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Standard Specification for Artists' Acrylic Dispersion Paints¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D5098; 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 for composition, physical properties, performance, and labeling of artists' acrylic emulsion paints.

1.2 This specification covers pigments, vehicles, and additives. Requirements are included for pigment identification, lightfastness, bleeding, consistency, and drying time.

1.3 **Table 1** lists some pigments meeting the lightfastness requirements in this specification. In order to identify other pigments that meet these requirements, instructions are given for test specimen preparation. Test methods for determining relative lightfastness are referenced.

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

1.5 *This pertains only to the test method section found in Sections 6 and 7, and Appendix X2. 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

- D185 Test Methods for Coarse Particles in Pigments
- D279 Test Methods for Bleeding of Pigments
- D387 Test Method for Color and Strength of Chromatic Pigments with a Mechanical Muller
- D476 Classification for Dry Pigmentary Titanium Dioxide Products
- D602 Specification for Barium Sulfate Pigments
- D1210 Test Method for Fineness of Dispersion of Pigment-

- Vehicle Systems by Hegman-Type Gage
- D1640 Test Methods for Drying, Curing, or Film Formation of Organic Coatings at Room Temperature
- D3168 Practice for Qualitative Identification of Polymers in Emulsion Paints
- D4236 Practice for Labeling Art Materials for Chronic Health Hazards
- D4303 Test Methods for Lightfastness of Colorants Used in Artists' Materials
- D4838 Test Method for Determining the Relative Tinting Strength of Chromatic Paints
- D4941 Practice for Preparing Drawdowns of Artists' Paste Paints
- E284 Terminology of Appearance

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions:*

3.1.1 *colour index name, n*—consists of the category (type of dye or pigment), general hue, and an assigned number given to a colorant in the Colour Index³ as an international identification system.

3.1.1.1 *Discussion*—For example, the Colour Index Name of one phthalocyanine blue pigment is Pigment Blue 15 (PB 15).

3.1.2 *Colour Index Number, n*—a five-digit number given in the Colour Index that describes the chemical constitution of a colorant.

3.1.2.1 *Discussion*—For example, the Colour Index Number of one phthalocyanine blue pigment is 74160.

3.1.3 Appearance terms used in this specification are defined in Terminology E284.

3.2 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

3.2.1 *acrylic emulsion paint, n*—paint containing a stable aqueous dispersion of polymers or copolymers of acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, esters of these acids, or acrylonitrile; sometimes termed latex, acrylic latex, or polymer emulsion paint.

3.2.2 *glycols, n*—general term for dihydric alcohols used to provide freeze-thaw stability in acrylic and other water-based vehicle systems.

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D01 on Paint and Related Coatings, Materials, and Applications and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D01.57 on Artist Paints and Related Materials.

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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 *Colour Index*, 3rd ed., 5 Vols and Revisions. The Society of Dyers and Colourists, London, 1971–75. Available from the American Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists, P.O. Box 12215, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 This specification establishes quality requirements and provides a basis for common understanding among producers, distributors, and users.

4.2 It is not intended that all paints meeting the requirements be identical nor of uniform excellence in all respects. Variations in manufacture, not covered by this specification, may cause some artists to prefer one brand over another, either of which may be acceptable under this specification.

5. Labeling Requirements

5.1 Pigment(s) Identification:

5.1.1 Every label shall include for each pigment contained in the paint the information underlined in **Table 1** which includes the Common Name, Colour Index Name, and any additional terms necessary to identify the form of the pigment.

5.1.2 The complete pigment identification given in **Table 1**, which also includes the Colour Index Number and a simple chemical description, shall be given in an appropriate producer publication. Manufacturers are encouraged to put this complete identification on the container label when label size permits.

5.1.3 The Common Name shall be placed on the front of the label and shall be the name of the paint except as described in **5.1.5** and **5.1.6**. Other identification may be placed elsewhere on the container.

