



Designation: D3294 – 03

Standard Specification for Polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) Resin Molded Sheet and Molded Basic Shapes¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D3294; 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 specification establishes requirements and methods of test for the material, dimensions, and workmanship, and the physical and electrical properties of molded sheet in minimum thicknesses of 0.794 mm [$1/32$ in.] manufactured from PTFE resin molding materials.

1.2 This specification also establishes requirements for molded basic shapes made from resin molding and extrusion materials. This specification is for products 300 mm [12 in.] or less in a dimension parallel to and 12.7 mm [0.5 in.] or greater in the dimension perpendicular to the direction of the applied molding pressure.

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

1.4 The following precautionary caveat pertains only to the test method portion, Section 7, of this specification. *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.* Special attention is called to 13.2, 13.3, 13.6, 13.8, and A1.

NOTE 1—There is no similar or equivalent ISO standard.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*²

D149 Test Method for Dielectric Breakdown Voltage and Dielectric Strength of Solid Electrical Insulating Materials at Commercial Power Frequencies³

D618 Practice for Conditioning Plastics for Testing³

D638 Test Method for Tensile Properties of Plastics³

D792 Test Methods for Density and Specific Gravity (Relative Density) of Plastics by Displacement³

D883 Terminology Relating to Plastics³

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D20 on Plastics and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D20.15 on Thermoplastic Materials (Section D20.15.12).

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² *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 10.02.

³ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 08.01.

D1505 Test Method for Density of Plastics by the Density-Gradient Technique³

D1600 Terminology for Abbreviated Terms Relating to Plastics³

D1708 Test Method for Tensile Properties of Plastics by Use of Microtensile Specimens⁴

D3892 Practice for Packaging/Packing of Plastics⁵

D4591 Test Method for Determining Temperatures and Heats of Transitions of Fluoropolymers by Differential Scanning Calorimetry⁵

D4894 Specification for Polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) Granular Molding and Ram Extrusion Materials⁶

E94 Guide for Radiographic Examination

IEEE/ASTM SI-10 American National Standard for Use of the International System of Units (SI): The Modern Metric System⁷

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions:*

3.1.1 Definitions are in accordance with Terminology D883 unless otherwise specified.

3.1.2 *lot, n*—one continuous production run or a uniform blend of two or more production runs of one size sheet or molded basic shape.

3.2 *Abbreviations:* Abbreviations are in accordance with Terminology D1600.

4. Classification

4.1 This specification covers the following four types of molded basic sheets and shapes:

4.1.1 *Type I*—Premium; normally used for exacting electrical, mechanical, or chemical applications.

4.1.2 *Type II*—General purpose; for electrical, mechanical, and chemical applications not requiring premium material.

4.1.3 *Type III*—Mechanical Grade; for non-critical chemical, electrical, and mechanical applications.

4.1.4 *Type IV*—Utility; having no electrical requirements and with mechanical properties at a lower level.

⁴ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 08.02.

⁵ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 08.03.

⁶ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 03.03.

⁷ Available from ASTM International, 100 Barr Harbor Drive, C700, West Conshohocken, PA 19428.

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

4.2 Types I, II, and III shall be subdivided into two grades as follows:

4.2.1 *Grade 1*—made only from virgin resin.

4.2.2 *Grade 2*—made using reprocessed resin.

4.3 The grades shall be further subdivided into three classes as follows:

4.3.1 *Class A*—resistant to thermal dimensional change not exceeding 0.5 %.

4.3.2 *Class B*—thermal dimensional change not exceeding 5.0 %.

4.3.3 *Class C*—no requirement for thermal dimensional change.

4.4 A one-line system shall be used to specify materials covered by this specification. The system uses predefined cells to refer to specific aspects of this specification, as illustrated below.

Specification				
Standard Number	Type	Grade	Class	Special Notes
Block	:	:	:	:
:	:	:	:	:

Example: Specification D3294 – 03, I I A

For this example, the line callout would be Specification D3294 – 03, 11A and would specify premium virgin form of polytetrafluoroethylene that has all of the properties listed for that Type, Grade, and Class in the appropriate specified properties, tables, or both, in the specification identified. A comma is used as the separator between the standard Number and the Type. Separators are not needed between the Type, Grade, and Class.⁸ Provision for Special Notes is included so that other information shall be provided when required. An example would be in Specification D3295 where dimensions and tolerances are specified for each AWG size within Type and Class. When Special Notes are used, they shall be preceded by a comma.

