—It is intended ultimately to remove all experimental procedures from Test Methods D 333 and to establish them as a guide to the selection of test methods for lacquer and perhaps to interpretation of results therefrom. Temporarily there remain in Test Methods D 333 a few tests that are too short or otherwise presently unsuitable for establishment under separate ASTM designations.

1.2 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as the standard. The values given in parentheses are for information only.

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:

- B 117 Practice for Operating Salt Spray (Fog) Testing Apparatus²
- D 16 Terminology Relating to Paint, Varnish, Lacquer, and Related Products³

- D 56 Test Method for Flash Point by Tag Closed Tester⁴
- D 88 Test Method for Saybolt Viscosity⁵
- D 93 Test Methods for Flash Point by Pensky-Martens Closed Tester⁴
- D 445 Test Method for Kinematic Viscosity of Transparent and Opaque Liquids⁴
- D 522 Test Method for Mandrel Bend Test of Attached Organic Coatings³
- D 523 Test Method for Specular Gloss³
- D 609 Practice for Preparation of Cold-Rolled Steel Panels for Testing Paint, Varnish, Conversion Coatings, and Related Coating Products³
- D 610 Test Method for Evaluating Degree of Rusting on Painted Steel Surfaces⁶
- D 658 Test Method for Abrasion Resistance of Organic Coatings by Air Blast Abrasive³
- D 659 Method of Evaluating Degree of Chalking of Exterior Paints⁷
- D 660 Test Method for Evaluating Degree of Checking of Exterior Paints³
- D 661 Test Method for Evaluating Degree of Cracking of Exterior Paints³
- D 662 Test Method for Evaluating Degree of Erosion of Exterior Paints³
- D 714 Test Method for Evaluating Degree of Blistering of Paints³
- D 772 Test Method for Evaluating Degree of Flaking (Scaling) of Exterior Paints³
- D 823 Practices for Producing Films of Uniform Thickness of Paint, Varnish, and Related Products on Test Panels³
- D 870 Practice for Testing Water Resistance of Coatings Using Water Immersion³
- D 968 Test Methods for Abrasion Resistance of Organic Coatings by Falling Abrasive³
- D 1005 Test Methods for Measurement of Dry-Film Thickness of Organic Coatings Using Micrometers³
- D 1014 Test Method for Conducting Exterior Exposure Tests of Paints on Steel³
- D 1186 Test Methods for Nondestructive Measurement of

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² Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 03.02.

³ Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 06.01.

⁴ Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 05.01.

⁵ Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 04.04.

⁶ Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 06.02.

⁷ Discontinued; see 1988 Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 06.01.



TABLE 1 List of Test Methods

Test Method	Section	ASTM Method
General Requirements	4	...
Liquid Materials:		
Color of Clear Lacquers:		
Gardner Color Scale	9	D 1544
Platinum-Cobalt Scale	9	D 1209
Flash Point:		
Tag Closed Cup	11	D 56, D 93, D 3278
Homogeneity:		
Clarity and Cleanness	8	D 2090
Fineness of Pigment Grind	8	D 1210
Nonvolatile Matter	7	D 1644
Sample Preparation	5	...
Viscosity:		
Ford Cup (Efflux)	10	D 1200
Kinematic High Precision	10	D 445
Weight per Gallon (Density)	6	D 1475
Dried Films:		
Abrasion Resistance:		
Air Blast Abrasion Tester	19	D 658
Falling Sand Method	19	D 968
Chip Resistance:	30	D 3170
Color-Pigmented Coatings:		
Spectrophotometric Method	15	E 308
Munsell Color System	15	D 1535
Color Difference-Pigmented Coatings:		
Visual Method	16	D 1729
Instrumental Evaluation of Color Differences of Opaque Materials	16	D 2244
Elongation:		
Conical Mandrel	17	D 522
Cylindrical Mandrel	17	D 1737
Film Thickness:		
Nondestructive Magnetic Base	13	D 1186
Nondestructive Nonmagnetic Metallic Base	13	D 1400
Penetration Thickness Gage	13	D 1400
Dial Comparator	13	D 1005
Gloss:		
Specular Gloss	14	D 523
Hardness Indentation Method	18	D 1474
Hiding Power	27	D 2805
Household Chemical Resistance	21	D 1308
Light Stability	31	D 2620
Outdoor Exposure:		
Preparation of Coated Panels:		
Aluminum Alloy Panels	22	D 1733
Steel Panels	22	D 609
Test Procedures:		
Exposure Tests Using Steel Panels	22	D 1014
Evaluating Blistering	22	D 714
Evaluating Chalking	22	D 659
Evaluating Checking	22	D 660
Evaluating Cracking	22	D 661
Evaluating Rusting	22	D 610
Evaluating Erosion	22	D 662
Evaluating Flaking	22	D 772
Panel Preparation:		
Manual Spraying Method	12	...
Automatic Application	12	D 823
Perspiration Resistance	28	D 2204
Plasticizer Migration	29	D 2199
Print Test	20	D 2091
Salt Fog	24	B 117
Temperature-Change Resistance	23	D 1211
Water Fog Testing	25	D 1735
Water Immersion Test	26	D 870