5.1.4 The Colour Index Name may be spelled out in full or abbreviated depending on the size of the label. Example: Pigment Blue 15, or Pig. Blue 15 or PB 15.

5.1.5 *Substituted Pigments*—In the case of substituted pigments, the word “Hue” in equal size letters shall follow in the title, on the front of the tube, immediately after the name of the pigment that has been simulated. Directly below the title, the Common Name from **Table 1** of the pigment(s) used shall be given in letters no less than the next type size smaller than the title; or if more than one pigment is used, then **5.1.7** covering mixed pigments, can be followed. For example:

CADMIUM RED MEDIUM HUE (Naphthol Red AS-OL)	COBALT BLUE HUE (mixture)
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5.1.6 Proprietary names or optional names may be used provided the Common Name(s) given in **Table 1** appears on the front of the label directly under the proprietary or optional name in letters no less than the next type size smaller than the proprietary or optional name; or if more than one pigment is used, then **5.1.7** covering mixed pigments, can be followed.

5.1.7 *Mixed Pigments*—Artists’ paints containing more than one pigment comply with this specification if all colored pigments included in the mixture are on the suitable pigment list (**Table 1**) and provided the mixture itself has passed all other test requirements in this specification. The Common Names for the pigments in the mixture, or the word “Mixture,” must appear under the title in letters no less than the next type size smaller than the title. For example:

PERMANENT GREEN LIGHT
(Cadmium Yellow Light,
Phthalocyanine Blue)

PERMANENT GREEN LIGHT
(Mixture)

If the word “Mixture” is used under the title, the Common Names of the pigments in the mixture, as given in **Table 1**, must be listed along with their Colour Index Names and the Lightfastness Category of the mixture somewhere on the label. The lightfastness category shall be that of the least lightfast pigment. This lightfastness category may be changed if the mixture is tested for lightfastness in accordance with Test Methods **D4303** and results indicating a different category are submitted to ASTM Subcommittee D01.57 for evaluation.

5.2 Provide on the label identification of polymer used in the paint.

NOTE 1—The type of polymer can be identified by using Practice **D3168**.

5.3 *Lightfastness*—The label shall contain the word “Lightfastness” followed by the appropriate rating, I or II, as given for each pigment in **Table 1**.

5.3.1 Lightfastness I pigments, when made into paint specimens as described in Section 7 and exposed, tested, and rated in accordance with Test Methods **D4303**, shall have a color difference (ΔE^*_{ab}) of 4 or less CIELAB units between the specimens measured before and after exposure.

5.3.2 Lightfastness II pigments, when made into paint specimens as described in Section 7 and exposed, tested, and rated in accordance with Test Methods **D4303**, shall have a color difference (ΔE^*_{ab}) of more than 4.0 but not more than 8.0 CIELAB units between the specimens measured before and after exposure.

5.3.3 Pigments were placed in a lightfastness category on the basis of either known historical performance in art works or the ratings from four lightfastness tests conducted as described in Test Methods **D4303**. Results from further tests on these, or other pigments, are solicited by ASTM Subcommittee D01.57.

5.3.3.1 The lightfastness category of a pigment shall be changed if results from several further tests conducted in accordance with Test Methods **D4303** and approved by ASTM Subcommittee D01.57, establish a different lightfastness category than the one given in **Table 1**.

5.3.3.2 Additional pigments shall be placed in **Table 1** after they have been tested for lightfastness in accordance with Test Methods **D4303** and the test results submitted to ASTM Subcommittee D01.57 for evaluation, provided the results demonstrate that the pigments have the lightfastness ratings required for Lightfastness I or Lightfastness II, as described in **5.3.1** and **5.3.2**.

5.3.4 For information and to establish nomenclature, pigments in Lightfastness III, IV, and V categories are given in **Table X1.1** in **Appendix X1**. However, such pigments are not to be used in paint conforming to this specification.

5.4 *Toxicity*—All products and labeling must conform to the Federal Hazardous Substances Act and to Practice **D4236**.

