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Standard Test Methods for Bonded, Fused, and Laminated Apparel Fabrics¹

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1. Scope

1.1 These test methods cover procedures for characterizing the delamination, strength of bond, appearance, and shrinkage propensity of bonded, fused, and laminated apparel fabrics after drycleaning and laundering.

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

1.3 *This standard may involve hazardous materials, operations, and equipment. This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns 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:²

- D 76 Specification for Tensile Testing Machines for Textiles
- D 123 Terminology Relating to Textiles
- D 1776 Practice for Conditioning and Testing Textiles
- D 4850 Terminology Relating to Fabrics
- E 337 Test Method for Measuring Humidity with a Psychrometer (the Measurement of Wet- and Dry-Bulb Temperatures)

2.2 AATCC Standard:

- 124 Appearance of Durable Press Fabrics After Repeated Home Launderings³

2.3 Federal Trade Commission Trade Regulation Rule:

- 16 CFR 423 Care Labeling of Textile Wearing Apparel and

Certain Piece Goods⁴

3. Terminology

3.1 For definitions of textile terms used in this test method: blister, bonded fabric, bond strength, bubble, crack mark, foam tear, fused fabric, fusibel fabric, interlining, laminated fabric, lot, puckering, solvent, relative humidity, refer to Terminology D 4850.

3.2 For definitions of other textile terms used in this test method, refer to Terminology D 123.

4. Summary of Test Methods

4.1 Bench marks are placed at specified distances on the fabrics, which are then measured, and subsequently drycleaned, or laundered and dried, or both, through a prescribed cycle that is repeated a specified number of times. The drycleaned or washed specimens are examined for appearance and delamination and measured to determine any accompanying shrinkage and, if desired, tested to determine the strength of the bond.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 These test methods for the determination of properties of bonded, fused, or laminated apparel fabrics, are considered satisfactory for acceptance testing of commercial shipments of bonded and laminated apparel fabrics since the methods have been used extensively in the trade for acceptance testing.

5.1.1 If there are differences of practical significance between reported test results for two laboratories (or more), comparative tests should be performed to determine if there is a statistical bias between them, using competent statistical assistance. As a minimum, use the samples for such a comparative test that are as homogeneous as possible, drawn from the same lot of material as the samples that resulted in disparate results during initial testing. Randomly assign in equal numbers to each laboratory. The test results from the laboratories involved should be compared using a statistical test for

¹ These test methods are under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D13 on Textiles, and are the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D13.59 on Fabric Test Methods, General.

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² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

³ Available from American Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists, P.O. Box 12215, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709.

⁴ As amended effective January 2, 1984, Section A236, available from U.S. Government Printing Office, North Capital and H Streets NW, Washington DC, 20401.

unpaired data, a probability level chosen prior to the testing series. If bias is found, either its cause must be found and corrected, or future test results for that material must be adjusted in consideration of the known bias.

6. Apparatus and Materials

6.1 *Drycleaning Machine*,⁵ single-unit, coin-operated type, capable of providing a complete automatic dry-to-dry cycle using perchlorethylene. It shall consist of a commercial rotating cage type, totally enclosed machine. The diameter of the rotating cage shall be not less than 600 mm (24 in.) and not more than 1080 mm (42 in.). Its depth shall be not less than 300 mm (12 in.). It shall be fitted with two to four lifters. The speed shall be such as to give a *g*-factor between 0.5 and 0.9 for cleaning and between 35 and 120 for extraction. The machine shall be equipped with thermometers for the measurement of the solvent temperature and the air drying temperature.

NOTE 1—The *g*-factor is calculated using Eq 1 or Eq 2:

$$g = 1.42n^2D/100\ 000 \quad (1)$$

$$g = 5.59n^2d/10\ 000\ 000 \quad (2)$$

where:

n = revolutions per minute,

D = cage diameter, in., and

d = cage diameter, mm.

6.2 *Domestic Automatic Washer*,⁶ top-loading, spin-extracting type.

6.3 *Domestic Automatic Tumble Dryer*,⁶ front-loading type.

6.4 *Aspirated Psychrometer*, which meets the requirements of Test Method E 337.

6.5 *Marking Device*⁷—A thin sheet of stainless steel or other rigid flat material in which a square opening 254 by 254 mm (10 by 10 in.) has been cut.

6.6 *Rule*, 305-mm (12-in.) or longer, preferably divided into tenths of an inch. A premarked device calibrated to give the percentage of shrinkage or growth may also be used.

6.7 *Sewing Machine*, suitable for sewing a single row of stitching, preferably with No. 00 mercerized cotton thread, 25 mm (1 in.) from the edge of the fabric specimen.

6.8 *Steam Iron*, hand type.

6.9 *Steam Press*,⁸ a press, 600 by 1250 mm (24 by 50 in.), or larger, provided with 60 to 70 psig steam pressure at the press. Any steam press large enough for pressing a specimen 380 mm (15 in.) square may be used.