5. Ordering Information

5.1 The molded sheet or basic shapes covered in this specification shall be ordered stating the type, grade, and class and that they meet the requirements of this specification.

6. Materials

6.1 The sheet or molded basic shape from Types I, II, III, or IV shall be made from unpigmented PTFE as free of foreign matter as commercially practical.

7. Requirements Requirements

7.1 The sheet covered by this specification shall meet the physical and electrical requirements specified in Table 1 and paragraph 7.1.1 when tested by the methods given in Section 13.

7.2 The molded basic shapes covered by this specification shall meet the physical and electrical requirements specified in Table 2 and 7.1.1 when tested by the test methods given in Section 13.

⁸ See the ASTM Form and Style Manual. Available from ASTM International Headquarters.

TABLE 1 Physical and Electrical Requirements for PTFE Sheets^A

Types	Tensile Strength ^A (min) psi	Elongation ^A (min) Percent	Dielectric Strength ^B (min) Volts Per Mill	Specific Gravity ^C	Porosity ^D
I	4500	300	600	2.15 to 2.18 ^E	Zero penetration
II	3000	225	500	2.14 to 2.19	Not required
III	2000	150	300	2.13 to 2.19	Not required
IV	1300	75	Not required	2.13 to 2.20	Not required

^A See 13.2.

^B See 13.3.

^C See 13.4.

^D See 13.6.

^E PTFE sheet used for tank lining shall be Type I but shall have a specific gravity of 2.19 to 2.22.

TABLE 2 Physical and Electrical Requirements for Basic Shapes

Types	Tensile Strength psi (min)	Elongation % (min)	Dielectric Strength Volts per mil (min)	Specific Gravity
I	4800	325	1200	2.14 to 2.18
II	3200	240	850	2.14 to 2.19
III	1500	75	250	2.13 to 2.20

7.2.1 *Melting Point*—the melting point of all types of sheet and molded basic shapes shall be $327 \pm 10^\circ\text{C}$ when tested in accordance with paragraph 13.8.

8. Dimensions

8.1 The size, shape, dimensional tolerances, and dimensional stability shall be as specified in the contract or order.

8.2 The tolerance on length and width shall be plus 6.3 mm [$\frac{1}{4}$ in.], minus 0 mm [0 in.].

9. Workmanship, Finish, and Appearance

9.1 *Color*—Type I shall be white to translucent, but often have occasional spots. Types II, III, and IV are typically white, but will vary to light gray or light brown. For Types II, III, and IV occasional small gray, brown, or black spots shall not be considered as cause for rejection.

9.2 *Finish*—The material shall be as free as is commercially practical from surface blisters, wrinkles, cracks and other surface defects that might affect its serviceability. It shall also be commercially free of macroscopic voids, cracks, and foreign inclusions.

9.3 *Internal Defects*—The moldings shall be as free as is commercially practical of microscopic voids, cracks, and foreign inclusions.

10. Sampling

10.1 Sampling shall be statistically adequate to satisfy the requirements of 15.1

11. Number of Tests

11.1 Routine lot inspection tests shall consist of all the tests specified in Table 1, Table 2, or Table 3.

11.2 The tests listed in Table 1 and Table 2, as they apply, are sufficient to establish conformity of the PTFE sheet or basic shapes to this specification. When the number of test specimens is not stated in the test method, single determination shall be made. If more than single determinations and separate

TABLE 3 Nominal Thickness and Tolerances for PTFE Sheets

Thickness Inch	Tolerance Inch	Thickness Inch	Tolerance Inch	Thickness Inch	Tolerance Inch
1/32	+0.015 -0.005	1/4	+0.030 -0.015	1 1/4	+0.102 -0.051
1/16	+0.015 -0.005	3/8	+0.038 -0.019	1 1/2	+0.118 -0.059
3/32	+0.020 -0.005	1/2	+0.046 -0.022	1 3/4	+0.134 -0.067
1/8	+0.016 -0.008	5/8	+0.054 -0.027	2	+0.150 -0.075
5/32	+0.018 -0.009	3/4	+0.070 -0.035	Over 2	+10 % -10 %
3/16	+0.022 -0.011	1	+0.087 -0.043		

portions of the same sample are made, the results shall be averaged. The single or average result shall conform to the requirements prescribed in this specification.

