



Designation: D5138 – 06

Standard Classification System for Liquid Crystal Polymers (LCP)¹

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1. Scope*

1.1 This classification system covers liquid crystal polymeric (LCP) materials suitable for injection molding and extrusion. This classification system allows the use of liquid crystal polymers that are recycled, reconstituted, recycled-regrind, recovered, or reprocessed, or a combination thereof, provided that the requirements as stated in this classification system are met. It is the responsibility of the supplier and the buyer of liquid crystal polymers that are recycled, reconstituted, recycled-regrind, recovered, or reprocessed, or a combination thereof, to ensure compliance.

1.2 The properties included in this classification system are those required to identify the compositions covered. There may be other requirements necessary to identify particular characteristics important to specialized applications. These shall be agreed upon between the user and the supplier, by using suffixes as given in Section 5.

1.3 This classification system and subsequent line callout (specification) are intended to be a means of calling out plastic materials used in the fabrication of end-use items or parts. It is not intended for the selection of materials. Material selection should be made by those having expertise in the plastics field after careful consideration of the design and the performance required of the part, the environment to which it will be exposed, the fabrication process to be employed, the costs involved, and the inherent properties of the material other than those covered by this classification system.

1.4 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as standard.

1.5 The following precautionary caveat pertains only to the test method portion, Section 11, of this classification system: *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 1—There is no known ISO equivalent to this classification system.

¹ This classification system is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D20 on Plastics and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D20.15 on Thermoplastic Materials.

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2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

D256 Test Methods for Determining the Izod Pendulum Impact Resistance of Plastics

D618 Practice for Conditioning Plastics for Testing

D638 Test Method for Tensile Properties of Plastics

D648 Test Method for Deflection Temperature of Plastics Under Flexural Load in the Edgewise Position

D790 Test Methods for Flexural Properties of Unreinforced and Reinforced Plastics and Electrical Insulating Materials

D883 Terminology Relating to Plastics

D1238 Test Method for Melt Flow Rates of Thermoplastics by Extrusion Plastometer

D1600 Terminology for Abbreviated Terms Relating to Plastics

D3418 Test Method for Transition Temperatures and Enthalpies of Fusion and Crystallization of Polymers by Differential Scanning Calorimetry

D3641 Practice for Injection Molding Test Specimens of Thermoplastic Molding and Extrusion Materials

D3835 Test Method for Determination of Properties of Polymeric Materials by Means of a Capillary Rheometer

D3892 Practice for Packaging/Packing of Plastics

D4000 Classification System for Specifying Plastic Materials

D5033 Guide for Development of ASTM Standards Relating to Recycling and Use of Recycled Plastics³

D5630 Test Method for Ash Content in Plastics

E29 Practice for Using Significant Digits in Test Data to Determine Conformance with Specifications

2.2 IEC and ISO Standards:⁴

IEC 112 Recommended Method for Determining the Comparative Tracking Index of Solid Insulation Materials

IEC 243 Recommended Methods of Test for Electrical Strength of Solid Insulating Materials at Power Frequencies

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 Withdrawn. The last approved version of this historical standard is referenced on www.astm.org.

⁴ 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.

TABLE LCP Liquid Crystal Polymers—Classification

Group	Description	Class	Description	Grade ^A	Description
01	unsubstituted or methyl substituted, wholly aromatic copolyester, polyether, or polyester amide	1	high temperature DTUL ^B >260°C	0	
		2	medium temperature DTUL = 220–260°C	0	
		3	general purpose DTUL <220°C	0	
02	mixed aromatic/aliphatic copolyesters, polyethers, or polyester amides	1	high temperature DTUL >260°C	0	
		2	medium temperature DTUL = 220–260°C	0	
		3	general purpose DTUL <220°C	0	
03	aromatic copolyesters, polyethers, or polyesteramides with aliphatic sidechain	1	high temperature DTUL >260°C	0	
		2	medium temperature DTUL = 220–260°C	0	
		3	general purpose DTUL <220°C	0	
04	blends	1	high temperature DTUL >260°C	0	
		2	medium temperature DTUL = 220–260°C	0	
		3	general purpose DTUL <220°C	0	
00	other	0	other	0	

^A Description unspecified.

