



Standard Specification for Rigid (Unplasticized) Poly(Vinyl Chloride) (PVC) Soffit¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D 4477; 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 establishes requirements and test methods for the materials, dimensions, camber, impact strength, expansion, and appearance of extruded single-wall soffit manufactured from rigid (unplasticized) PVC compound. Methods of indicating compliance with this specification are also provided.

1.2 The use of PVC recycled plastic in this product shall be in accordance with the requirements in Section 4.

1.3 Rigid (unplasticized) poly(vinyl chloride) (PVC) siding is covered in Specification D 3679D 3679.

1.4 Soffit produced to this specification shall be installed in accordance with Practice D 4756D 4756. Reference shall also be made to the manufacturer's installation instructions for the specific product to be installed.

NOTE 1—Information with regard to soffit maintenance shall be obtained from the manufacturer.

1.5 The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as the standard. The values given in parentheses are for information only.

1.6 The following precautionary caveat pertains to the test method portion only, Section 6 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.*

NOTE 2—There is no known ISO equivalent to this standard.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

D 523 Test Method for Specular Gloss

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D20 on Plastics and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D20.24 on Plastic Building Products.

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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.

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

D 635 Test Method for Rate of Burning and/or Extent and Time of Burning of Self-Supporting Plastics in a Horizontal Position

D 696 Test Method for Coefficient of Linear Thermal Expansion of Plastics

D 883 Terminology Relating to Plastics

D 1600 Terminology Relating to Abbreviations, Acronyms, and Codes for Terms Relating to Plastics

D 2244 Test Method for Calculation of Color Differences from Instrumentally Measured Color Coordinates

D 3679 Specification for Rigid (Unplasticized) Poly(Vinyl Chloride) (PVC) Siding

D 3892 Practice for Packaging/Packing of Plastics

D 4226 Test Methods for Impact Resistance of Rigid Poly(Vinyl Chloride) (PVC) Building Products

D 4756 Practice for the Installation of Poly(Vinyl Chloride) (PVC) Siding and Soffit

D 5033 Guide for the Development of Standards Relating to the proper Use of Recycled Plastics

D 5947 Test Method of Physical Dimensions of Solid Plastic Specimens

E 631 Terminology of Building Constructions

E 805 Practice for Identification of Instrumental Methods of Color or Color-Difference Measurement of Materials

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—Definitions are in accordance with Terminologies D 883, D 1600, and E 631D 883D 1600E 631, unless otherwise specified.

3.2 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

3.2.1 *vinyl soffit, n*—a shaped material, made principally from rigid poly(vinyl chloride) (PVC) that is used to clad the underside of a roof overhang.

3.2.2 *Discussion*—Any exception to a homogeneous rigid PVC compound is present in a coextruded or laminated caststock.

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

4. Materials and Manufacture

4.1 The soffit, shall be made of one or more layers of poly(vinyl chloride) (PVC) compound. Any layers of materials other than poly (vinyl chloride) (PVC) compound shall be kept to less than 20% by volume.

4.2 Use rigid PVC recycled plastic, as defined in Guide D 5033D 5033 if all the requirements in the sections on Terminology (Section 3), on Materials and Manufacture (Section 4), and on Physical Requirements (Section 5) are met by the soffit containing PVC recycled plastic.

4.3 The poly(vinyl chloride) soffit material, when tested in accordance with Test Method D 635D 635, shall not exceed an average extent of burn of 4 in. (100 mm), with an average time of burn not to exceed 10 s. A minimum sample thickness of 0.030 in. (0.8 mm) is required.

NOTE 3—Caution: The flammability testing data, conclusions, and recommendations of Test Method D 635D 635 relate solely to the measurement and description of properties for classification of the poly(vinyl chloride) soffit material in response to flame under controlled laboratory conditions and shall not be used for the description or appraisal of the fire hazard of vinyl soffit under actual fire conditions.

4.4 The PVC compound when extruded into soffit shall maintain uniform color and be free of any visual surface or structural changes, such as peeling, chipping, cracking, flaking, or pitting.

5. Physical Requirements

5.1 *Length and Width*—The nominal length and width of the soffit shall be as agreed upon between the purchaser and the seller. The actual length shall not be less than $\frac{1}{4}$ in. (6.4 mm) of the nominal length and the actual width shall be within $\pm\frac{1}{8}$ in. (3.2 mm) of the nominal width when measured in accordance with 6.3 and 6.4.

