



Standard Test Method for Comparing Colors of Films from Water-Emulsion Floor Polishes¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This test method covers comparing colors of films (or solids) deposited from the emulsified particles in water emulsion floor polishes. It is based upon luminous reflectance measurements made with tristimulus colorimeters such as the Hunter Color Difference Meter.²

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

1.3 *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:

E 259 Practice for Preparation of Reference White Reflectance Standards³

3. Terminology

3.1 Definition:

3.1.1 *whiteness index*—a color measurement calculated from the equation⁴

$$WI = L - 3b \quad (1)$$

where L and b are values measured directly with the Color Difference Meter. L measures lightness, which is 100 for perfectly white and zero for black; and b measures yellowness when plus, blueness when minus, and zero for neutral gray or white. Conversion factors for instruments reading in X , Y , Z units are:

$$L = 10\sqrt{Y} \quad b = 7.0(Y - 0.847Z)/\sqrt{Y} \quad (2)$$

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D-21 on Polishes and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D21.04 on Performance Tests.

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² Hunter, R. S., "Photoelectric Color Difference Meter," *Journal of the Optical Society*, Vol. 48, 1958, p. 985.

³ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 06.01.

⁴ Hunter, R. S., "Instruments and Test Methods for Control of Whiteness in Textile Mills," *American Dyestuff Reporter*, Vol 56, No. 25, Dec. 4, 1967, pp. 80–87.

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 Reflectance measurements are made on exaggerated or heavy dried polish films produced by saturating white filter paper. The color measurement is expressed as whiteness index.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 Whiteness index obtained from reflectance measurements on exaggerated dried polish films on filter paper can be used as a measurement of the color of such films.

5.2 Whiteness index may be useful in predicting the potential discoloring effect of polish films on flooring substrates.

5.3 Whiteness index should be useful in specifications when color comparisons are made with a standard sample polish.

6. Apparatus

6.1 *Tristimulus Colorimeter*, which gives reflectance readings which in turn are converted by calculations to L , a , and b color scale values, or these color scale values may be read directly from an instrument that automatically makes the calculations. Other apparatus is satisfactory if equivalent results are obtained.

6.2 *Filter Paper*, medium flow rate, cut into strips 76.2 by 152.4 mm (3 in. by 6 in.).

6.3 *Spring Clamp*, approximately 76 mm (3 in.) wide, two are required.

NOTE 1—The following instruments are believed to provide color difference measurements suitable for use with this procedure:

- (1) Hunter Color Difference Meter.
- (2) Color Eye Colorimeter
- (3) General Electric Recording Spectrophotometer.
- (4) Colormaster Differential Colorimeter.
- (5) Gardner Color Difference Meter.

7. Reference Standards

7.1 *Primary Standard*—The primary standard for reflectance measurement is a layer of freshly prepared magnesium oxide prepared in accordance with Recommended Practice E 259.

7.2 *Instrument Standard*—Because of the difficulty of preparing a primary reflectance standard, calibrated pieces of