



Designation: D 3574 – 03

Standard Test Methods for Flexible Cellular Materials—Slab, Bonded, and Molded Urethane Foams¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D 3574; 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.

This standard has been approved for use by agencies of the Department of Defense.

1. Scope*

1.1 These test methods apply to slab, bonded, and molded flexible cellular products known as urethane foams. Urethane foam may be generally defined as an expanded cellular product produced by the interaction of active hydrogen compounds, water, and isocyanates.

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.*

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

NOTE 1—There is no equivalent ISO standard, however certain test methods in this standard have similar or equivalent ISO standards and are listed in the Scope of the individual test method sections.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:

- D 412 Test Methods for Vulcanized Rubber and Thermoplastic Elastomers—Tension²
- D 624 Test Method for Tear Strength of Conventional Vulcanized Rubber and Thermoplastic Elastomers²
- D 726 Test Method for Resistance of Nonporous Paper to Passage of Air³
- D 737 Test Method for Air Permeability of Textile Fabrics⁴
- D 3675 Test Method for Surface Flammability of Flexible Cellular Materials Using a Radiant Heat Energy Source⁵
- E 691 Practice for Conducting an Interlaboratory Study to Determine the Precision of a Test Method⁶

NOTE 2—The specific dated edition of Practice E 691 that prevails in

¹ These test methods are under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D20 on Plastics and are the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D20.22 on Cellular Materials-Plastics and Elastomers.

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² *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 09.01.

³ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 15.09.

⁴ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 07.01.

⁵ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 08.02.

⁶ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 14.02.

this document is referenced in the Precision and Bias section.

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.1.1 *bonded foam*—a product produced by the adhesion of small pieces of urethane foam to each other with a suitable bonding agent.

3.1.2 *core*—the internal portion of a molded part, free of skin.

3.1.3 *cored foam*—a flexible cellular material containing a multiplicity of holes (usually, but not necessarily, cylindrical in shape), molded or cut into the material in some pattern, normally perpendicular to the foam rise direction, and extending part or all the way through the piece

3.1.4 *convoluted foam*—a flexible cellular material specially cut into sheets with “egg carton”-like dimples. The dimple peaks and bases can have varied shapes and dimensions.

3.1.5 *flexible cellular product*—a cellular organic polymeric material that will not rupture when a specimen 200 by 25 by 25 mm is bent around a 25-mm diameter mandrel at a uniform rate of 1 lap in 5 s at a temperature between 18 and 29°C.

3.1.6 *molded foam*—a cellular product having the shape of the enclosed chamber in which it is produced by foaming.

3.1.7 *skin*—the smooth surface layer of a molded foam product, formed by contact with the mold or surfaces.

3.1.8 *slab*—a section of foam that is cut from the internal portion of a large bun.

3.1.9 *urethane foam*—a flexible cellular product produced by the interaction of active hydrogen compounds, water, and isocyanates.

4. Summary of Test Methods

4.1 Unless specifically stated otherwise between the supplier and the purchaser, all tests shall be made in accordance with the methods specified in Sections 9-124 which include test procedures for the following:

Tests:		Sections
Test A	Density Test	9-15
Test B ₁	Indentation Force Deflection Test—Specified Deflection	16-22

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

Test B ₂	Indentation Force Deflection Test—Specified Force	23-29
Test C	Compression Force Deflection Test	30-36
Test D	Constant Deflection Compression Set Test	37-44
Test E	Tensile Test	45-52
Test F	Tear Resistance Test	53-60
Test G	Air Flow Test	61-67
Test H	Resilience (Ball Rebound) Test	68-75
Test I ₁	Static Force Loss Test at Constant Deflection	77-85
Test I ₂	Dynamic Fatigue Test by the Roller Shear at Constant Force,	86-94
Test I ₃	Dynamic Fatigue Test by Constant Force Pounding	95-103
Test I ₄	Dynamic Fatigue Test for Carpet Cushion	104-112
Test J	Steam Autoclave Aging	113-118
Test K	Dry Heat Aging	119-124
Test L	Wet Heat Aging	125-130

Appendixes:

- X1. Suggested Method for Specifying Flexible Urethane Foams
- X2. Suggested Method of Construction for a Roller Shear Dynamic Flex Fatigue Apparatus
- X3. Definitions of Terms Used to Describe the Force-Deflection Curve of Flexible Urethane Foam
- X4. Suggested Tests for Determining Combustibility of Flexible Urethane Foam. (The combustion tests are given for informational purposes only and are not part of the standard.)
- X5. Suggested Method for Verification of an Inclined Oil Manometer

5. Significance and Use

5.1 The test procedures provide a standard method of obtaining data for research and development, quality control, acceptance and rejection under specifications, and special purposes.

5.2 The data obtained by these test methods are applicable to the material under conditions of the particular test and are not necessarily the same as obtained in other environments in use.

6. General Test Conditions

6.1 Tests shall be conducted under known conditions of temperature and humidity or as specified in the individual test procedure. The product shall be conditioned undeflected, and undistorted at the temperature and humidity of test for at least 12 h before being tested. In cases of dispute, the tests shall be made at a temperature of $23 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ and in an atmosphere of $50 \pm 5\%$ relative humidity.