^B DTUL is deflection temperature under load measured at 1.8 MPa and is determined in accordance with Table A or Table B.

ISO 62 Plastics—Determination of Water Absorption

ISO 75-1 Determination of Temperature of Deflection Under Load—General Test Method

ISO 75-2 Determination of Temperature of Deflection Under Load—Plastics and Ebonite

ISO 178 Plastics—Determination of Flexural Properties of Rigid Materials

ISO 180/1A Plastics—Determination of Izod Impact Strength of Rigid Materials

ISO 294-1 General Principles for Injection Molding

ISO 527-1 Plastics—Determination of Tensile Properties—Test Conditions for Moulding and Extrusion of Plastics

ISO 527-2 Plastics—Determination of Tensile Properties—Test Conditions for Moulding and Extrusion of Plastics

ISO 604 Plastics—Determination of Compressive Properties

ISO 3167 Plastics—Multipurpose Test Specimens

ISO 3451-1 Plastics—Determination of Ash Content—Part 1: General Methods

ISO 11357 Melt Point by Differential Scanning Calorimetry

ISO 11443 Melt Viscosity by Capillary Rheometry

2.3 *Military Standard*:⁵
MIL-M-24519 Molding Plastics—Electrical Thermoplastics

2.4 *Underwriters Laboratories (UL)*:⁶
UL 94 Test for Flammability of Plastic Materials for Parts in Devices and Appliances

2.5 *National Technical Information Service (NTIS)*:⁷
AD297457 Procedure and Analytical Method for Determining Toxic Gases Produced by Synthetic Compounds

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—Except for the terms defined below, the terminology used in this classification system is in accordance with Terminologies **D883** and **D1600**.

3.2 *Definition of Term Specific to This Standard*:

3.2.1 *liquid crystal polymer (LCP)*—A family of thermoplastic polymers which upon heating to the processing temperature, exhibit ordered structure and under shear, highly aligned chains that are retained in the solid state. Liquid crystal polymers are polymers that in the molten state exhibit birefringence in polarized light.

4. Classification

4.1 The LCP materials are classified into groups according to their chemical composition. These groups are subdivided, whether reinforced or not, into classes based on thermal performance as shown in Table LCP.

NOTE 2—An example of this classification system is as follows: The designation LCP0120 indicates the following LCP = liquid crystal polymer as found in Terminology **D1600**:

01 = Unsubstituted, or methyl substituted, wholly aromatic copolyester, polyether, or polyester amide (group)

2 = Medium temperature, DTUL = 220–260°C (class)

0 = Other (grade)

4.1.1 To facilitate the incorporation of future or special materials, the “other” category for Group (00), Class (0), and Grade (0) is shown in Table LCP.

4.2 Reinforced, filled, and lubricated versions of LCP materials are classified in accordance with Tables LCP and Table

⁵ Available from Standardization Documents Order Desk, Bldg. 4 Section D, 700 Robbins Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19111-5094, Attn: NPODS.

⁶ Available from Underwriters Laboratories (UL), Corporate Progress, 333 Pfingsten Rd., Northbrook, IL 60062.

⁷ Available from NTIS, 5285 Port Royal Rd., Springfield, VA 22161.

A. Table LCP is used to specify the group or the group and class of LCP and Table A is used to specify the property requirements.

NOTE 3—Test specimens shall be prepared in accordance with ISO 3167, Specimen Type 1A.

NOTE 4—A similar callout can be developed using Table B.

