



Designation: D 4280 – 03

Standard Specification for Extended Life Type, Nonplowable, Raised Retroreflective Pavement Markers¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D 4280; 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 nonplowable, retroreflective raised pavement markers for nighttime lane marking and delineation.

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 The following precautionary caveat pertains only to the test methods portion, Section 9, 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.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:

- C 184 Test Method for Fineness of Hydraulic Cement by the 150- μm (No. 100) and 75- μm (No. 200) Sieves²
- C 430 Test Method for Fineness of Hydraulic Cement by the 45- μm (No. 325) Sieve²
- D 5 Test Method for Penetration of Bituminous Materials³
- D 36 Test Method for Softening Point of Bitumen (Ring-and-Ball Apparatus)⁴
- D 70 Test Method for Specific Gravity and Density of Semi-Solid Bituminous Materials (Pycnometer Method)³
- D 92 Test Method for Flash and Fire Points by Cleveland Open Cup⁵
- D 1754 Test Method for Effects of Heat and Air on Asphaltic Materials (Thin-Film Oven Test)³
- D 1856 Test Method for Recovery of Asphalt from Solution by Abson Method³

D 2171 Test Method for Viscosity of Asphalts by Vacuum Capillary Viscometer³

D 2172 Test Methods for Quantitative Extraction of Bitumen from Bituminous Paving Mixtures³

D 2669 Test Method for Apparent Viscosity of Petroleum Waxes Compounded with Additives (Hot Melts)⁶

D 4402 Test Method for Viscosity Determinations of Unfilled Asphalts Using the Brookfield Thermosel Apparatus⁴

D 5329 Test Methods for Sealants and Fillers, Hot-Applied, for Joints and Cracks in Asphaltic and Portland Cement Concrete Pavements³

E 177 Practice for Use of the Terms Precision and Bias in ASTM Test Methods⁷

E 284 Terminology of Appearance⁸

E 691 Practice for Conducting an Interlaboratory Study to Determine the Precision of a Test Method⁷

E 808 Practice for Describing Retroreflection⁸

E 809 Practice for Measuring Photometric Characteristics of Retroreflectors⁸

E 811 Practice for Measuring Colorimetric Characteristics of Retroreflectors Under Nighttime Conditions⁸

2.2 *Federal Specifications:*⁹
FF-W-1825A Wool and Gauze, Metallic

TT-T-291 Thinner, Paint, Mineral Spirits, Regular and Odorless

2.3 *AASHTO Standards:*¹⁰

AASHTO M237 Epoxy Resin Adhesive for Bonding Traffic Markers to Hardened Concrete

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions:

3.1.1 *cleanability*—the ability of a raised retroreflective marker to keep its optical surfaces clean under traffic and environmental conditions.

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D04 on Road and Paving Materials and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D04.38 on Highway Traffic Control Materials.

Current edition approved July 10, 2003. Published September 2003. Originally approved in 1983. Last previous edition approved in 2002 as D 4280 – 02.

² *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 04.01.

³ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 04.03.

⁴ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 04.04.

⁵ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 05.01.

⁶ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 05.02.

⁷ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 14.02.

⁸ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 06.01.

⁹ Available from U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402.

¹⁰ Available from American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, 444 N. Capitol, Washington, DC 20001.

3.1.2 *coefficient of luminous intensity, R_1* —the ratio of the luminous intensity (I) of the retroreflector in the direction of observation to the illuminance (E) at the retroreflector on a plane perpendicular to the direction of the incident light, expressed in candelas per lux (cd/lx) (see Practice E 808 and Terminology E 284).

3.1.2.1 *Discussion*—When values are low the coefficient of (retroreflected) luminous intensity may be given in millicandelas per lux. In inch-pound units, R_1 is given in candelas per footcandle (cd/ftc). Historically, the term “specific intensity” and symbol (“SI”) have been used to designate this term but “ R_1 ” is preferred.

3.1.3 *color*—chromaticity, according to the CIE (Commission Internationale de l’Eclairage) 1931 colorimetric system.

3.1.4 *horizontal entrance angle*—the angle in the horizontal plane between the direction of incident light and the normal to the leading edge of the marker.

3.1.4.1 *Discussion*—This angle corresponds to the entrance angle β_2 when the marker is positioned for photometry. The direction given in Practice E 808 should be used when designating this angle.

3.1.5 *observation angle*—the angle between the illumination axis and the observation axis. (See also Practice E 808.)

3.1.6 *retroreflection*—reflection in which radiation is returned in directions close to the direction from which it came, this property being maintained over wide variations of the direction of incident radiation.

3.1.7 *retroreflective element*—a minimal optical unit that produces retroreflection, for example, a cube corner or a biconvex structure.

4. Classification

4.1 Markers should be classified as to type, color, and abrasion resistance.

4.1.1 *Types of Markers:*

4.1.1.1 *Type A*—Two-way reflective markers, one color.