6.2 It is recommended for referee purposes that all tests shall be performed 7 days or more after the foam has been manufactured.

7. Sampling

7.1 When possible, the completed manufactured product shall be used for the test specified. Representative samples of the lot being examined shall be selected at random as required.

7.2 When it is necessary or advisable to obtain specimens from the articles, as in those cases where the entire sample is not required or adaptable for testing, the method of cutting and the exact position from which specimens are to be taken shall be specified. The density and the state of cure may vary in different parts of the finished product, especially if the article is of complicated shape or of varying thickness, and these factors affect the physical properties of the specimens. Also, the density is affected by the number of cut surfaces on the

specimen. If a test specimen is die cut, sufficient time should be allowed for complete recovery of the thickness across the full width of the specimen.

7.3 When the finished molded product does not lend itself to testing or to the taking of specimens because of complicated shape, small size, metal or fabric inserts, adhesion to metal, or other reasons, molded test slabs as agreed upon between the supplier and the purchaser shall be prepared.

7.4 When differences in test results arise due to the difficulty in obtaining suitable specimens from the finished parts, the supplier and the purchaser may agree upon an acceptable location to take the specimen.

8. Measurement of Test Specimens

8.1 Measure the length and width with a scale or tape. Take care not to distort the foam.

8.2 Measure thickness up to and including 25 mm using a dial-type gage with a minimum foot area of 650 mm^2 . Hold the pressure of the dial foot to $170 \pm 35\text{ Pa}$ (Note 3). Thicknesses over 25 mm may be measured with a dial gage, a sliding caliper gage, or as specified in 8.1. When a sliding caliper gage is employed, make the gage setting with the gage out of contact with the foam. Pass the specimen through the previously set gage: the proper setting shall be the one when the measuring faces of the gage contact the surfaces of the specimen without compressing it.

NOTE 3—For soft foams having compression force deflection values less than 1.65 kPa, the pressure on the dial foot shall not exceed 100 Pa.

8.3 The scale, tape, or gage shall be graduated so as to permit measurements within $\pm 1\%$ of the dimensions to be measured.

8.4 Unless otherwise specified, results shall be the mean of the measurements.

TEST A—DENSITY TEST

9. Scope

9.1 This test method covers determination of the density of uncured foam by calculation from the mass and volume of the specimen. The density value thus obtained applies only to the immediate area from which the specimen has been taken. It does not necessarily relate to the bulk density of the entire molded pad.

NOTE 4—ISO 845 is a similar test, but there are technical differences.

10. Test Specimen

10.1 *Core Density*—A representative specimen of regular shape, circular or square without skins or densification lines, not less than 1000 mm^3 in volume, shall be cut from a portion free of voids and defects and as near as possible to the section from which the tension and tear specimens were taken.

10.2 *Section Density*—A representative specimen with skins on the top and bottom surface measuring at least 0.1 m^2 in area by full-part thickness shall be cut from an area free of voids and defects and as near as possible to the location from which the tension and tear specimens were taken. When these dimensions are not possible, the largest representative portion as agreed upon between the supplier and the purchaser shall be used.

11. Number of Specimens

11.1 One specimen shall be tested, unless otherwise agreed upon by the supplier and the purchaser.

12. Procedure

12.1 Determine the mass of the specimen within 1 %.

12.2 Determine the dimensions of the specimen in accordance with Section 8, and calculate the volume.

13. Calculation

13.1 Calculate the density in kilograms per cubic metre as follows:

$$\text{Density} = M/V \times 10^6 \quad (1)$$

where:

M = mass of specimen, g, and

V = volume of specimen, mm³.

14. Report

14.1 Report the following information:

14.1.1 Density to the nearest 0.1 kg/m³, and

14.1.2 Type of specimen, core or section.

15. Precision and Bias

15.1 See Section 131 for Precision and Bias statements.

TEST B₁ —INDENTATION FORCE DEFLECTION TEST—SPECIFIED DEFLECTION

16. Scope

16.1 This will be known as the indentation force deflection test and the results as the IFD values. This test consists of measuring the force necessary to produce designated indentations in the foam product, for example, 25 and 65 % deflections. (Appendix X3).

NOTE 5—ISO 2439 is a similar test, but there are technical differences.

17. Apparatus

17.1 An apparatus having a flat circular indenter foot 203 mm in diameter connected by means of a swivel joint capable of accommodating the angle of the sample to a force-measuring device and mounted in such a manner that the product or specimen can be deflected at a speed of 50 to 500 mm/min. The apparatus shall be arranged to support the specimen on a level horizontal plate which is perforated with approximately 6.5-mm holes on approximately 20-mm centers to allow for rapid escape of air during the test. Special support for contoured molded pads shall be perforated in the same manner as the flat plate unless agreed upon between the supplier and the purchaser. Pads longer than the base plate shall be supported from distortion at the 4.5-N contact force.

18. Test Specimen

18.1 The test specimen shall consist of the entire product sample or a suitable portion of it, except that in no case shall the specimen have dimensions less than 380 by 380 by 100 mm. Specimens less or different than 100 mm in thickness shall have the thickness noted on the test report.