D 1209 Test Method for Color of Clear Liquids (Platinum-Cobalt Scale)⁸

D 1210 Test Method for Fineness of Dispersion of Pigment-Vehicle Systems³

D 1211 Test Method for Temperature-Change Resistance of Clear Nitrocellulose Lacquer Films Applied to Wood⁶

D 1308 Test Method for Effect of Household Chemicals on Clear and Pigmented Organic Finishes⁶

D 1400 Test Method for Nondestructive Measurement of Dry Film Thickness of Nonconductive Coatings Applied to a Nonferrous Metal Base³

D 1474 Test Methods for Indentation Hardness of Organic Coatings³

D 1475 Test Method for Density of Paint, Varnish, Lacquer, and Related Products³

D 1535 Test Method for Specifying Color by the Munsell System³

D 1544 Test Method for Color of Transparent Liquids (Gardner Color Scale)³

D 1644 Test Methods for Nonvolatile Content of Varnishes³

D 1729 Practice for Visual Appraisal of Colors and Color Differences of Diffusely-Illuminated Opaque Materials³

D 1733 Method of Preparation of Aluminum Alloy Panels for Testing Paint, Varnish, Lacquer, and Related Products⁹

D 1735 Practice for Testing Water Resistance of Coatings Using Water Fog Apparatus³

D 1737 Test Method for Elongation of Attached Organic Coatings with Cylindrical Mandrel Apparatus⁷

D 2090 Test Method for Clarity and Cleanness of Paint and Ink Liquids¹⁰

D 2091 Test Method for Print Resistance of Lacquers⁶

D 2199 Test Method for Measurement of Plasticizer Migration from Vinyl Fabrics to Lacquers⁶

D 2204 Test Method for Perspiration Resistance of Organic Coatings¹¹

D 2244 Test Method for Calculation of Color Differences from Instrumentally Measured Color Coordinates³

D 2620 Test Method for Light Stability of Clear Coatings⁶

D 2805 Test Method for Hiding Power of Paints by Reflectometry³

D 3170 Test Method for Chipping Resistance of Coatings⁶

D 3278 Test Methods for Flash Point of Liquids by Small Scale Closed-Cup Apparatus³

E 308 Practice for Computing the Colors of Objects by Using the CIE System³

3. Significance and Use

3.1 These test methods are intended to compile as well as provide screening tests in evaluating clear and pigmented lacquers as used in different coating operations.

3.2 Each coating system may contain from a simple one coat operation to a multicoat finishing system.

Dry Film Thickness of Nonmagnetic Coatings Applied to a Ferrous Base³

D 1200 Test Method for Viscosity by Ford Viscosity Cup³

⁸ Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 06.04.

⁹ Discontinued: see 1979 Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Part 27.

¹⁰ Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 06.03.

¹¹ Discontinued: see 1976 Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Part 27.

3.3 The substrates may be varied, ferrous and non ferrous, plastic or wood which can affect the performance of a given coating system.

3.4 Substrate cleaning, chemically or physically, is an essential and critical aspect to the performance of the coating system.

3.5 Results from the various tests are not necessarily all useful in evaluating the performance of the different types of coating systems used on the many varied substrates.

4. General Requirements

4.1 All tests shall be made in diffused light (not in direct sunlight), and at $23 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ ($73.5 \pm 3.5^\circ\text{F}$) and $50 \pm 5\%$ relative humidity, unless otherwise specified.