5.5 *Statement of Conformance*—“Conforms to ASTM Specification D5098,” or “Conforms to ASTM D5098,” or “Conforms to the quality requirements of ASTM D5098.” This

statement may be combined with other conformance statements, such as, “Conforms to the quality and health requirements of ASTM Specification D5098 and Practice D4236.”

5.6 *Address*—Include on the label (1) the name and address of the manufacturer or importer and (2) the country of manufacture.

6. Quality Assurance for Artists’ Acrylic Emulsion Paints

6.1 *Conditions not Covered in This Specification that Affect the Quality of Artists’ Acrylic Emulsion Paints* :

6.1.1 *Substrate*—Factors such as the texture, gloss, effective pH, porosity, chemical composition, and condition of the substrate will affect gloss, gloss uniformity, drying time, adhesion, and the flexibility of the dried film.

6.1.2 *Environmental Conditions*—Factors such as temperature, humidity, air flow, and light conditions affect application properties, film formation, drying time, and adhesion.

6.1.3 *Storage*—Factors such as aging, and high and low temperatures may cause changes in consistency.

6.2 *Vehicles*—Only acrylic polymer emulsions or acrylic copolymer emulsions may be used (see Note 1).

6.3 *Pigments*—The pigments shall be limited to those recommended for use in acrylic emulsion paints in the list of suitable pigments in Table 1. Their lightfastness rating shall be the numeral given in the same row.

6.4 *Additives*—Surfactants, preservatives, defoamers, glycols, solvents, and thickeners may be used to achieve aging stability, to control foaming, to ensure freeze-thaw stability and film coalescence, and to obtain a desired consistency.

6.5 *Inerts*—Inerts shall be included only to adjust product gloss or sheen, or to produce desirable working qualities.

6.6 *Preparation of Sample*—Empty the contents of a previously unopened container onto a glass slab and mix thoroughly with a spatula to a homogeneous sample.

6.7 *Coarse Particles*—Paints shall be free of oversize particles and shall form a uniform film upon drying. The maximum content of coarse particles shall be 1 weight % as determined by Test Methods D185.

6.8 *Fineness of Dispersion*—Determine the fineness of dispersion by Test Method D1210. For paste paint: on a glass plate, using a spatula, mix the paint with an equal volume of water until homogeneous. The maximum allowable grind reading is 40 μm (1.5 mils).

6.9 *Consistency*—Paints shall be smooth and creamy. The paste type of paint shall not flow or level when applied with a palette knife.

6.10 *Freeze-Thaw Stability*—Using a freezer that has a temperature of -7°C (20°F) or lower, subject the paint to five freeze-thaw cycles. A freeze-thaw cycle shall consist of freezing the paint to a solid state (minimum of 18 h) and then thawing the paint to room temperature (minimum of 5 h). The paint shall then meet the requirements of 6.7, 6.8, and 6.9.

6.11 *Drying*—Use a 150- μm (6-mil) clearance film applicator to make a uniform drawdown on a lacquer-sealed panel. At a relative humidity of 50 to 75 % and a temperature of 18 to 27°C (65 to 80°F), the dust-free drying time, determined in accordance with Test Methods D1640, shall be not less than 10 min.

6.12 Tinting strength requirements will be included in this specification as appropriate tinting strength standards for individual pigments are established. Test Method D387 may be used to determine the tinting strength of pigments or paints when all ingredients are known. Test Method D4838 can be used to determine the relative tinting strength of chromatic paints containing a single pigment and the same vehicle but where other ingredients are unknown.

6.13 *Bleeding of Pigments*—Determine the bleeding characteristics of the dry paint film by Test Methods D279, Test Method B. The film of the paint to be tested shall be applied with a 7.6-cm (3-in.) wide, 150- μm (6-mil) clearance film applicator, following Practice D4941. The overstripe of paint used shall meet the specifications of the white described in 7.4.1 of this standard. Apply the overstripe in one application as a drawdown at an angle perpendicular to that of the paint being tested. Extend this second paint layer off the first film and over the region where black and white meet on the chart, in order to determine if the thickness is great enough to achieve opacity as determined by the Procedure section of Practice D4941 (see Note 2). If opacity is insufficient, increase the thickness of the overstrip layer. The extent of color migration shall be no greater than moderate, as determined by the procedure in provided in Test Methods D279.

