



Designation: D 1765 – 04a

Standard Classification System for Carbon Blacks Used in Rubber Products¹

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

1. Scope

1.1 This classification system covers the classification of rubber-grade carbon blacks by the use of a four-character nomenclature system. The first character gives some indication of the influence of the carbon black on the rate of cure of a typical rubber compound containing the black. The second character gives information on the average surface area of the carbon black. The last two characters are assigned arbitrarily.

1.2 All rubber-grade carbon blacks for which a number is currently assigned at the time of publication of this classification system are listed in Table 1 together with some of their typical properties. ASTM classification numbers (“N” or “S” designation) not listed in Table 1 have either been withdrawn or are not currently assigned. The use of inactive or unassigned N or S designations is prohibited until such a time as the designation is officially reactivated or assigned by Subcommittee D24.41

1.3 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as the standard. The values given in parentheses are for information only.

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.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

- D 412 Test Methods for Vulcanized Rubber and Thermoplastic Elastomers—Tension
- D 1506 Test Methods for Carbon Black—Ash Content
- D 1508 Test Method for Carbon Black, Pelleted Fines and Attrition

¹ This classification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D24 on Carbon Black and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D24.41 on Carbon Black Nomenclature and Terminology.

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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 1509 Test Methods for Carbon Black—Heating Loss
- D 1510 Test Method for Carbon Black—Iodine Adsorption Number
- D 1513 Test Method for Carbon Black, Pelleted—Pour Density
- D 1514 Test Method for Carbon Black—Sieve Residue
- D 1618 Test Method for Carbon Black Extractables—Transmittance of Toluene Extract
- D 2084 Test Method for Rubber Property—Vulcanization Using Oscillating Disk Cure Meter
- D 2414 Test Method for Carbon Black—Oil Absorption Number (OAN)
- D 3053 Terminology Relating to Carbon Black
- D 3182 Practice for Rubber—Materials, Equipment, and Procedures for Mixing Standard Compounds and Preparing Standard Vulcanized Sheets
- D 3191 Test Methods for Carbon Black in SBR (Styrene-Butadiene Rubber)—Recipe and Evaluation Procedures
- D 3192 Test Methods for Carbon Black Evaluation in NR (Natural Rubber)
- D 3265 Test Method for Carbon Black—Tint Strength
- D 3493 Test Method for Carbon Black—Oil Absorption Number of Compressed Sample (COAN)
- D 5230 Test Method for Carbon Black—Automated Individual Pellet Hardness
- D 6556 Test Method for Carbon Black—Total and External Surface Area by Nitrogen Adsorption

3. Basis of Classification

3.1 The first character in the nomenclature system for rubber-grade carbon blacks is a letter indicating the effect of the carbon black on the cure rate of a typical rubber compound containing the black. The letter “N” is used to indicate a normal curing rate typical of furnace blacks that have received no special modification to alter their influence on the rate of cure of rubber. The letter “S” is used for channel blacks or for furnace blacks that have been modified to effectively reduce the curing rate of rubber. Channel blacks characteristically impart a slower rate of cure to rubber compounds. Thus, the letter “S” designates a slow cure rate. Blacks may vary considerably in “curing rate” within each of the two letter classifications.

TABLE 1 Carbon Black Properties

NOTE 1—The iodine adsorption number and DBP number values represent target values. A target value is defined as an agreed upon value on which producers center their production process and users center their specifications. All other properties shown are averages of typical values supplied by several manufacturers. Typical properties are dependent upon the target values and may vary from producer to producer at the same iodine adsorption and DBP absorption numbers because of the differences in processing equipment.

NOTE 2—The cure rate of vulcanizates containing carbon black compounded by Test Methods D 3192 may be measured by Test Method D 2084.