18.2 The IFD values for molded products are dependent on the specimen dimensions. Higher values are generally obtained for specimens that retain all molded surfaces.

19. Number of Specimens

19.1 One specimen shall be tested, unless otherwise agreed upon by the supplier and the purchaser.

20. Procedure

20.1 Place the test specimen in position on the supporting plate of the apparatus. If the product has one side cored or honey-combed, this face shall rest on the perforated plate. The specimen position shall be such that whenever practicable the indentation will be made at the center of all articles, except where another location is agreed upon by the supplier and the purchaser.

20.2 Preflex the area to be tested by twice lowering the indenter foot to a total deflection of 75 to 80 % of the full-part thickness at a rate of 250 ± 25 mm/min. Mark the location of the test area with a pen by circumscribing the indenter foot while under a 4.5-N force. Allow the specimen to rest 6 ± 1 min after the preflex.

20.3 Bring the indenter foot into contact with the specimen and determine the thickness after applying a contact force of 4.5 N (Note 6) to the indenter foot. Indent the specimen at 50 ± 5 mm/min 25 % of this thickness and observe the force in newtons after 60 ± 3 s. Without removing the specimen increase the deflection to 65 % deflection, allowing the force to drift while maintaining the 65 % deflection, and again observe the force in newtons after 60 ± 3 s.

NOTE 6—For super-soft foam, foam with a 25 % IFD less than 40 N, a reduction of pressure on the indenter foot shall be allowed. Sufficient contact force to make an accurate initial thickness measurement is required.

21. Report

21.1 Report the force in newtons required for 25 and 65 % indentation or other indentations (Note 7). These figures are known as the 25 % and 65 % IFD values, respectively. Report also length, width, and thickness of the specimen, if non-standard and the ratio (support factor Appendix X3) of 65 % to 25 % IFD values.

NOTE 7—Indentation deflection tests, other than 25 and 65 %, as well as a 25 % return value (25 % RT), may be specified as agreed upon between the supplier and the purchaser.

22. Precision and Bias

22.1 See Section 131 for Precision and Bias statements.

TEST B₂ —INDENTATION RESIDUAL GAGE LOAD TEST—SPECIFIED FORCE

23. Scope

23.1 Cellular foam products have been traditionally checked for indentation force deflection by determining the force required to effect a 25 % deflection. In seating, on the other hand, the interest is in determining how thick the padding is under the average person. Two measurements are called for to meet the requirements of this test method. The force deflection

is determined by measuring the thickness of the pad under a fixed force of 4.5 N, 110 N, and 220 N, on a 323-cm² circular indenter foot.

23.2 This determination shall be known as the Indentation Residual Gage Load and the measurements as the IRGL values.

NOTE 8—ISO 2439 is a similar test, but there are technical differences.

24. Apparatus

24.1 An apparatus having a flat circular indenter foot 203 mm in diameter connected with a swivel joint for applying forces of 4.5 N, 110 N, 220 N and 330 N shall be mounted over a level horizontal platform that is perforated with approximately 6.5-mm holes on approximately 20-mm centers to allow for rapid escape of air during the test. The distance between the indenter foot and the platform shall be variable to indent the specimen at a speed of 50 to 200 mm/min for thickness measurements. The apparatus shall be equipped with a device for measuring the distance between plates.

24.2 Special support for contoured molded pads shall be perforated and agreed upon between the supplier and the purchaser. Pads longer than the base plate shall be supported from distortion at the 4.5-N contact force.

25. Test Conditions

25.1 When possible the completed manufactured product shall be used. In the case of tapered cushions, the location of the area for measurement is to be agreed upon between the supplier and the purchaser. In the case a finished part is not feasible for test, 380 by 380-mm specimens of an average thickness are to be cut from the cushion.

25.2 The IRGL values for molded products are dependent on the specimen dimensions. Difference values are generally obtained for specimens that retain all molded surfaces.

26. Number of Specimens

26.1 One specimen shall be tested, unless otherwise agreed upon by the supplier and the purchaser.

27. Procedure

27.1 Test the whole test specimen or a minimum area of 380 by 380 mm. Preflex the specimen twice with a 330 N force at 200 ± 20 mm/min. Allow to rest 6 ± 1 min. Position the specimen in the test apparatus with any cored or convoluted surfaces resting against the perforated bottom plate.

27.2 Bring the indenter foot into contact and determine the thickness of the specimen with the 4.5-N load on the indenter foot.

27.3 Apply the 110-N force at 50 ± 5 mm/min with the indenter foot and indent the specimen until the force is carried by the specimen. Determine the thickness at 110 N after maintaining the force for 60 ± 3 s.

27.4 Without removing the specimen apply the 220-N force at 50 ± 5 mm/min with the indenter foot and further indent the pad until this load is carried. After 60 ± 3 s under load, determine the thickness of the pad.

28. Report

28.1 Report the specimen thickness after 60 ± 3 s at 4.5 N, 110 N, and 220 N. These figures are known as the IRGL values, respectively. Report also the length, width, and thickness of the specimen.