NOTE 2—Depending on the particular white paint used, a 250- μm (10-mil) application may be sufficient. The 6- and 10-mil multiple clearance applicator,⁴ has been found suitable. If the 10-mil clearance provides insufficient opacity, an adjustable clearance film casting knife⁵ 0-6250 μm (0-250 mils) will allow controlled increases in film thickness.

7. Lightfastness Determination

7.1 If a pigment is not listed in Table 1, test specimens of a paint containing the pigment shall be prepared. These test specimens shall be tested in conformance with the requirements for exposure and evaluation given in Test Methods D4303.

NOTE 3—A report of the results of these tests may be submitted to ASTM Subcommittee D01.57 for inclusion of the pigments in Table 1. The report shall include information on test conditions, instruments used, and be accompanied by the test specimens, which will be returned.

7.2 Materials:

7.2.1 *Aluminum Exposure Panels*,⁶ 75 by 150 mm (3 by 6 in.).

7.2.2 *Posterboard*, lightweight, approximately 0.5 mm (20 mils) thick, having a glossy finish on one side.

⁴ The sole source of supply of the multiple clearance applicator known to the committee at this time is BYK-Gardner, Inc., Rivers Park 11, 9104 Guilford Rd., Columbia, MD 21046-2729. If you are aware of alternative suppliers, please provide this information to ASTM International Headquarters. Your comments will receive careful consideration at a meeting of the responsible technical committee,¹ which you may attend.

⁵ The sole source of supply of the film casting knife known to the committee at this time is BYK-Gardner, Inc., Rivers Park 11, 9104 Guilford Rd., Columbia, MD 21046-2729. If you are aware of alternative suppliers, please provide this information to ASTM International Headquarters. Your comments will receive careful consideration at a meeting of the responsible technical committee,¹ which you may attend.

⁶ The sole source of supply of the aluminum panel, No. A-36 known to the committee at this time is The Q-Panel Co., 800 Canterbury Rd., Cleveland, OH 44145-1419.

7.2.3 *Titanium Dioxide Acrylic Dispersion Paint.*

7.2.4 *Spray Apparatus*, for applying ground coats.

7.2.5 *Paint Brush*, 60-mm (2.5-in.) wide for applying ground coats if spray apparatus is not available.

7.2.6 *Soft Hair Brush*, 25-mm (1-in.) wide for applying ground coats to aluminum panels. An oxford artist's "stroke" brush is suitable.

7.3 *Specimen Preparation:*

7.3.1 *Ground Coats:*

7.3.1.1 For the first ground coat under acrylic emulsion paints, prepare the following enamel:

	Weight %
Medium oil length soya alkyd, 50 % nonvolatile	20
Rutile titanium dioxide ⁷ (conforming to Type II of Classification D476)	40
Blanc fixe (conforming to Specification D602)	40
Driers: 0.15 % zinc and 0.15 % zirconium as metal on the alkyd nonvolatile	
Sufficient mineral spirits for milling	

7.3.1.2 Mill to a Hegman fineness of 7 as measured by Test Method D1210. Thin with mineral spirits to appropriate viscosity for spraying or for flow coating by brush.

NOTE 4—These soya alkyd enamels are used for the ground coats because of their color stability, nonabsorbency, adhesion of the specimen coats under humid conditions, and freedom from blistering that can occur with an acrylic ground coat under high humidity.

7.3.2 *Application of Ground Coats:*

7.3.2.1 Degrease aluminum substrates before applying the ground coat.

7.3.2.2 Apply two coats of the enamel described in 7.3.1.1, followed by one coat of the enamel described in 7.3.2. To flow coat the aluminum panels for sun exposure use a 25-mm (1-in.) soft hair brush. Coat the posterboard to be used for laboratory exposure on the less absorbent, glossy side.