ASTM Classification	Target Values ^A		Typical Descriptive Values ^A					Δ Stress ^C at 300 % Elongation, MPa (psi), cured at 145°C, D 412, D 3182, and D 3192 30 min
	Iodine Adsorption No., ^B D 1510, g/kg	Oil Absorption No. D 2414, 10 ⁻⁵ m ³ /kg	Oil Absorption No. Compressed Sample, D 3493, 10 ⁻⁵ m ³ /kg	NSA Multipoint D 6556, 10 ³ m ² /kg (m ² /g)	STSA D 6556 10 ³ m ² /kg (m ² /g)	Tint Strength, D 3265	Pour Density, D 1513, kg/m ³ (lb/ft ³)	
N110	145	113	97	127	115	123	345 (21.5)	-3.2 (-470)
N115	160	113	97	137	124	123	345 (21.5)	-3.1 (-440)
N120	122	114	99	126	113	129	345 (21.5)	-0.4 (-60)
N121	121	132	111	122	114	119	320 (20.0)	-0.1 (-10)
N125	117	104	89	122	121	125	370 (23.0)	-2.6 (-380)
N134	142	127	103	143	137	131	320 (20.0)	-1.5 (-210)
N135	151	135	117	141	...	119	320 (20.0)	-0.4 (-60)
S212	...	85	82	120	107	115	415 (26.0)	-6.4 (-930)
N219	118	78	75	...	...	123	440 (27.5)	...
N220	121	114	98	114	106	116	355 (22.0)	-2.0 (-280)
N231	121	92	86	111	107	120	400 (25.0)	-4.6 (-670)
N234	120	125	102	119	112	123	320 (20.0)	-0.1 (-10)
N293	145	100	88	122	111	120	380 (23.5)	-5.2 (-750)
N299	108	124	104	104	97	113	335 (21.0)	0.7 (90)
S315	...	79	77	89	86	117	425 (26.5)	-6.4 (-930)
N326	82	72	68	78	76	111	455 (28.5)	-3.6 (-530)
N330	82	102	88	78	75	104	380 (23.5)	-0.6 (-80)
N335	92	110	94	85	85	110	345 (21.5)	0.2 (30)
N339	90	120	99	91	88	111	345 (21.5)	0.9 (140)
N343	92	130	104	96	92	112	320 (20.0)	1.4 (210)
N347	90	124	99	85	83	105	335 (21.0)	0.5 (70)
N351	68	120	95	71	70	100	345 (21.5)	1.1 (160)
N356	92	154	112	91	87	106	...	1.4 (200)
N358	84	150	108	80	78	98	305 (19.0)	2.3 (330)
N375	90	114	96	93	91	114	345 (21.5)	0.4 (60)
N539	43	111	81	39	38	...	385 (24.0)	-1.3 (-180)
N550	43	121	85	40	39	...	360 (22.5)	-0.6 (-90)
N582	100	180	114	80	...	67	...	-1.8 (-260)
N630	36	78	62	32	32	...	500 (31.0)	-4.4 (-640)
N642	36	64	62	39	...	...	...	-5.4 (-780)
N650	36	122	84	36	35	...	370 (23.0)	-0.7 (-110)
N660	36	90	74	35	34	...	440 (27.5)	-2.3 (-330)
N683	35	133	85	36	34	...	355 (22.0)	-0.4 (-60)
N754	24	58	57	25	24	...	...	-6.6 (-960)
N762	27	65	59	29	28	...	515 (32.0)	-4.6 (-660)
N765	31	115	81	34	32	...	370 (23.0)	-0.3 (-40)
N772	30	65	59	32	30	...	520 (32.5)	-4.7 (-690)
N774	29	72	63	30	29	...	490 (30.5)	-3.8 (-550)
N787	30	80	70	32	32	...	440 (27.5)	-4.2 (-610)
N907	...	34	...	9	9	...	640 (40.0)	-9.4 (-1360)
N908	...	34	...	9	9	...	355 (22.0)	-10.2 (-1480)
N990	...	43	37	8	8	...	640 (40.0)	-8.6 (-1250)
N991	...	35	37	8	8	...	355 (22.0)	-10.2 (-1480)

^A See Note 1 above. See also Terminology D 3053.

^B In general, Test Method D 1510 can be used to estimate the surface area of furnace blacks but not channel, oxidized, and thermal blacks.

^C Δ Stress = stress at 300 % elongation of test black minus the stress at 300 % elongation of IRB No. 7.

^D New numbers are marked to designate that the requestor has a one-year period, starting from the number's approval date as shown in Footnote 1, to revise, by letter ballot, target and typical values.

TABLE 2 Comparison of IRB No. 6 to IRB No. 7 in SBR-1500 (Test Methods D 412 and D 3191 and Practice D 3182), MPa (psi)

	IRB No. 6	IRB No. 7	Δ
50' stress at 300 % elongation	16.9 (2450)	20.7 (3000)	+3.8 (+550)
50' tensile strength	27.1 (3930)	28.7 (4160)	+1.6 (+230)

3.2 The second character in the system is a digit to designate the average surface area of the carbon black as measured by nitrogen surface area. The surface area range of the carbon blacks has been divided into ten arbitrary groups, and each has been assigned a digit to describe that group. These groups are as follows:

Group No.	Average Nitrogen Surface Area, m ² /g
0	>150
1	121 to 150
2	100 to 120
3	70 to 99
4	50 to 69
5	40 to 49
6	33 to 39
7	21 to 32
8	11 to 20
9	0 to 10

NOTE 1—Some of the carbon blacks in Table 1 were assigned prior to the establishment of the surface area classification system and may fall outside of the specified ranges.