4.1.1.2 *Type B*—One-way reflective markers, one color.

4.1.1.3 *Type E*—Two-way reflective markers, two colors.

4.1.2 *Retroreflected Color of Markers:*

4.1.2.1 *W*—White.

4.1.2.2 *Y*—Yellow.

4.1.2.3 *R*—Red.

4.1.2.4 *B*—Blue.

4.1.2.5 *G*—Green.

4.1.3 *Abrasion Resistance:*

4.1.3.1 *Designated H*—Marker with hard, abrasion-resistant lens surface.

4.1.4 *Flexural Strength:*

4.1.4.1 *Designated F*—Marker with sufficient longitudinal strength for application to flexible, asphaltic concrete pavement.

4.2 Show classification in the order detailed in 4.1.1 through 4.1.3.1: type, color, abrasion resistance, and flexural strength. For example, ERWF is a two-way red-and-white marker without abrasion resistant surface and with sufficient flexural strength for application to flexible pavement.

5. Ordering Information

5.1 Orders for material under this specification should include the following information:

5.1.1 Quantity,

5.1.2 Type of marker: retroreflective one way, or retroreflective two way,

5.1.3 Color of marker,

5.1.4 Abrasion resistance, if needed, and

5.1.5 Flexural strength if needed.

NOTE 1—Flexural strength is not critical when application is to portland cement concrete pavement, but is critical when application is to some soft asphaltic concrete pavements.

6. Requirements for Retroreflective Markers

6.1 *Construction:*

6.1.1 The marker shall be comprised of materials with adequate chemical, water, and UV resistance for the intended use.

6.1.2 Marker height shall not exceed 20.3 mm (0.80 in.).

6.1.3 Marker width shall not exceed 130 mm (5.1 in.).

6.1.4 The angle between the face of the marker and the base shall be no greater than 45°, except as provided in 6.1.4.1.

6.1.4.1 If the angle between the face of the marker and the base is greater than 45°, or if the marker front has protuberances of more than 1 mm (0.04 in.), then as part of type acceptance, the marker shall be subjected to a 6-month road test during the time of the year when weather and traffic conditions are most critical to cleanability. Cleanability is determined by measuring coefficient of luminous intensity before and after washing the marker lens.

6.1.5 The base of the marker shall be substantially free from gloss or substances that may reduce its bond to adhesive.

6.1.6 The base of the marker shall be flat within 1.3 mm (0.05 in.). If the bottom of the marker is configured, the protruding faces of the configurations shall not deviate more than 1.3 mm (0.05 in.) from a plane.

6.1.7 Construction not meeting the requirements of 6.1.2, 6.1.3, 6.1.4, 6.1.6, or 6.1.7, but meeting the performance requirements of 6.2, will be acceptable following a 12-month road test to determine cleanability, durability, and adhesion to the road.

6.2 *Performance Requirements:*

6.2.1 Coefficient of luminous intensity measured in accordance with 9.1 shall be not less than the values in Table 1.

6.2.2 Because no practical laboratory procedures have been determined to provide complete, reliable, and predictive information on adhesive bond strength, the user is encouraged to seek information from alternative sources such as field tests. A field test of duration 12 months is recommended. A control marker is chosen with known satisfactory adhesion. The test markers may be required to experience no more than 1.5 times as great an adhesion failure rate as the controls. The test severity should be such that between 3 % and 20 % of the controls fail during the field test. There must be adequate numbers of test markers and controls for statistical validity.

6.2.3 *Physical Properties:*

TABLE 1 Coefficient of Luminous Intensity R_l

NOTE 1—The retroreflector axis and datum axis of the marker are as shown in Fig. 2 and Fig. 3.

NOTE 2—Entrance angle component β_1 and rotation angle ϵ are 0° .

NOTE 3—The SI values in the table are to be regarded as the standard. The English values are provided for information.

Entrance Angle Component β_2	Observation Angle α	Minimum Value R_l , mcd/lx				
		White	Yellow	Red	Green	Blue
0°	0.2°	279	167	70	93	26
$+20^\circ/-20^\circ$	0.2°	112	67	28	37	10

Entrance Angle Component β_2	Observation Angle α	Minimum Value R_l , cd/ftc				
		White	Yellow	Red	Green	Blue
0°	0.2°	3.0	1.8	0.75	1.0	0.28
$+20^\circ/-20^\circ$	0.2°	1.2	0.72	0.30	0.4	0.11

6.2.3.1 *Flexural Strength* (designation F markers only)—When tested in accordance with 9.2.1, a marker shall withstand 8914 N (909 kgf, 2000 lbf) without breakage.

NOTE 2—Method 9.2.1 tests longitudinal flexural strength, distinct from the flexural strength tested in previous editions of this specification.