NOTE 5—Coating the posterboard is most conveniently done on the whole sheet before cutting to size.

7.3.2.3 Allow a minimum of five days drying time following the first coat and two weeks or more after applying the second coat and before applying the paint to be tested.

7.4 *Mixing Whites for Dilution of Colors:*

7.4.1 Use a white containing the same emulsion and additives as the formulation in which the pigment is incorporated if possible. The following basic composition has been found satisfactory:

	Weight %
Acrylic emulsion nonvolatile	23 to 24
Rutile titanium dioxide ⁹ (conforming to Type II of Classification D476)	34.6

7.4.1.1 Keep the viscosity of the mixing white to 250 P or slightly lower.

7.5 *Preparation of Test Paints:*

7.5.1 The pigment to be tested may be milled in a compatible paste for acrylic emulsion. If a prepared artists' paint of known composition is available, it may be used for this test instead of preparing a dispersion.

7.5.2 Dilute the pigment paste or paint with the white containing the same type of vehicle until the spectrophotometric measurement of the dried film shows 35 to 45 % relative reflectance at the wavelength of maximum absorption for that pigment. The wavelength of maximum absorption is located at the point of lowest reflectance on the spectral curve between 420 and 620 nm. If using a tristimulus filter colorimeter, the lowest of the three filter readings is the region of maximum absorption and the dilution should be adjusted so that a reading of 35 to 45 % reflectance is obtained with this filter. The diffuse white reference standard for all measurements should have an absolute reflectance between 97 and 100 %.

7.5.2.1 To obtain this reflectance, use the Kubelka-Munk Single Constant Method described in Appendix X2 or use a trial and error method.

7.5.3 Make instrumental readings with the specular reflectance included to minimize the effect on readings of any change in gloss and to minimize the effect of brush strokes.

7.5.4 Use an applicator with a 150-µm(6-mil) aperture to make a minimum size drawdown, 40 by 40 mm (1½ by 1½ in.), or other minimum size appropriate for the viewing area of the instrument used. Return all recoverable paint to the batch to allow for repeat mixes and measurements.

7.5.5 For acrylic emulsion paints, 80 g of white paint is needed since paint used in the drawdown is lost.

7.5.6 For the initial weights of white stated in 7.5.4 and 7.5.5, the weighing must be accurate to 0.05 g.

7.6 *Application of Paints to Panels:*

7.6.1 Prepare four specimen panels on appropriate substrates for each pigment under test. Two are used in the first lightfastness tests and two are retained in subdued light, one for visual comparisons with the exposed panels and one in case a third test is needed to supplement results from the first two tests, as described in Test Methods D4303.

7.6.2 Apply the test paints by brush to the aluminum panel if exposure is to be under glass to the sun or by brush to the posterboard panel if exposure is to be to laboratory apparatus.

7.6.3 Using the No. 12 artist's flat bristle brush, brush the panels lengthwise, then crosswise, and again lengthwise, this time with a light touch to produce a film as smooth as possible. The mixing whites must be fluid enough to facilitate leveling, but not have excess vehicle that can affect the test. Do not use thinners. Apply two coats to all specimen panels to achieve complete opacity.

7.6.4 Allow specimens to dry between coats as described in the Procedure section (Dry-Through or Dry-to-Handle Time) of Test Methods D1640. After recoating, allow specimens to dry hard, as described in the Procedure section (Dry-Hard Time) of Test Methods D1640, before measuring them prior to exposure. Acrylic paints can be recoated the next day and read two days after recoating.

⁷ The sole source of supply of the material, DuPont R900 known to the committee at this time is E. I DuPont de Nemours & Co., 1007 Market St., Wilmington, DE 19898. If you are aware of alternative suppliers, please provide this information to ASTM International Headquarters. Your comments will receive careful consideration at a meeting of the responsible technical committee,¹ which you may attend.