



Designation: D 1203 – 94 (Reapproved 1999)^{ε1}

Standard Test Methods for Volatile Loss From Plastics Using Activated Carbon Methods¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D 1203; 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.

^{ε1} NOTE—Editorial corrections were made throughout in October 1999.

1. Scope *

1.1 These test methods cover the determination of volatile loss from a plastic material under defined conditions of time and temperature, using activated carbon as the immersion medium.

1.2 Two test methods are covered as follows:

1.2.1 *Test Method A, Direct Contact with Activated Carbon*—In this test method the plastic material is in direct contact with the carbon. This test method is particularly useful in the rapid comparison of a large number of plastic specimens.

1.2.2 *Test Method B, Wire Cage*—This test method prescribes the use of a wire cage, which prevents direct contact between the plastic material and the carbon. By eliminating the direct contact, the migration of the volatile components to the surrounding carbon is minimized and loss by volatilization is more specifically measured.

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

1.4 *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.*

NOTE 1—This standard is similar in content (not technically equivalent) to ISO 176-1976(E).

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*

D 618 Practice for Conditioning Plastics and Electrical Insulating Materials for Testing²

D 883 Terminology Relating to Plastics²

D 1600 Terminology of Abbreviated Terms Relating to Plastics²

¹ These test methods are under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D20 on Plastics and are the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D20.15 on Thermoplastic Materials (Section D20.15.11 on Plasticizers).

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² *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 08.01.

E 197 Specification for Enclosures and Servicing Units for Tests Above and Below Room Temperature³

E 691 Practice for Conducting an Interlaboratory Study to Determine the Precision of a Test Method⁴

2.2 *Other Documents:*

ISO 176-1976 Determination of the Loss of Plasticizers from Plastics by the Activated Carbon Method⁵

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—Definitions are in accordance with Terminologies D 883 and D 1600 unless otherwise indicated.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 The test methods are intended to be rapid empirical tests which may be useful in the relative comparison of materials having the same nominal thickness.

NOTE 2—When the plastic material contains plasticizer, loss from the plastic is assumed to be primarily plasticizer. The effect of moisture is considered to be negligible.

4.2 Correlation with ultimate application for various plastic materials should be determined by the user. To obtain accelerated tests that more nearly approach actual service conditions, reference should be made to Specification E 197.

5. Apparatus

5.1 *Balance*—An accurate analytical balance, equipped with Class S weights or better.

5.2 *Oven or Bath*—A thermostatically controlled oven or bath capable of maintaining the temperature to within $\pm 1^\circ\text{C}$ of the test temperature, which normally will be in the range from 50 to 150°C.

5.3 *Containers*—Metal cans or wide-mouth screw-top jars, of cylindrical form, approximately 100 mm in diameter and approximately 1/2 L in capacity.

³ Discontinued. See 1982 *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Parts 40 and 41.

⁴ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 14.02.

⁵ Available from American National Standards Institute (ANSI), 25 W. 43rd St., 4th Floor, New York, NY 10036.

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