Designation: C 534 – 03

Standard Specification for Preformed Flexible Elastomeric Cellular Thermal Insulation in Sheet and Tubular Form[1]

This standard is issued under the fixed designation C 534; 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 covers preformed flexible elastomeric cellular thermal insulation in sheet and tubular form. Grade 1 covers materials to be used on commercial or industrial systems with operating temperatures from -57 to 104°C (-70 to 220°F), Grade 2 covers material used on industrial systems with operating temperatures from -40 to 175°C (-40 to 350°F), and Grade 3 covers material used on industrial systems with operating temperatures from -40 to 120°C (-40 to 250°F) where halogens are not permitted.

1.2 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as the standard. The inch-pound equivalents of SI units, given in parentheses, are approximate.

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:*

C 168 Terminology Relating to Thermal Insulation[2]
C 177 Test Method for Steady-State Heat Flux Measurements and Thermal Transmission Properties by Means of the Guarded-Hot-Plate Apparatus[2]
C 209 Test Methods for Cellulosic Fiber Insulating Board[2]
C 356 Test Method for Linear Shrinkage of Preformed High-Temperature Insulation Subjected to Soaking Heat[2]
C 390 Criteria for Sampling and Acceptance of Preformed Thermal Insulation Lots[2]
C 335 Test Method for Steady-State Heat Transfer Properties of Horizontal Pipe Insulation[2]
C 411 Test Method for Hot-Surface Performance of High-Temperature Thermal Insulation[2]
C 447 Practice for Estimating the Maximum Use Temperature of Thermal Insulations[2]
C 518 Test Method for Steady-State Thermal Transmission Properties by Means of the Heat Flow Meter Apparatus[2]
C 585 Practice for Inner and Outer Diameters of Rigid Thermal Insulation for Nominal Sizes of Pipe and Tubing (NPS System)[2]
C 692 Test Method for Evaluating the Influence of Thermal Insulations on External Stress Corrosion Cracking Tendency of Austenitic Stainless Steel[2]
C 795 Specification for Thermal Insulation for Use in Contact with Austenitic Stainless Steel[2]
C 871 Test Methods for Chemical Analysis of Thermal Insulation Materials for Leachable Chloride, Fluoride, Silicate, and Sodium Ions[2]
C 1045 Practice for Calculating Thermal Transmission Properties Under Steady-State Conditions[2]
C 1058 Practice for Selecting Temperatures for Evaluating and Reporting Thermal Properties of Thermal Insulation[2]
C 1114 Test Method for Steady-State Thermal Transmission Properties by Means of the Thin-Heater Apparatus[2]
C 1304 Test Method for Assessing the Odor Emission of Thermal Insulation Materials[2]
D 883 Terminology Relating to Plastics[3]
D 1622 Test Method for Apparent Density of Rigid Cellular Plastics[3]
D 1667 Specification for Flexible Cellular Materials-Vinyl Chloride Polymers and Copolymers (Closed-Cell Foam)[3]
E 84 Test Method for Surface Burning Characteristics of Building Materials[4]
E 96 Test Methods for Water Vapor Transmission of Materials[2]

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—Terms used in this specification are defined in Terminology C 168 and in Terminology D 883.

3.2 *Definition of Term Specific to This Standard:*

3.2.1 *cellular elastomeric foam*—a closed-cell foam made of natural or synthetic rubber, or a mixture of the two, and containing other polymers, other chemicals, or both, which is permitted to be modified by organic or inorganic additives. These foams have properties similar to those of vulcanized

[1] This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee C16 on Thermal Insulation and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee C16.22 on Organic and Nonhomogeneous Inorganic Thermal Insulations.

Current edition approved May 10, 2003. Published June 2003. Originally published in 1964. Last previous edition approved in 2002 as C 534 - 02.

[2] *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 04.06.

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

[4] *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 04.07.

rubber, namely, (*1*) the ability to be converted from a thermoplastic to a thermosetting state by cross-linking (vulcanization) and (*2*) the ability to recover substantially its original shape when strained or elongated.

3.2.2 *flexible cellular*—a flexible cellular organic polymeric material shall not rupture within 60 s when a specimen 200 by 25 by 25 mm (8 by 1 by 1 in.) is bent around a 25-mm (1-in.) diameter mandrel at a uniform rate of one lap in 5 s in the form of a helix at a temperature between 18 and 29°C (65 and 85°F).

NOTE 1—The flexibility of these materials may decrease at lower temperatures.

4. Classification

4.1 The types are designated below:

4.1.1 *Type I*—Tubular.