29. Precision and Bias

29.1 Round robin testing to determine the precision of this method is being planned and the data will be available by 2002.

TEST C—COMPRESSION FORCE DEFLECTION TEST

30. Scope

30.1 This test consists of measuring the force necessary to produce a 50 % compression over the entire top area of the foam specimen.

NOTE 9—ISO 3386 is a similar test, but there are technical differences.

NOTE 10—Compression deflection tests other than at 50 % may be specified as agreed upon between the supplier and the purchaser.

31. Apparatus

31.1 An apparatus having a flat compression foot, larger than the specimen to be tested connected to a force-measuring device and mounted in a manner such that the product or specimen can be deflected at a speed of 50 to 500 mm/min. The apparatus shall be arranged to support the specimen on a level horizontal plate that is perforated with approximately 6.5-mm holes on approximately 20-mm centers to allow for rapid escape of air during the test.

32. Test Specimens

32.1 The slab test specimen shall have parallel top and bottom surfaces and essentially vertical sides. The thickness shall be no greater than 75 % of the minimum top dimension. The standard specimen shall be 50 mm by 50 mm by 25 mm in thickness.

32.2 Specimens from uncured slab stock shall be a minimum of 2000 mm² in area and have a minimum thickness of 20 mm.

32.3 The test specimen from molded parts shall have parallel top and bottom surfaces and perpendicular sides. Preferably the specimen should include both top and bottom molded skins. If a test specimen with parallel top and bottom surfaces including both molded skins cannot be obtained because of the shape of the molded part, at least one of the molded skin surfaces should be retained. Both surface skins should be removed only in cases where the shape of the original sample makes this absolutely necessary.

32.4 Maximum molded specimen thickness shall be no greater than the minimum top dimensions. Specimens from molded parts shall be a minimum of 2000 mm² in area and have a minimum thickness of 20 mm.

33. Number of Specimens

33.1 Three specimens per sample shall be tested. The value reported shall be the mean value of those observed.

34. Procedure

34.1 Preflex the specimen twice, 75 to 80 % of its original thickness at 250 ± 25 mm/min. Then allow the specimen to rest for a period of 6 ± 1 min.

34.2 Place the specimen centered in the line of the axial load on the supporting plate of the apparatus. If the product has one side cored or convoluted, rest this face on the perforated plates.

34.3 Bring the compression foot into contact with the specimen and determine the thickness after applying a contact load of 140 Pa to the specimen area (Note 3). Compress the specimen 50 % of this thickness at 50 ± 5 mm/min and determine the final force after 60 ± 3 s.

35. Report

35.1 Report the thickness after contact force, and the 50 % compression deflection value in kilopascals and the dimensions of non-standard specimens. Indicate if the sample was cored or convoluted.

36. Precision and Bias

36.1 See Section 131 for Precision and Bias statements.

TEST D—CONSTANT DEFLECTION COMPRESSION SET TEST

37. Scope

37.1 This test method consists of deflecting the foam specimen to a specified deflection, exposing it to specified conditions of time and temperature and measuring the change in the thickness of the specimen after a specified recovery period.

NOTE 11—ISO 1856 is a similar test, but there are technical differences.

38. Apparatus

38.1 *Compression Device*, consisting of two or more flat plates arranged so the plates are held parallel to each other by bolts or clamps and the space between the plates is adjustable to the required deflection thickness by means of spacers.

39. Test Specimens

39.1 The test specimens shall have parallel top and bottom surfaces and essentially perpendicular sides.

39.2 Specimens shall be 50 by 50 by 25 mm unless otherwise specified. Specimens less than 25 mm in thickness shall be plied up, without the use of cement, to a 25-mm thickness.

39.3 Specimens from cored foams shall have a minimum top surface area of 100 cm². The thickness shall be no greater than 75 % of the minimum top dimension.

39.4 Specimens from uncured molded products 25 mm or less in thickness shall be 50 by 50 mm by full-part thickness and shall contain the top and bottom skin.

39.5 Specimens greater than 50 mm in thickness shall be cut to 25 mm thickness from the core. (Note 12)

NOTE 12—Specimens from molded products may be tested with one or both skins by agreement between the customer and the supplier.

40. Number of Specimens

40.1 Three specimens per sample shall be tested. The value reported shall be the mean of those observed.

41. Procedure

41.1 Perform the entire test procedure under the following conditions: Conduct all measurements, conditioning, and recovery of the specimen at $23 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ and in an atmosphere of 50 ± 5 % relative humidity. The oven conditions shall be $70 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ and 6 % maximum relative humidity.

NOTE 13—This condition of relative humidity may be achieved by placing an oven at $70 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ in an atmosphere maintained at $23 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ and 50 ± 5 % relative humidity.

41.2 Measure the original thickness of the test specimen in accordance with the procedure described in Section 8.

41.3 Place the test specimen in the apparatus and deflect it to either 50 ± 1 , 75 ± 1 , or 90 ± 1 % of its thickness, or any other deflection agreed upon between the supplier and the purchaser.

41.4 Within 15 min, place the deflected specimen and the apparatus in the mechanically convected air oven for a period of 22 h; then remove the apparatus.