4.2.1 Reinforced, filled, and lubricated variations of the basic materials are identified by a single letter that indicates the filler, or reinforcement used, or both, and two digits that indicate the nominal quantity in percent by weight. The reinforcement letter designations and associated tolerance levels are shown in the following table:

Symbol	Material	Tolerance (Based on Total Mass ^A)
C	carbon and graphite fiber	±2 %
G	glass	±2 %
L	lubricants (for example PTFE, graphite, silicone, and molybdenum disulfide)	depends upon material and process to be specified
M	mineral	±2 %
R	combinations of reinforcements or fillers, or both	±3 % for the total

^AAsh content of filled, or reinforced material, or both, may be determined using either Test Method D5630 or ISO 3451-1 where applicable.

NOTE 5—This part of the system uses the percent of reinforcements or additives, or both, in the callout of the modified basic material. The types and percentages of reinforcements and additives should be shown on the suppliers' technical data sheet unless they are proprietary in nature. If necessary, additional callout of these reinforcements and additives can be accomplished by the use of the suffix part of the system (see Section 5).

4.2.2 Specific requirements shall be shown by a six-character designation. The designation will consist of the letter A and the five digits comprising the cell numbers for the property requirements in the order as they appear in Table A.

4.2.2.1 Although the values listed are necessary to include the range of properties available in existing materials, users should not infer that every possible combination of properties exists or can be obtained.

4.2.3 When the grade or class of the basic material is not known or is not important, the "0" classification shall be used.

NOTE 6—An example of this classification for a reinforced LCP material is given as follows: The designation LCP0120G30A22450 would indicate the following material requirements:

LCP = Liquid Crystal Polymer as found in Terminology D1600

01— = Unsubstituted or methyl substituted, wholly aromatic copolyester, polyether, or polyester amide (group),
 2 = medium temperature (class)
 0 = unspecified (grade)
 G30 = Glass reinforced at 30 % nominal level
 A = Table A property requirements
 2 = Tensile strength, min, 100 MPa
 2 = Flexural modulus, min, 8 GPa
 4 = Notched izod impact, min, 15 kJ/m
 5 = Deflection temperature under load, min, 260°C at 1.8 MPa,
 0 = Unspecified
 If no properties are specified, the designation would be LCP0120G30A00000.

5. Suffixes Requirements

5.1 When additional requirements are needed that are not covered by the basic requirements or cell-table requirements, they shall be indicated through the use of suffixes.

5.2 A list of suffixes can be found in Classification System D4000 (Table 3) and may be used for additional requirements as appropriate.

5.2.1 Additional suffixes will be added to that standard as test methods and requirements are developed and requested.

6. General Requirements

6.1 The composition of the specified material shall be uniform and shall conform to the requirements specified herein.

6.2 The basic requirements from the property tables or cell tables are always in effect unless superseded by specific suffix requirements, which always take precedence.

7. Detail Requirements

7.1 The material shall conform to the requirements prescribed in Tables LCP and A (or B), and the suffix requirements as they apply.

7.2 For the purposes of determining conformance with this classification system, all specified limits for a specification (line callout) based on this classification system are absolute limits, as defined in Practice E29.

7.3 With the absolute method, an observed value or a calculated value is not rounded, but is to be compared directly with the limiting value. Conformance or nonconformance is based on this comparison.

TABLE A Property Requirements for Liquid Crystal Polymer Based on ISO Test Methods

			0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Tensile strength, min, MPa	ISO 527	unspecified	70	100	120	140	160	180	200	220	specify value
2	Flexural modulus, min, GPa	ISO 178	unspecified	4	8	12	16	20	24	28	32	specify value
3	Notched izod impact, min, kJ/m ²	ISO 180/1A	unspecified	5	9	12	15	18	25	37	50	specify value
4	DTUL ^A at 1.8 MPa, min, °C	ISO 75/A	unspecified	140	180	220	240	260	300	340	380	specify value
5	To be determined		unspecified									specify value

^ADTUL = Deflection temperature under load tested flatwise on 80 by 10 by 4-mm specimen.