6.10 *Tensile Testing Machine*, conforming to Specification D 76, either a constant rate of traverse type⁹ or a constant rate of extension type, equipped with clamps having a width of 76.2 mm (3.00 in.) and preferably calibrated in kilograms with a range from 0 to 4.5 kg (0 to 160 oz). The constant rate of extension type machine is preferred because of the inherently lower machine-induced errors in this type of machine.

6.11 *Detergent*, home laundry type.

6.12 *Perchlorethylene*, commercial grade.

NOTE 2—**Warning:** Perchlorethylene is toxic, and the usual precautions for handling chlorinated solvents should be taken. It should be used only under well-ventilated conditions. The solvent is nonflammable.

6.13 *Drycleaning Detergent*,¹⁰ anionic drycleaning detergent.

7. Sampling

7.1 *Lot Sample*—As a lot sample for acceptance testing, take at random the number of rolls of fabric directed in an applicable material specification or other agreement between the purchaser and the supplier. Consider rolls of fabric to be the primary sampling units.

NOTE 3—An adequate specification or other agreement between the purchaser and the supplier requires taking into account the variability between rolls of fabric and between specimens from a swatch from a roll of fabric so as to provide a sampling plan with a meaningful producer's risk, consumer's risk, acceptable quality level, and limiting quality level.

7.2 *Laboratory Sample*—As a laboratory sample for acceptance testing, take a full width swatch 1 m (1 yd) long from the end of each roll of fabric in the lot sample, after first discarding a minimum of 1 m (1 yd) of fabric from the very outside of the roll.

7.3 *Test Specimens*—Proceed as follows:

7.3.1 *Drycleaning and Laundering*—Cut four specimens from each swatch in the laboratory sample with each specimen being 380 by 380 mm (15 by 15 in.) in size, with the one side of the specimens from a single swatch parallel to the selvage. Locate two of the specimens from each swatch about 1/3 of the distance from one selvage and locate the other two specimens from each swatch about 1/3 of the distance from the other selvage. Locate each of the two specimens from one side of the swatch along a diagonal line on the swatch so that they will contain different warp ends and filling picks. Sew a straight line of stitching around each specimen 25 mm (1 in.) from each edge. Reserve the rest of the swatch for comparison with the drycleaned and laundered test specimens.

7.3.2 *Strength of Bond*—Prepare three test specimens, each measuring 76 mm (3 in.) wide, and 152 mm (6 in.) long, the length of the specimens corresponding to the length direction of the fabric. Do not take the test specimens closer to the selvage than a distance equal to 20 % of the fabric width.

⁵ Sources of suitable equipment are: McGraw-Edison Co., Speed Queen Div., Ripon, Wis.; Philco-Bendix Corp., Fairfield, IO; American Permac, Inc., 175 Express St., Plainview, L. I.; Valley Industries Productions, Inc., 133 E. Jericho Turnpike, Mineola, NY; and Atlas Electric Devices, Chicago, IL.

⁶ Kenmore Model 600 washer and dryer, available from Sears Roebuck and Co., are satisfactory for this purpose.

⁷ Other suitable devices are available from Better Fabrics Testing Bureau, Inc., 101 W. 31 St., New York, NY, and from Cluett, Peabody and Co., Inc., Sanforized Div., Troy, NY.

⁸ Sources of suitable equipment are: Hoffman Machine Co., Syracuse, NY; Pentax Co., Pawtucket, R. I.; Prosperity Co., Syracuse, NY; U. S. Testing Co., Hoboken, NJ.

⁹ Model X-5, available from Edward H. Benz Co., 283 Whiteford Ave., Providence, RI 02908, has been found satisfactory.

¹⁰ Formula 886, petroleum sulfonate type or staticol, amine sulfonate type, available from R. R. Street, Inc., 561 W. Monroe St., Chicago, IL; or Perkshen 324, amine sulfonate type, available from Adco, Inc., 900 W. Main St., Sedalia, MO, have been found suitable for this purpose.

NOTE 4—Samples that are 51 mm (2 in.) wide may be used as the minimum width.

8. Conditioning

8.1 Bring the samples from the prevailing atmosphere and condition them for at least 4 h in the standard atmosphere for testing textiles as directed in Practice D1776 if shrinkage is to be determined. Preconditioning is not necessary.

9. Specimen Preparation

9.1 Using an indelible fineline marker, mark a 254 by 254 mm (10 by 10 in.) reference square centrally located on the face of each test specimen. Apply three sets of reference markings 254 ± 2 mm (10 ± 0.1 in.) apart, as measured with a rule, in the direction of the fabric length. Locate the markings within 25 mm (1 in.) of each end and at the midpoint of each side of the square. Similarly, apply three sets of markings in the direction of the fabric width. Any other method of accurately locating the 254-mm (10-in.) reference marks is satisfactory as long as the three marks on each side of the square are at least 105 mm (4 in.) apart.