41.5 Remove the specimen immediately from the apparatus and measure the final thickness in accordance with the procedure described in Section 8 after allowing it to recover 30 to 40 min at the temperature and humidity conditions specified in 41.1.

NOTE 14—Recovery periods greater than 30 to 40 min may be agreed upon by the supplier and the purchaser.

42. Calculation

42.1 Calculate the compression set value by one of the following formulas:

NOTE 15—The C_t calculation is preferred and shall be the calculation used when neither C_t and C_d are specified.

42.1.1 Calculate the constant deflection compression set, expressed as a percentage of the original thickness, as follows:

$$C_t = [(t_o - t_f)/t_o] \times 100 \quad (2)$$

where:

C_t = compression set expressed as a percentage of the original thickness,

t_o = original thickness of test specimen, and

t_f = final thickness of test specimen.

42.1.2 Calculate the constant deflection compression set, expressed as a percentage of the original deflection, as follows:

$$C_d = [(t_o - t_f)/(t_o - t_s)] \times 100 \quad (3)$$

where:

C_d = compression set expressed as a percent of the original deflection,

t_o = original thickness of test specimen,

t_s = thickness of spacer bar used, and

t_f = final thickness of test specimen.

NOTE 16—Approximate conversion of C_t to C_d can be calculated by multiplying the 50 % C_t by 2, the 75 % C_t by 1.33, and the 90 % C_t by 1.11.

52. Precision and Bias

52.1 See Section 131 for Precision and Bias statements.

TEST F—TEAR RESISTANCE TEST

53. Scope

53.1 This test method covers determination of the tear propagation resistance of foam. The block method, as described, measures the tear resistance under the conditions of this particular test.

NOTE 18—ISO 8067 is a similar test, but there are technical differences.

54. Apparatus

54.1 Tear resistance shall be measured on a power-driven apparatus which will indicate the force at which rupture of the specimen takes place. An automatic machine may be used which draws the actual curve, or, a style or scale shall be used having an indicator that remains at the point of maximum force after rupture.

55. Test Specimens

55.1 The test specimens shall be a block shape free of skin, voids, and densification lines, as shown in Fig. 2. They may be cut on a saw or die cut from sheet material so that the sides are parallel and perpendicular to each other. A nominal 40-mm cut shall be placed in one side as shown in Fig. 2. Dimension *A-B* can be reduced to the pad thickness. The thickness shall be determined in accordance with Section 8.

56. Number of Specimens

56.1 Three specimens per sample shall be tested. The values reported shall be the mean of those tested.

57. Procedure

57.1 Clamp the test specimen in the jaws of the testing machine, taking care that the jaws grip the specimen properly. Spread the block so that each tab is held in the jaw to pull across the specimen. The test shall be run at a speed of 500 ± 50 mm/min, unless otherwise specified by agreement between customer and supplier. Aid the cut in the specimen with a razor blade or knife, so as to keep it in the center of the block (Note 19). After the rupture of the specimen, or after at least a 50-mm length is torn, record the maximum force in Newtons and note also the thickness of the specimen (direction *A-B*).

NOTE 19—For foams that will not tear by this method side by side tear strength comparisons can be made by testing in accordance with Test

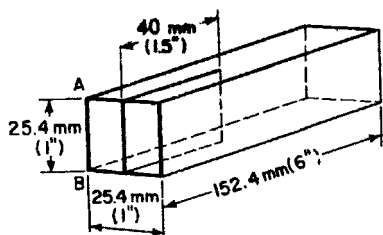


FIG. 2 Tear Resistance Test Specimens

Method D 624. It should be noted that the D 624 test is a tear initiating measurement as opposed to a tear propagating measurement in this block tear test.

58. Calculation

58.1 Calculate the tear strength from the maximum force registered on the testing machine and the average thickness of the specimen (direction *A-B*), as follows:

$$\text{Tear strength, N/m} = F/T \times 10^3 \quad (5)$$

where:

F = force, N, and
T = thickness, mm.

59. Report

59.1 Report the following information:

- 59.1.1 Tear strength in newtons per metre,
- 59.1.2 Orientation of specimen, and
- 59.1.3 Crosshead speed, if other than 500 mm/min.

60. Precision and Bias

60.1 See Section 131 for Precision and Bias statements.

TEST G—AIR FLOW TEST

61. Scope

61.1 The air flow test measures the ease with which air passes through a cellular structure. Air flow values may be used as an indirect measurement of certain cell structure characteristics. The test consists of placing a flexible foam core specimen in a cavity over a chamber and creating a specified constant air-pressure differential. The rate of flow of air required to maintain this pressure differential is the air flow value. This test is normally for slab foam products or for the core materials of molded products. Measurements of air flow through molded skins or extremely high air flow products may require alternative methods (Note 21).

NOTE 20—ISO 7231 is an identical test.

NOTE 21—For measuring air flow of products beyond the range of this method some success has been achieved using the equipment specified in Test Method D 737. Some modification of the equipment may be necessary.⁷ For surface porosity of molded foams see Test Method D 726.

