



Designation: D5683 – 95 (Reapproved 2005)

Standard Test Method for Flexibility of Roofing and Waterproofing Materials and Membranes¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D5683; 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 test method measures the flexibility of roofing or waterproofing sheet materials or membranes by bending the test material over a block containing arcs of specific radii at a standard temperature.

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

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards*:²

D1079 Terminology Relating to Roofing and Waterproofing

3. Terminology

3.1 For definitions of terms used in this test method, refer to Terminology **D1079**.

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 Bend the five specimens of roofing or waterproofing sheet materials or membrane, conditioned at 4.4°C (40°F), (see **Note 1**), over a block (see **Fig. 1**) designed to provide arcs of equal length with 6-mm (1/4-in.), 13-mm (1/2-in.), 19-mm (3/4-in.), and 25-mm (1-in.) radii, and the smallest radius is reported where cracking is not observed in any specimen.

NOTE 1—Other test temperatures may be used in addition to the tests required at 4.4°C (40°F), and refrigerated conditioning chambers may be used instead of the water bath specified. Follow procedures outlined in Section 8, if refrigerated chamber is utilized; however, the plastic bag may be omitted.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 This test method is designed to aid those interested in the engineering properties of roofing and waterproofing sheet materials and membranes.

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee **D08** on Roofing and Waterproofing and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee **D08.20** on Roofing Membrane Systems.

Current edition approved Dec. 1, 2005. Published December 2005. Originally approved in 1995. Last previous edition approved in 1999 as D5683 – 95 (1999) ^{ϵ 1}. DOI: 10.1520/D5683-95R05.

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.

5.2 This test method enables a researcher to measure the relative flexibility of roofing and waterproofing sheet materials and membranes under standard conditions in the laboratory.

5.3 The data obtained from this test method will not permit prediction of the service life of a membrane. Membrane flexibility is important during application, and changes in flexibility are believed to be linked to the performance of roofing and waterproofing membranes, but the actual link between test data and performance is unknown and is dependent on the materials and exposure.

6. Apparatus

6.1 *Water Bath*—A bath with the capacity of at least 10 L (2.5 gal) and capable of maintaining a temperature of 4.4 \pm 0.1°C (40 \pm 0.2°F).

6.2 *Polyethylene Bags*—A sealable plastic bag for conditioning each group of test specimens. Commercial 1-gal sealable polyethylene scrap or food storage bags can perform this function.

6.3 *Test Block*—The test block (see **Fig. 1**) may be made from any hard durable material that conforms to the dimensions shown in **Fig. 1**. It is designed to provide equal arc lengths for arcs with 6-mm (1/4-in.), 13-mm (1/2-in.), 19-mm (3/4-in.), and 25-mm (1-in.) radii.

7. Sampling

7.1 This test method requires a total of one 152 by 305-mm (6 by 12-in.) sample from the sheet material or membrane.

7.2 Cut five 25 by 152-mm (1 by 6-in.) specimens in the machine direction (the length) and five 1 by 6-in. specimens in the cross direction (the width) of each sample.

8. Procedure

8.1 Exclude as much air as possible and seal each group of five specimens in a plastic bag.

8.2 Condition the specimens in each plastic bag in a water bath at 4.4 \pm 0.1°C (40 \pm 0.2°F) for at least 1 h.

8.3 One at a time, remove the specimens from the conditioning medium. Quickly clamp a narrow end of the specimen to the test block (see **Fig. 1**) with thumb pressure on the sliding angle clamp, with the side most likely to crack (usually the side intended for exposure to the weather) of the sample upward.