6.2.3.2 *Compressive Strength*—When tested in accordance with 9.2.2, a marker shall support a load of 2727 kg (6000 lb) without breakage or significant deformation of the marker. Significant deformation shall be understood to be 3.3 mm (0.13 in.).

6.2.4 *Color*—When the retroreflector is illuminated by CIE Standard Source A and when measured in accordance with 9.3, the color of the retroreflected light shall fall within the color gamuts given by the following corner points and shown in Fig. 1.

6.2.4.1 *White*

Point No.	x	y
1	0.310	0.348
2	0.453	0.440
3	0.500	0.440
4	0.500	0.380
5	0.440	0.380
6	0.310	0.283

6.2.4.2 *Yellow*

Point No.	x	y
1	0.545	0.424
2	0.559	0.439
3	0.609	0.390
4	0.597	0.390

6.2.4.3 *Red*

Point No.	x	y
1	0.650	0.330
2	0.668	0.330
3	0.734	0.265
4	0.721	0.259

6.2.4.4 *Blue*

Point No.	x	y
1	0.039	0.320
2	0.160	0.320
3	0.160	0.240
4	0.183	0.218
5	0.088	0.142

6.2.4.5 *Green*

Point No.	x	y
1	0.009	0.733
2	0.288	0.520
3	0.209	0.395
4	0.012	0.494

6.2.5 *Resistance to Lens Cracking:*

6.2.5.1 *Lens Impact Strength*—When impacted in accordance with 9.4.1, the face of the lens shall show no more than two radial cracks longer than 6.4 mm (0.25 in.). There shall be no radial cracks extending to the edge of the abrasion resistant area. There shall be no delamination.

6.2.5.2 *Temperature Cycling*—When subjected to temperature cycling in accordance with 9.4.2 there shall be no cracking or delamination.

7. *Sampling*

7.1 For markers not resistant to abrasion, sample size shall be twenty markers for each lot of 10 000 markers or less and forty markers for each lot of more than 10 000 markers. For

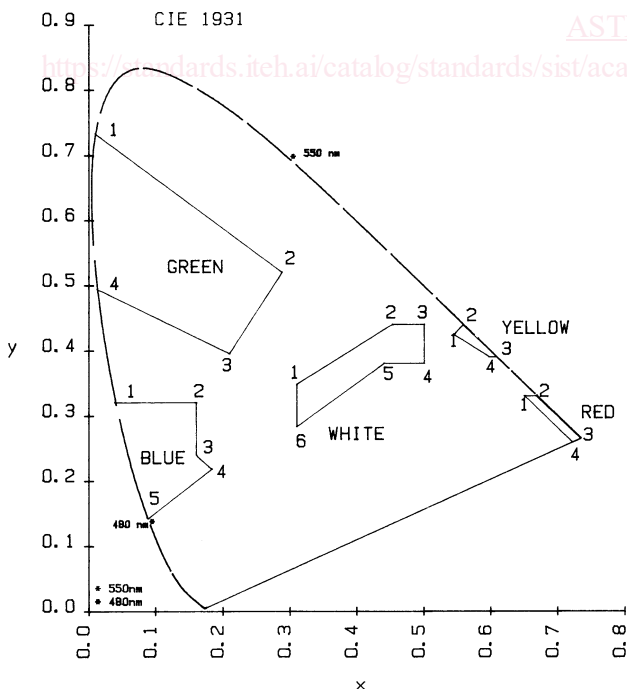


FIG. 1 Color Gamut per 6.2.4

markers with an abrasion resistant surface, ten additional samples shall be required. Lot size shall not exceed 25 000 markers.

8. Number of Tests and Retests

8.1 For coefficient of luminous intensity (9.1.1), the entire sample of retroreflective pavement markers shall be tested. Failure of more than 10 % of the reflective faces shall be cause for rejection of the entire lot represented by the sample. For abrasion resistant markers, in addition to the test of 9.1.1, four reflective faces passing the photometric requirements of 9.1.1 shall be subjected to abrasion (9.1.2) and remeasured; failure of more than one sample shall be cause for rejection of the entire lot.

8.2 For longitudinal flexural strength (9.2.1), compressive strength (9.2.2), and color (9.3), three specimens shall be tested. Specimens previously subjected to photometry (9.1.1), color (9.3) and the abrasion specified for 9.1.2 are acceptable for tests of longitudinal flexural strength (9.2.1) and compressive strength (9.2.2). Failure of more than one specimen shall be cause for rejection of the entire lot.

8.3 For lens impact strength (9.4.1) and resistance to temperature cycling (9.4.2), ten specimens shall be tested for each requirement. Failure of more than one of the specimens in either test shall be cause for rejection of the entire lot.

8.4 In the event of failure that would result in rejection of a lot, and at the discretion of the purchaser, a resample may be taken consisting of double the number of samples originally tested. Tolerances for resamples shall be in the same ratio as specified above.