62. Terminology

62.1 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

62.1.1 *air flow value*—the volume of air per second at standard temperature and atmospheric pressure required to maintain a constant pressure differential of 125 Pa across a flexible foam specimen approximately 50 by 50 by 25 mm.

62.1.2 *air flow parallel to foam rise*—the air flow value obtained when the air enters and leaves the mounted specimen parallel to foam rise.

62.1.3 *air flow perpendicular to foam rise*—the air flow value obtained when the air enters and leaves the specimen perpendicular to foam rise.

⁷ Gummaraju, R.V., Pask, R.F., Koller, H.J., Wujcik, S.E., and Reimann, K.A., "Evaluation, Modification and Adaptation of an Airflow Test Method for Polyurethane Foams." *Journal of Cellular Plastics*, May/June 2001.

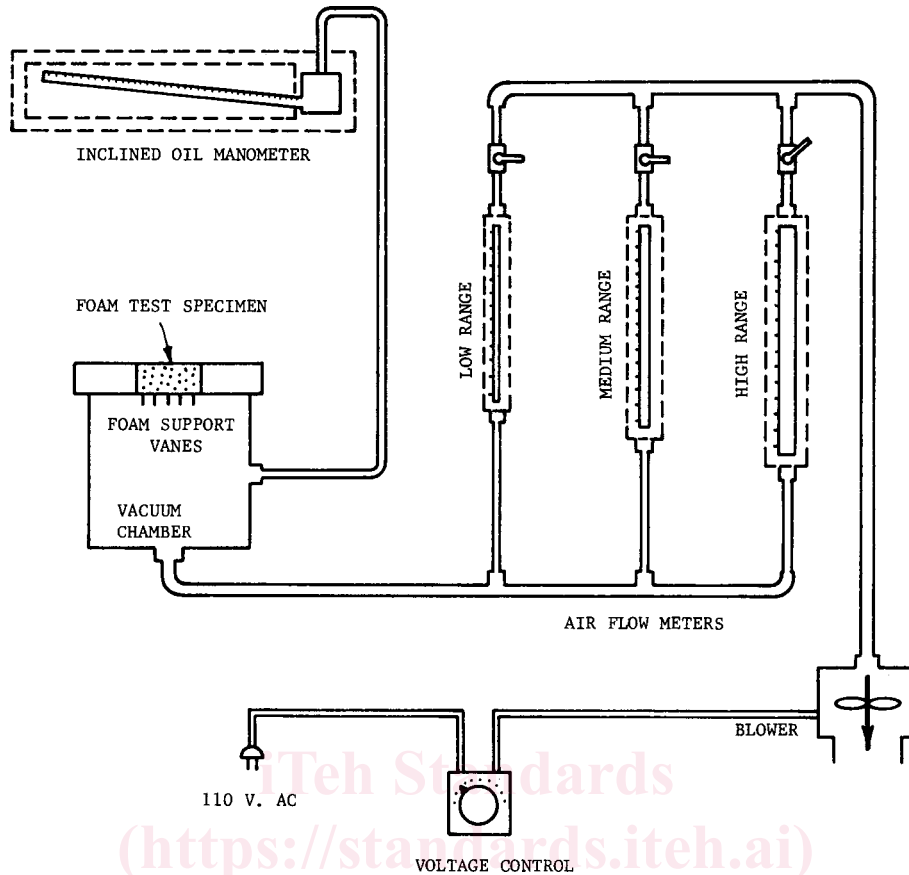


FIG. 3 Air Flow Apparatus Schematic Diagram

63. Apparatus

63.1 A schematic drawing of the apparatus including the specimen mounting chamber, manometer, air flowmeters, blowmeters, blower, and voltage control is shown in Fig. 3.⁸

63.2 *Chamber*, consisting of a pot approximately 130 mm in diameter and 150 mm high with provision for mounting the foam specimen and fittings for the manometer and air exhaust. The specimen mount cavity shall be 50.0 ± 0.5 by 50.0 ± 0.5 by 25.0 ± 0.5 mm in size. Four foam support vanes approximately 1 mm thick and 12.5 mm high shall be placed under the opening to prevent the foam from being pulled into the vacuum chamber. The vanes shall be spaced 12.5 mm on center from each other and also centered relative to the bottom of the cavity opening. The manometer fitting shall enter a 1-mm hole midway along the side of the chamber. A 25-mm pipe fitting shall be used as the exhaust outlet from the center of the bottom of the chamber.

63.3 *Manometer*, calibrated from 0 to 250 Pa and having an accuracy of $\pm 2\%$, is required. An inclined oil manometer with graduations of 2 Pa is recommended. A level mounted on the manometer shall be used to ensure that the proper degree of inclination from the horizontal is maintained. Traps shall be provided to prevent indicating fluid from being accidentally

drawn into the chamber. Appendix X5. describes a suggested method for the verification of the inclined oil manometer, the manometer can alternatively be replaced with a 0-250 Pa magnehelic gage with graduations in 5 Pa.