Grade 1 Use temperature -57 to 104°C (-70 to 220°F).
Grade 2 Use temperature -40 to 175°C (-40 to 350°F).
Grade 3 Use temperature -40 to 120°C (-40 to 250°F).

4.1.2 *Type II*—Sheet.

Grade 1 Use temperature -57 to 104°C (-70 to 220°F).
Grade 2 Use temperature -40 to 175°C (-40 to 350°F).
Grade 3 Use temperature -40 to 105°C (-40 to 220°F).

4.2 Grade I is flexible elastomeric material for use on typical commercial systems.

4.3 Grade 2 is a high temperature flexible elastomeric material.

4.4 Grade 3 is an elastomeric material that does not contain any leachable chlorides, fluorides or polyvinyl chloride.

NOTE 2—Continuous long-term exposure at or above the upper use temperature may cause degradation in the form of loss of flexibility

5. Materials

5.1 These products shall be made of a homogeneous blend of natural or synthetic rubber that is permitted to be modified with various thermoplastic or thermosetting resins, plasticizers, modifiers, antioxidants, curatives, blowing agents and other additives. These products are thermoset and are not thermoplastic in nature.

5.2 These products are expanded with chemical blowing agents that decompose with the application of heat. The gases produced by these blowing agents are similar to those found in the atmosphere and thus the diffusion rate is not significant. These gases do not change over time and the thermal conductivity of the insulation is stable over time.

5.3 Flexible, elastomeric, cellular thermal insulations shall be of uniform core density and have closed cells. Even though these insulation materials are permitted to have a smooth skin surface on one or both sides, they are to be considered homogeneous for the purposes of determining thermal performance.

6. Physical Requirements

6.1 *Qualification Requirements*—Thermal conductivity, water vapor permeability and dimensional stability physical properties listed in Table 1, are defined as qualification requirements (refer to C 390, Section 5, Classification of Requirements and Section 6, Acceptance for Qualification Requirements).

6.2 *Inspection Requirements*:

6.2.1 The requirements for water absorption listed in Table 1 is defined as an inspection requirement (refer to C 390, Section 5, Classification of Requirements, and Section 7, Acceptance for Inspection Requirements).

6.2.2 All dimensional requirements shall be as described in Section 6 and Table 2.

6.2.3 All workmanship, finish and appearance requirements shall be as described in Section 9.

6.2.4 Compliance with inspection requirements shall be in accordance with Criteria C 390.

6.3 Both Type I and Type II insulations shall conform to the physical property requirements listed in Table 1.

6.4 The material shall be free of objectionable odors at all temperatures within the recommended use range when tested according to Test Method C 1304.

6.5 *Surface Burning Characteristics*—Surface burning characteristics shall be tested for the thickness supplied in accordance with Test Method E 84 and the results shall be reported.

NOTE 3—This test method does not always define the hazard that may be presented by preformed flexible elastomeric cellular thermal insulation under actual fire conditions. It is retained for reference in this standard as lab test data required by some building codes.

NOTE 4—Preformed flexible cellular elastomeric thermal insulation is an organic material and is combustible. It should not be exposed to flames

TABLE 1 Physical Requirements for Type I (Tubular) and Type II (Sheet)[A]

Property	Unit	Grade 1	Grade 2 (higher temperature)	Grade 3 (non-chloride/non-fluoride containing)
Apparent thermal conductivity, max., at a mean temperature of:	W/m·K (Btu·in./h·ft^2·°F)			
-29°C (-20°F)		0.036 (0.25)	0.036 (0.25)	0.036 (0.25)
-18°C (0°F)		0.038 (0.26)	0.038 (0.26)	0.038 (0.26)
24°C (75°F)		0.040 (0.28)	0.043 (0.30)	0.040 (0.28)
50°C (120°F)		0.043 (0.30)	0.047 (0.32)	0.043 (0.30)
86°C (150°F)		0.045 (0.31)	0.049 (0.34)	0.045 (0.31)
150°C (300°F)		NA	0.061 (0.42)	NA
Water absorption, max.	% by volume	0.20	0.20	0.20
Water-vapor permeability, max.	g/Pa·s·m (perm-in.)	1.44×10^{-10}(0.10)	1.44×10^{-10}(0.10)	1.44×10^{-10}(0.10)
Linear shrinkage, max after soak at maximum use temperature	% linear change	5.0 %	7.0 %	7.0 %

[A] Table 1 describes two types of flexible elastomeric cellular thermal insulation. The values stated in Table 1 may not always be appropriate as design values. For specific design recommendations using a particular product and for supporting documentation, consult the manufacturer.