9. Test Methods

9.1 *Coefficient of Luminous Intensity:*

9.1.1 *Procedure*—Measure coefficient of luminous intensity in accordance with Practice E 809. Angular aperture of the source and angular aperture of the receiver shall each be no larger than 0.1°. Angular aperture of the retroreflective elements shall be no larger than 0.02°. If the retroreflective elements are no larger than 5.3 mm (0.21 in.) in diameter, suggested test dimensions are 15.2 m (50 ft) distance, 25.4 mm (1.0 in.) diameter receptor, and 25.4 mm (1.0 in.) diameter source. Other test distances are acceptable provided that the stated angular aperture requirements are met and that the marker subtends no more than 1° at the source. Measure the distance from the light source exit pupil to the center of the retroreflective face of the marker. The base of the marker shall lie on a plane parallel to the illumination axis and perpendicular to the observation half-plane. Refer to Fig. 2, Fig. 3, and Practice E 809. Any vertical surfaces on the marker, for example, on its leading edge, that could specularly reflect the source into the receiver shall be covered. The tolerance on entrance angle shall be ±0.5°.

9.1.2 For abrasion resistant markers, measure coefficient of luminous intensity after abrasion with a 25.4-mm (1-in.) diameter flat pad of No. 3 coarse steel wool conforming to Federal Specification FF-W-1825A. Place the steel wool pad on the reflector lens. Apply a load of 216 ± 2 N (22 ± 0.2 kgf, 50 ± 0.5 lbf) and rub the entire lens surface 100 times.

NOTE 3—Some two-color units may intentionally have only one of the retroreflected faces covered with an abrasion-resistant surface and, if so, the unprotected face should not be abraded.

9.2 *Physical Properties:*

9.2.1 *Longitudinal Flexural Strength:*

9.2.1.1 Condition markers at 23.0 ± 2.0°C (73.4 ± 3.6°F) for 4 h prior to testing.

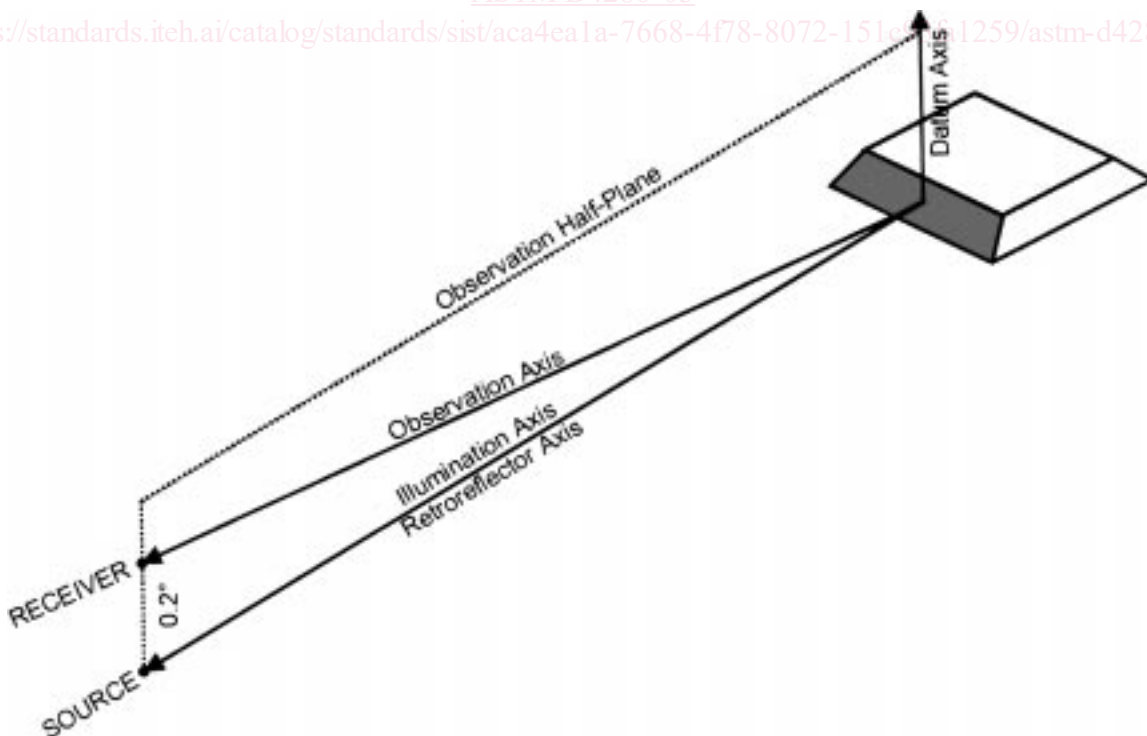


FIG. 2 Position of Marker for Photometry, 0° Entrance Angle