5. Preparation of Sample

5.1 Many clear lacquers and all pigmented lacquers contain suspended solids that have a tendency to settle to the bottom of the container. Stir any settled portion with a paddle or spatula and then shake vigorously for 10 min on a mechanical agitator. Since many lacquer solvents are extremely volatile, care should be taken during sampling and testing to avoid loss of significant amounts of volatile matter.

6. Weight Per Gallon

6.1 Determine the density as described in Test Method **D 1475**. This method is particularly adaptable for high-viscosity fluids or where a component is too volatile for a specific gravity balance determination. If a weight per gallon cup of 83.2-mL capacity is used, calculation of weight per gallon is simplified.

7. Nonvolatile Matter

7.1 Nonvolatile matter determination is an indication of the amount of permanent film-forming material contained in a lacquer. At ambient temperatures, drying of a lacquer film may involve gradual loss of slowly volatile solvents, hence solids determinations may differ from those resulting from a nonvolatile determination accelerated by a higher temperature.

7.2 Determine the nonvolatile content of lacquers as described in Test Methods **D 1644**. As an additional requirement, the specimen shall be reheated and reweighed until the weight is constant to within 1 mg. Test Method A of Test Methods **D 1644** is preferred since Method B is potentially dangerous when used with lacquers.

8. Homogeneity

8.1 Good quality lacquers and their ingredients should be uniformly constituted and free from particles of foreign matter.

8.2 Determine the presence or absence of foreign matter in nonpigmented liquids for use in paints and lacquers or lacquers themselves as described in Test Method **D 2090**.

8.3 Determine the degree of dispersion (commonly referred to as "fineness of grind") of pigment, semiquantitatively, in pigmented coating systems in accordance with Test Method **D 1210**.

9. Color

9.1 The color of a clear lacquer is only a preliminary indication of the color of a dried film of lacquer. The initial

color may bleach and another color may appear under certain conditions of exposure.

9.2 Determine the color of clear lacquers as described in Test Method **D 1544**. This method gives a comparison of the color of the sample with that of a color reference standard.

9.3 Determine the color of essentially water-white lacquers in accordance with Test Method **D 1209**. This method shall be used where the color-producing bodies in the lacquer have very nearly the same light-absorption characteristics as those of the platinum-cobalt standards.

10. Viscosity

10.1 The viscosity of a lacquer is a property that can be used as a guide in determining the ease with which a given lacquer may be applied. For example, lacquers designed for spray application may be low in viscosity whereas they are high for doctor blade or roller application.

10.2 Determine the viscosity of clear and pigmented finishes designed for spray application as described in Test Method **D 1200**. This method is not recommended for lacquers with viscosities requiring more than 100 s efflux time.

10.3 For precise viscosity determinations in the range from 0.4 to 16 000 cSt proceed in accordance with Test Method **D 445**.

NOTE 4—Caution should be observed in that it is recognized that changes in viscosity may occur in lacquers upon aging.

11. Flash Point

11.1 The organic solvents used in lacquers have characteristic flash points. The flash point of a liquid is defined as the lowest temperature, corrected to 760 mmHg (101.3 kPa) of pressure, of the sample at which application of an ignition source causes the vapor of the sample to ignite under specified conditions of test.

11.2 Determine the flash point by Test Method **D 56** or Test Methods **D 93** for liquid storage regulations of Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) of U. S. Department of Labor and for classification of hazardous liquids for shipments under the regulations of U. S. Department of Transportation and bulk shipments by water.

11.2.1 Determine the flash point of lacquer or lacquer materials having a viscosity less than 9.5 cSt at 25°C (77°F) or 45 SUS at 37.8°C (100°F) (Test Method **D 88**) by Test Method **D 56** and of lacquers having a viscosity of more than 9.5 cSt at 25°C (77°F) or 45 SUS at 37.8°C (100°F) by Method A of Test Methods **D 93**. Use Method B of Test Methods **D 93** whenever there is a question that the heat transfer within a viscous lacquer is not sufficient to assure an accurate flash point. In addition, use Method B when testing pigmented lacquers or suspensions of solids and liquids which tend to skin under test conditions.

11.3 Test Methods **D 3278**, which give comparable results to Test Method **D 56** and Test Methods **D 93** while requiring a smaller specimen and less time to run, may be used as an alternative method.

12. Panel Preparation

12.1 In the evaluation of coated panels a uniform dry film thickness of lacquer is essential in order to eliminate any effect