11.3 The properties listed in the Appendix X1 provide additional information. The data shown are informational only and shall not be used for specification purposes.

12. Test Conditions

12.1 *Conditioning of Specimens*—Unless otherwise specified in this specification, the test specimens shall be conditioned in accordance with Procedure A of Practice D618 for a period of at least four h prior to test.

12.2 *Standard Temperature*—Unless otherwise specified, the tests shall be conducted at the standard laboratory temperature of 23°C ± 2°C [73.4°F ± 3.6°F]. Since the sheet or

molded basic shape does not absorb water, the maintenance of constant humidity during testing is not important.

13. Test Methods

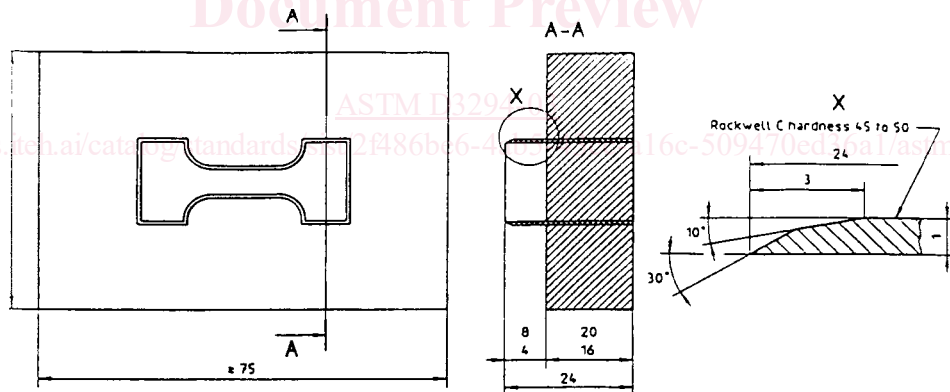
13.1 *Visual and Dimensional Inspection*—Each of the sample PTFE sheets or molded basic shapes selected in accordance with Section 10 shall be visually and dimensionally inspected to verify their compliance with the requirements of the standard. Occasional superficial flaws in PTFE sheet or molded basic shapes shall be interpreted as neither affecting the porosity nor soundness of the molding. Such flaws are scratches, edge cracks, and the adherence of resin flakes. Such indications shall not be cause for rejection.

13.2 *Tensile Strength and Elongation*—Determine the ultimate tensile strength and elongation in accordance with Test Method D638 except as follows:

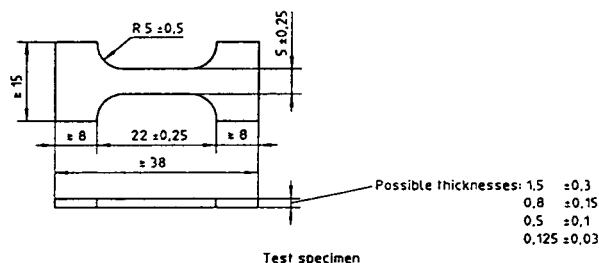
13.2.1 Cut five microspecimens with the steel rule die and the dimensions shown in Fig. 1 using a hydraulic or mechanical press. When cutting a specimen, back it by a hard surface such as masonite or equal with a piece of thin cardboard such as that used in a tabulating machine between said hard surface and sample. Remove any tool marks resulting from sample preparation which are not essentially parallel to the long axis of the specimen by light sanding in a direction parallel to such long axis.

13.2.2 Testing shall be at a speed of 50.8 mm [2 in.]/min.

13.2.3 Determine elongation by using an initial jaw separation of 22.2 mm [0.875 in.] and expressed as a percentage of the initial jaw separation.



Steel-rule die
(Inside dimensions for die are the same as test specimen)
Die to be sharpened on outside edge only (as shown in A-A)



NOTE 1—Dimensions in millimetres.
FIG. 1 Microtensile Die—ISO