



Designation: D1972 – 97(Reapproved 2005)

Standard Practice for Generic Marking of Plastic Products¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D1972; 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 practice covers a system for uniform marking of products that have been fabricated from polymeric materials. Provision for the process or processes to be used for marking is outside the scope of this practice.

NOTE 1—Precise details of the marking, for example, the minimum size of the item to be marked, the size of the lettering, and the appropriate location of the marking, may be subject to agreement between the manufacturer and the user.

1.2 The abbreviated terms used are to provide generic identification of the polymer(s).

1.3 This practice is especially pertinent for use with durable plastic components of products. This practice is not intended to supplant, replace, or in any way interfere with the requirements found in legislation for marking or labeling of packaging.

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 2—In many respects, this practice is similar to ISO 11469.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*²

[D883 Terminology Relating to Plastics](#)

[D1600 Terminology for Abbreviated Terms Relating to Plastics](#)

[D3935 Specification for Polycarbonate \(PC\) Unfilled and Reinforced Material](#)

[D4000 Classification System for Specifying Plastic Materials](#)

¹ This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D20 on Plastics and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D20.95 on Recycled Plastics.

Current edition approved July 1, 2005. Published August 2005. Originally approved in 1991. Last previous edition approved in 2001 as D1972 - 97 (2001). DOI: 10.1520/D1972-97R05.

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.

2.2 *ISO Standards:*³

[ISO/DIS 1043-1 Plastics—Symbols and Abbreviated Terms—Part 1: Basic Polymers and Their Special Characteristics](#)

[ISO 1043-2 Plastics—Symbols—Part 2: Fillers and Reinforcing Materials](#)

[ISO 1043-3 Plastics—Symbols—Part 3: Plasticizers](#)

[ISO/DIS 1043-4 1996 Plastics—Symbols—Part 4: Flame Retardants](#)

[ISO 1087 Terminology—Vocabulary](#)

[ISO 8604 Plastics—Prepregs—Definition of Terms and Symbols for Designations](#)

[ISO 11469 Plastics—Generic Identification and Marking of Plastics Products](#)

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions:* Definitions are in accordance with Terminology [D883](#) unless otherwise specified.

3.2 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

3.2.1 *abbreviated term*—a term resulting from the omission of any part of a term while designating the same concept. (See ISO 1087.)

3.2.1.1 *Discussion*—“Abbreviated term” is a general term that includes abbreviations, initialisms, and acronyms (initialisms that can be pronounced as a word). International Standard definitions for each of these terms is included in ISO 1087.

3.2.2 *bulk molding compound (BMC)*—a product composed of thoroughly mixed resins and chopped reinforcing fibers with or without particulate fillers, supplied in mass form, capable of being molded under heat and pressure. (See ISO 8604.)

3.2.3 *matrix polymer*—the continuous phase in a polymeric blend or alloy.

3.2.4 *plastic products*—articles or stock shapes of plastic materials intended for useful purposes.

3.3 *Abbreviations*—Abbreviated terms used in this practice are from Terminology [D1600](#) and ISO/DIS 1043-1.

³ 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