5.2 *Thickness*—The minimum thickness of the soffit shall be 0.030 in. (0.8 mm) when measured in accordance with 6.5.

5.3 *Camber*—A full length of soffit, typically 10 or 12 ft (3.05 or 3.66 m), will not have a camber greater than $\frac{1}{8}$ in. (3.2 mm) when measured in accordance with 6.6.

5.4 *Initial Impact Resistance*—The soffit shall have a minimum impact strength of 45 in.·lbf (5.34 J) when tested in accordance with 6.7.

5.5 *Coefficient of Linear Expansion*—The soffit shall have a coefficient of linear expansion not greater than $4.5 \text{ by } 10^{-5}$ in./in./°F ($8.1 \text{ by } 10^{-5}$ mm/mm/°C) when tested in accordance with 6.8.

5.6 *Gloss*—This requirement is not applicable to embossed or perforated soffit). The gloss of smooth soffit shall be uniform across the exposed face. Variations in the glossmeter readings shall not be more than $\pm 10.0\%$ or ± 5.0 points, when tested in accordance with 6.9.

5.7 Deflection of the soffit shall not exceed $\pm\frac{1}{8}$ in. (3.2 mm) when installed flat in a horizontal position over a span of 24 in. (610 mm) without intermittent support when tested in accordance with 6.11.

5.8 *Color*—The color of the soffit shall be within the defined color space parameters for the specific color agreed upon between the purchaser and the manufacturer. The color

specified shall be uniform on the surface of the soffit panels, except in the case of multi-colored woodgrain panels.

5.8.1 *Uniformity of Color*—When tested in accordance with 6.10, the total color change, E , between a production specimen and the appropriate reference specimen or agreed-upon color coordinates shall not vary by more than 1.5, and the chromatic coordinates shall not change by more than $\pm\Delta a = 1.0$ and $\pm\Delta b = 1.0$.

6. Test Methods

6.1 *General*—The inspection and test procedures contained in this section are used to determine the conformance of products to the requirements of this specification. Each producer who represents its products as conforming to this specification shall be permitted to use statistically based sampling plans that are appropriate for each manufacturing process, but shall keep the essential records necessary to document, with a high degree of assurance, his claim that all of the requirements of this specification have been met. Additional sampling and testing of the product, as agreed upon between the purchaser and manufacturer, are not precluded by this section.

6.2 *Conditioning and Test Conditions*—Condition the test specimen in accordance with Procedure A of Practice D 618D 618 and test under those conditions, unless otherwise specified herein.

6.3 *Length*—Lay the specimen on a flat surface and measure with a steel tape. Measure the length of a soffit panel to the nearest $\frac{1}{16}$ in. (1.6 mm) at the center, the butt edge, and the bottom of the top lock. The average of the three measurements is the actual length.

6.4 *Width*—Interlock two 2-ft (610-mm) long specimens in the normal mode for installation. Lay the two specimens on a flat surface. Measure to the nearest $\frac{1}{16}$ in. (1.6 mm), the distance between the lowest butt edge of the top specimen and the lowest butt edge of the bottom specimen. Make a measurement at one end of the specimens and at 6-in. (152.4-mm) intervals along the entire length, making sure that the measurement is made perpendicular to the butt edge. Average the measurements. The average constitutes the exposed width of soffit.

6.5 *Thickness*—Make a minimum of five equally spaced measurements across the width of the soffit specimen perpendicular to the exposed surface with a micrometer similar to that described in Test Method D 5947D 5947, Method A or B, with the exception that the vernier reading shall be to 0.001 in. (0.0254 mm). Average the measurements. The average constitutes the thickness of the soffit.

6.6 *Camber*—Place a full length of soffit (typically 10 or 12 ft (3.05 or 3.66 m), on a flat surface alongside a straightedge at least as long as the soffit specimen. Measure the maximum space between the edge of the siding specimen and the straightedge for each edge to the nearest $\frac{1}{16}$ in. (1.6 mm).

6.7 *Impact Resistance*—Test impact resistance of soffit in accordance with Test Methods D 4226D 4226, Procedure A impactor head configuration H.25. 4 in-lb increments (0.5 in height increments with 8 lb falling weight) shall be used. Minimum sample dimensions shall be 1.5 in. by 1.5 in.