10. Drycleaning Procedure

NOTE 5—Launderable fabrics are expected normally to be drycleanable, except where the face fabric is not drycleanable and is so labeled. For example, the fabric could contain a functional finish soluble in the solvent, or the fiber could be degraded by the solvent, which would be the case with poly(vinyl chloride) fiber.

10.1 *Solvent Preparation*—Prepare a standard detergent/drycleaning solvent mixture by adding sufficient detergent to the solvent to make a 1 % volume/volume solution. Add sufficient water to the solution to give a solvent relative humidity level of 75 % for the particular drycleaning detergent used. Put this solvent in the machine storage tank. The same solution can be used for repeated cleanings until it becomes dirty and needs replacing as long as the necessary water additions to maintain the solvent relative humidity constant are made prior to each test run. This is so because the specimens being run could conceivably alter the solvent relative humidity for succeeding test runs while the detergent level would remain constant.

10.2 *Sample and Dummy Load Preparation*—Prepare a load consisting of all specimens to be tested and made up to 3.6 kg (8 lb) total with dummy load of approximately 380 by 380-mm (15 by 15-in.) fabric pieces of similar material. Condition this load at least 4 h in the standard atmosphere for testing textiles. After the drycleaning operation, condition the load again before running through each additional drycleaning cycle. Conditioning before each drycleaning cycle is intended to minimize depletion of water from the drycleaning solution specified in 10.1.1 which may affect shrinkage results.

10.3 *Drycleaning Procedure*—Run through the complete dry-to-dry cycle in the machine. Run the solvent phase of the drycleaning cycle with the solvent no higher than 32°C (90°F). During the drying phase of the drycleaning cycle, either the air outlet temperature should not exceed 60°C (140°F) or the inlet air temperature should not exceed 80°C (175°F). If heat-sensitive fibers, for example, modacrylic fibers, are involved, the outlet air temperature should not exceed 40°C (105°F) or

the inlet air temperature should not exceed 60°C (140°F). After the complete drycleaning cycle, remove the sample from machine for examination and reconditioning.

10.4 Repeat the drycleaning operation through two additional cycles. At the end of the third cycle remove the test specimens from the machine, lay on a flat surface, smooth the test specimens by hand, and examine. Press the test specimens using the steam press according to the following cycle:

10.4.1 Five seconds steam with head up.

10.4.2 Five seconds dry hot press with head down, 145 to 151°C (293 to 303°F) of steam pressure at the press.

10.4.3 Five seconds vacuum, steam off, head down.

10.4.4 Five seconds vacuum, steam off, head up.

10.4.5 Allow the pressed specimens to condition in the standard atmosphere for testing textiles for at least 4 h.

10.5 Measure the distance between each of the six sets of reference marks on each test specimen.

10.6 Lay the fabric flat on a table or board with a surface rough enough so that the fabric side touching the table will not readily slide. Examine each test specimen for any evidence of delamination. Place the fingers on the specimen and attempt to slide the upper fabric layer over the bottom or intermediary substrate. If in doubt, make a small cut through the specimen with scissors to determine if any separation of substrates has occurred. Turn the fabric over and make the same type of examination on the other side.

10.7 Examine the face fabric for any alteration in appearance as compared with the original sample. This may be done with conventional room lighting, or with “Lighting Equipment for Viewing Test Specimens,” as described in Fig. 1 of AATCC Method 124 – 1984. Examine only the area of the test specimen bounded by the stitching.

11. Laundering Procedure

11.1 *Machine Laundering*—Wash the test specimens in the automatic home laundry machine, using 50 g of laundry detergent, or a sufficient amount to give a safe suds level, at the applicable domestic automatic temperature and procedure under which the fabric is to be marketed. In the absence of this information use the “normal” cycle and high water level settings and determine the washing temperature according to the fabric type and construction as follows:

11.1.1 Face fabrics containing 20 % or more of wool, acetate, modacrylic, or acrylic fibers, $41 \pm 3^{\circ}\text{C}$ ($105 \pm 5^{\circ}\text{F}$).

11.1.2 Face fabrics of tricots, circular knits, woven nylon, and print fabrics other than those described under 11.1.1, $49 \pm 3^{\circ}\text{C}$ ($120 \pm 5^{\circ}\text{F}$).

11.1.3 All other woven face fabrics, $60 \pm 3^{\circ}\text{C}$ ($140 \pm 5^{\circ}\text{F}$).

11.2 *Load for Machine Laundering*—Use a total load of 1.8 kg (4 lb) including test specimens plus a dummy load of approximately 380 by 380 mm (15 by 15 in.) fabrics of similar fabric construction. Load all fabrics in the flat position.

11.3 *Hand Laundering*—If the fabrics are to be designated “Hand Washable,” dissolve 20 g of laundry detergent in 7.6 L (2 gal) of water at $41 \pm 3^{\circ}\text{C}$ ($105 \pm 5^{\circ}\text{F}$) in a 9.5-L (10-qt) pail and then add two test specimens. Wash by lifting each specimen out of the bath followed by immediate reimmersion at least ten times. Just before the final reimmersion, lightly rub by hand the center of each specimen separately for a period of