63.4 *Flowmeters and Blower*—Low-pressure-drop air flowmeters accurate to $\pm 2\%$ shall be used for air-flow measurements. A given flowmeter should not be used for values less than 10% of full scale. Air flowmeters with at least 250-mm scales are recommended. Since the flowmeter calibration is temperature- and pressure-dependent, the use of the apparatus under ambient conditions can result in erroneous readings. In cases of dispute, the apparatus should be used under standard conditions of 23°C and 100 kPa (1 atm pressure) or else a suitable calibration correction applied. Flowmeters that range from 0 to 0.01 m³/s will cover a wide range of foam cell structures but a lesser range may be used. Actual flow is adjusted by a combination of valve restriction and blower speed. The two-way valves shall be mounted on the output side of the flowmeter to maintain the pressure drop across the flowmeter constant at any given flow level. A vacuum cleaner type unit shall be used for an exhaust blower.

63.5 *Leak Test*—To check the apparatus for leaks, the specimen mount cavity shall be sealed with masking tape. With all valves closed, turn on the exhaust blower to approximately 1/3 power and observe any movement of the manometer. The manometer reading, if any, should not exceed 1 Pa after a 30-s waiting period. Next, open the valve very slightly for the

⁸ An electronic instrument that has proven to be effective for measuring air flow is available from ONIX Process Analysis, Inc., 1201 N. Velasco, Angleton, TX 77515.

lowest range flowmeter reading. The flow should be essentially zero as evidenced by less than 3-mm movement of the air flowmeter float from its static position. For the equipment to perform satisfactorily over its entire range the requirements for both parts of the leak test must be met.

64. Test Specimens

64.1 The test specimens shall be parallel-piped cut to fit the mount cavity of the apparatus. A cavity 50 by 50 mm requires a specimen 51.0 ± 0.3 by 51.0 ± 0.3 by 25.0 ± 0.5 mm in size. A band saw with a movable table and a double-bevel knife-edge blade is recommended for cutting the specimens.

64.2 Three specimens per sample for each location and orientation to be tested shall be cut. The values reported shall be the mean of those observed for each location and orientation.

65. Procedure

65.1 Measure each specimen in accordance with the procedure described in Section 8 to verify the specimen size.

65.2 Insert the specimen into the test cavity. Make sure that a good air seal is obtained along all edges. The top of the specimen should be flush with the top of the test chamber.

65.3 With all valves closed, adjust the voltage control of the apparatus to 30 %.

65.4 Open one flow-control valve slowly until a pressure differential to 100 to 150 Pa is obtained. Adjust the voltage control carefully to obtain a pressure differential of 125 ± 1 Pa.

65.5 After this pressure differential has been maintained for at least 10 s, read the scale of the flowmeter.

65.6 If this reading is off-scale or less than 10 % of full scale, close that flow-control valve and open a more appropriate one. Repeat this process until the proper manometer reading and air flow is achieved.

65.7 The air flow value may be obtained from the flowmeter scale directly, estimated from a calibration chart, or calculated with a factor depending on the calibration system.

66. Report

66.1 Report the following information:

66.1.1 Location and orientation of each specimen with respect to foam rise in the section of foam that was sampled,

66.1.2 Mean air flow value in cubic metres per min for each location and orientation,

66.1.3 Dimensions of the specimen, and

66.1.4 Dimension of the mount cavity of the apparatus.

67. Precision and Bias

67.1 See Section 131 for Precision and Bias statements.

TEST H—RESILIENCE (BALL REBOUND) TEST

68. Scope

68.1 This test consists of dropping a steel ball on a foam specimen and noting the height of rebound.

NOTE 22—ISO 8307 is an identical test.

69. Apparatus

69.1 The ball rebound tester shall consist of a 40 ± 4 -mm inside diameter vertical clear plastic tube, such as acrylic, into

which a 16.03 ± 0.2 -mm diameter steel ball is released by a magnet or other device. The steel ball must be released so that it falls without rotation. Centering of the ball is assured by a recess at the base of the magnet. The height of drop shall be 500 mm. Since it is most convenient to note the position of the top of the ball on rebound, the top of the ball shall be 516 mm above the surface of the foam. Thus, “zero” rebound shall be 16.3 ± 0.2 mm (diameter of ball) above the specimen surface. The scale on the tube shall be scribed directly in percent as follows. Every 5 % a complete circle shall be scribed and every 1 % a 120° arc shall be scribed. The complete circles are an essential part of the apparatus, since they are used to eliminate parallax error.

70. Test Specimens

70.1 The test specimens shall have parallel top and bottom surfaces.

70.2 The test specimens shall consist of the entire product sample or a suitable portion of it, except that in no case shall the thickness be less than 30 mm. The standard specimen size shall be 100 mm by 100 mm by 50 mm. For molded products the top skin shall be removed.

71. Number of Specimens

71.1 Three specimens per sample shall be tested. The three specimens may be obtained by using separate items or different locations on a given item.

72. Procedure

72.1 Center the specimen at the base of the tube and adjust the height of the tube so that zero rebound is 16 mm above the surface of the foam specimen.

72.2 Mount the steel ball on the release mechanism; then drop it and note the maximum rebound height. If the ball strikes the tube on the drop or rebound, the value obtained is invalid. This condition is usually due to the tube not being vertical or irregularities on the specimen surface. In order to minimize parallax error, the circles on the tube in the region where the percent rebound is read must appear as lines.