3.3 The third and fourth characters in this system are arbitrarily assigned digits.

4. Typical Properties of Carbon Blacks

4.1 Each of the standard grades of carbon black shall have target and typical physical properties prescribed in Table 1.

4.2 Vulcanizates containing each of the standard grades of carbon black shall have typical physical properties prescribed in Table 1.

4.2.1 The 300 % stress values shown in Table 1 represent the typical differences between the values obtained for the test black and those obtained for Industry Reference Black No. 7. In practice, the black compounds shall be mixed and tested at the same time using the formulation in Test Methods D 3192.

NOTE 2—Industry Reference Black No. 7³ is an N330 type carbon black prepared at one location, then evaluated by Committee D24 to ensure uniformity. A large volume (225 000 kg (495 000 lb)) of this carbon black was prepared since it is used daily as a standard reference material by carbon black producers. The carbon black has an iodine number of 83.0 and DBP No. of 101.6.⁴

NOTE 3—For comparison of IRB No. 6 to IRB No. 7 per SBR-1500, see Table 2.

4.3 The properties enumerated shall be determined in accordance with the ASTM test methods shown in Table 1.

4.4 The following carbon black properties are not included in Table 1 but do have previously established maximum values.

4.4.1 *Sieve Residue*—Test Method D 1514. Screen sizes 500 μm (No. 35), maximum 0.0010 %, and 45 μm (No. 325), maximum 0.10 % for all grades.

³ Supporting data have been filed at ASTM International Headquarters and may be obtained by requesting Research Report RR: D24-1005.

⁴ Available from Balentine Enterprises, 227 Somerset, Borger, TX 79007 U.S.A.

4.4.2 *Fines*—Test Method D 1508. Screen size 125 μm (No. 120). Maximum 7 % fines on bulk units for all grades except thermal blacks. The 5-min fines test shall be used, and samples shall be taken from sample ports.

4.5 The typical values shown in Table 1 are consensus values based on input from the various carbon black producers. Typical values often vary between suppliers; therefore, the range of data used to define the typical values is shown in Table A2.1. These ranges in no way should be viewed as being related to specification ranges.

5. Procedures for Classifying a New Carbon Black

5.1 Data for classification of a new grade of carbon black are to be submitted to ASTM Headquarters, to the attention of the chairman of Subcommittee D24.41 on Carbon Black Nomenclature and Terminology.

5.2 Data to be submitted shall consist of typical values for the following:

Property	Test Procedure
Nitrogen adsorption, total and external surface area	D 6556
Oil absorption number, compressed sample	D 3493
Tint strength	D 3265
Pour density	D 1513
Stress at 300 % Elongation, 30 min.	D 3192

and target values for the following properties:

Property	Test Procedure
Iodine number	D 1510
Oil absorption number	D 2414

5.3 When the chairman of Subcommittee D24.41 receives a request to assign a classification number to a new carbon black, the following action is taken:

5.3.1 Confirmation that the new carbon meets the scope of Committee D24.

5.3.2 Confirmation that the new carbon is commercially available.

5.3.3 Establishment of the “N” or “S” first character assignment and the second character (number) assignment based upon the data submitted with the request.

5.3.4 Establishment of the third and fourth character (number) assignments based upon the information from the requestor. Without specific information from the requestor, these characters are arbitrarily assigned by the chairman of Subcommittee D24.41.

5.3.5 A classification number that has been approved by Subcommittee D24.41 is no longer available for assignment, regardless of its status as active or withdrawn. Table 1 lists the active designation numbers. The following designations are classified as inactive and unavailable for reassignment:

N119	N155	N166	N195	N230	N242	N270	N285
N294	N296	S300	S301	N327	N332	N341	N345
N363	N367	N440	N472	N542	N568	N601	N724
N741	N761	N770	N779	N785	N790	N880	N881

5.3.6 Target and typical values for a new standard, noted by Footnote D in Table 1, are often based upon samples taken from a limited number of production runs. These table values may change slightly when the sample results taken over a longer period are pooled. The requestor of a new standard grade may pursue a revision of the table values by letter ballot