72.3 Make an additional two drops on the same specimen in the same location unless agreed upon by customer and supplier.

73. Calculation

73.1 Calculate the mean of the three rebound values.

74. Report

74.1 Report the mean of the three specimen mean values as the ball rebound resilience value of the sample in percent.

74.2 Report if measurements were made at different specimen locations or on different specimens.

75. Precision and Bias

75.1 See Section 131 for Precision and Bias statements.

TEST I—FATIGUE TESTS

76. Scope

76.1 The fatigue tests consist of four methods:

76.1.1 Static Force Loss Test at Constant Deflection,

76.1.2 Dynamic Fatigue by Roller Shear at Constant Force,
 76.1.3 Dynamic Fatigue Test by Constant Force Pounding,
 and
 76.1.4 Dynamic Fatigue Test for Carpet Cushion.

TEST I₁ —STATIC FORCE LOSS TEST AT CONSTANT DEFLECTION

77. Scope

77.1 The purpose of this static force loss test is to determine: (1) a loss of IFD, (2) a loss of thickness, and (3) structural breakdown by visual examination.

77.2 This procedure tests the specimen at a 75 % constant deflection.

NOTE 23—No similar ISO standard exists.

78. Apparatus

78.1 The apparatus shall consist of two parallel plates (wood or metal) which can produce a uniform, constant deflection of the specimen. The plates shall be 500 by 500 mm square, and spacer bars or other appropriate means shall be employed to maintain a constant 75 % deflection throughout the test.

79. Test Specimen

79.1 The test specimen shall be 380 by 380 mm by the desired thickness. One specimen shall be tested.

80. Initial Measurements

80.1 Measure the 25 and 65 % IFD of the test specimen in accordance with Sections 16 to 22. Measure the original thickness with 4.5-N contact force after preflexing.

81. Procedure

81.1 Place the specimen between the plates with the spacer bars to provide a 75 % deflection. Clamp the plates and hold at 75 % deflection for 22 h at 23 ± 2°C and 50 ± 5 % relative humidity.

82. Final Measurements

82.1 Measure the final IFD values 60 ± 5 min after the fatigue test is completed in accordance with 80.1 using the original thickness to determine the deflection for the final IFD values.

82.2 If the loss in thickness is above 10 %, the IFD losses shall not be measured and only the thickness loss shall be reported.

82.3 For a measurement of more permanent fatigue, repeat 82.1, except allow 24 ± 1 h of recovery time rather than 60 min.

83. Calculation and Inspection

83.1 Check the specimen for physical breakdown of the cellular structure by visual examination and comparison with unflexed specimens.

83.2 Calculate the percentage loss of thickness as follows:

$$F_t = \frac{(t_o - t_f)}{(t_o)} \times 100 \quad (6)$$

where:

F_t = loss in thickness, %,
 t_o = original specimen thickness, and
 t_f = final specimen thickness.

83.3 Calculate the percentage loss of IFD, as follows:

$$F_L = \frac{(L_o - L_f)}{(L_o)} \times 100 \quad (7)$$

where:

F_L = loss of indentation force deflection, %,
 L_o = original indentation force deflection value, and
 L_f = final indentation force deflection value.

84. Report

84.1 Report the following information:

84.1.1 Percentage loss of thickness and the percentage loss of 25 and 65 % IFD if the thickness loss is less than 10 %, and

84.1.2 Results of visual examination.

84.1.3 Recovery time whether 60 min or 24 h.

85. Precision and Bias

85.1 Round robin testing to determine the precision of this method is being planned and the data will be available by 2002.

TEST I₂ —DYNAMIC FATIGUE TEST BY THE ROLLER SHEAR AT CONSTANT FORCE

86. Scope

86.1 This procedure fatigues the specimen dynamically at a constant force, deflecting the material both vertically and laterally.

86.2 The fatigue test may be conducted by either Procedure A or Procedure B. Both test procedures are the same and differ only in the number of cycles used. Procedure A shall use 8000 cycles (approximately 5 h) and Procedure B shall use 20 000 cycles (approximately 12 h).

NOTE 24—No similar ISO standard exists.

NOTE 25—The mass of the roller and the number of cycles may be changed as agreed upon between the supplier and the purchaser.

87. Apparatus (Appendix X2)

87.1 *Perforated-Base Platen*, approximately 500 by 500 by 10 mm with a finished ground-top surface and with perforation of approximately 6.5-mm centers covering the center 360 by 360-mm portion.

87.2 *Roller*, 450-mm minimum length and 76.0 ± 1.3 mm-diameter made from stainless steel or chrome-plated metal having a minimum surface finish of 1 µm. The roller shall be mounted in an offset position (15 ± 3°) with suitable means of adjustment for a specified loading of the test specimen. The force imparted by the roller assembly shall not exceed 110 N.

87.3 The test is conducted at a frequency of 0.50 ± 0.05 Hz. A cycle is a complete forward and reverse stroke. The length of the stroke shall be 300 ± 10 mm.