



Designation: D 3265 – 06

Standard Test Method for Carbon Black—Tint Strength¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D 3265; 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 approval. A superscript epsilon (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

1. Scope

1.1 This test method covers the determination of the tint strength of carbon black relative to an industry tint reference black (ITRB).

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:*²

D 1799 Practice for Carbon Black—Sampling Packaged Shipments

D 1900 Practice for Carbon Black—Sampling Bulk Shipments

D 4483 Practice for Evaluating Precision for Test Method Standards in the Rubber and Carbon Black Manufacturing Industries

D 4821 Guide for Carbon Black—Validation of Test Method Precision and Bias

3. Summary of Test Method

3.1 A carbon black sample is mixed with a white powder (zinc oxide) and a liquid vehicle (soybean oil epoxide) to produce a black or gray paste. This paste is then spread to produce a surface suitable for measuring the reflectance of the mixture by means of a photo-electric reflectance meter. The reflectance of the tested sample is then compared to the reflectance of the ITRB prepared in the same manner. The tint strength of the tested sample is expressed as units of the reflectance of the ITRB divided by the reflectance of the sample and multiplied by 100.

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D24 on Carbon Black and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D24.21 on Carbon Black Surface Area and Related Properties.

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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.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 For the broad range of commercial rubber grade carbon blacks, tint strength is highly dependent upon particle size. Tint strength can be used as an indication of particle size; however, tint strength is also dependent on structure and aggregate size distribution. Therefore, differences in tint strength within grades of carbon black may reflect differences other than particle size.

NOTE 1—This test method was developed primarily for the characterization of N100, N200, and N300 series carbon blacks.

4.2 Tint strength specifications within the carbon black industry have been developed using a Hoover Muller apparatus which is used to prepare carbon black-zinc oxide pastes. A new mixing apparatus, SpeedMixer³ (DAC 150 FVZ), and a corresponding procedure have been extensively studied within D24 and shown to provide equivalent tint strength for all carcass or soft blacks and most tread blacks with the exception of higher surface area N100 types and specialty blacks. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the user of this alternate apparatus to ensure their products will adequately disperse. Disputes arising between a user and producer should be resolved using the Hoover Muller apparatus until ASTM develops adequate precision statements.

5. Apparatus

5.1 *Analytical Balance*, with a sensitivity of ± 0.1 mg.

5.2 *Automatic Muller*.^{4,5}

5.3 *Photometric Instrument*, capable of detecting differences in the amount of light reflectance between shades of gray.^{5,6} The instrument is to be operated following the manufacturer's instructions for optimum performance.

³ SpeedMixer is a registered trademark of FlackTek Inc., 1708 Highway 11, Bldg. G, Landrum, SC 29356. <http://www.speedmixer.com>

⁴ The sole source of supply of the Hoover Automatic Muller, Model M5, known to the committee at this time is Hoover Color Corp., P.O. Box 218, State Highway 693, Hiwassee, VA 24347.

⁵ 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 following instruments have been found satisfactory for this test method: Erichsen Tint Tester 527, available from T. G. Bell, Inc., 1340 Home Ave., Akron, OH 44310, and Hunter MiniScan XE or XE Plus, available from Hunter Associates Laboratory, Inc., 11491 Sunset Hills Road, Reston, Virginia 22090-5280. The Densicron reflectometer, though no longer commercially available, may be used for the test. For instructions, see Test Method D 3265 – 01.

5.4 *Oven, Gravity-Convection Type*, capable of temperature regulation within $\pm 1^{\circ}\text{C}$ at 125°C ($\pm 2^{\circ}\text{F}$ at 257°F) and temperature uniformity within $\pm 5^{\circ}\text{C}$ ($\pm 9^{\circ}\text{F}$).

5.5 *Reflectance Standards*, as required for each reflectance instrument for checking calibration.

5.6 *Spatulas*, 100 to 150 mm (4 to 6 in.), two, flexible, tapered.

5.7 *Syringe*, 5-cm³, automatic refilling, reproducible to ± 0.02 cm³.

5.8 *Wiping Tissue*, absorbent and lint free.

5.9 *Paste Application Apparatus*—Any one of the following groups of equipment may be used:

5.9.1 *Apparatus for Film Drawdown Method*:

5.9.1.1 *Film Applicator*,^{5,7} 0.076 mm (0.003 in.) in depth.

5.9.1.2 *Polished Glass Plate*, approximately 760 by 500 by 10 mm (30 by 20 by 0.375 in.).

5.9.2 *Apparatus for Roller Spreader Method*:

5.9.2.1 *Tint Roller Spreader*.^{5,8}

5.10 *Desiccator*.

5.11 *SpeedMixer (DAC 150 FVZ)*, PP15 cups and holder.^{5,9}

5.12 *IKA A-10 Analytical Mill*, A-14 SS cutter, A-18 chamber reducer.^{5,10}

5.13 *5 mm Glass Grinding Beads*.^{5,11}

6. Reagents and Materials

6.1 *Purity of Reagents*—Reagent grade chemicals shall be used in all tests. Unless otherwise indicated, it is intended all reagents shall conform to the specifications of the Committee on Analytical Reagents of the American Chemical Society, where such specifications are available.¹² Other grades may be used, provided it is first ascertained that the reagent is of sufficiently high purity to permit its use without lessening the accuracy of the determination.

6.2 *Industry Tint Reference Black*.^{5,13}

6.3 *Plasticizer*, soybean oil epoxide.^{5,14,15}

⁷ The sole source of supply of the Film Applicator, Catalog No. AR-5257, known to the committee at this time is Byk-Gardner, 9104 Guilford Rd., Columbia, MD 21046. <http://www.bykgardner.com>.

⁸ The sole source of supply of the Tint Roller Spreader, Model 1A, known to the committee at this time is Titan Specialties, Inc., P.O. Box 2316, Pampa, TX 79066-2316.

⁹ The sole source of supply of the SpeedMixer known to the committee at this time is FlackTek Inc., 1708 Highway 11, Bldg. G, Landrum, SC 29356. <http://www.speedmixer.com>

¹⁰ The sole source of supply of the apparatus (Part #EW-04301-00) known to the committee at this time is Cole-Parmer Instrument Company, 625 East Bunker Court, Vernon Hills, IL 60061. <http://www.coleparmer.com>

¹¹ The sole source of supply of glass grinding beads known to the committee at this time is Quackebush Co., Inc., 6711 Sands Rd., Crystal Lake, IL 60014. <http://www.quackco.com>

¹² *Reagent Chemicals, American Chemical Society Specifications*, American Chemical Society, Washington, DC. For suggestions on the testing of reagents not listed by the American Chemical Society, see *Analar Standards for Laboratory Chemicals*, BDH Ltd., Poole, Dorset, U.K., and the *United States Pharmacopeia and National Formulary*, U.S. Pharmacopeial Convention, Inc. (USPC), Rockville, MD.

¹³ The sole source of supply of Industry Tint Reference Black, an N-330 carbon black, known to the committee at this time is Laboratory Standards and Technologies, 227 Somerset St., Borger, TX 79007.

¹⁴ The sole source of supply of Paraplex G-62, *Chemical Abstracts Registry Number 12768-71-7*, known to the committee at this time is C. P. Hall Co., Technical Center, Customer Service Department, 5851 West 73rd St., Chicago, IL 60638. (Minimum order is 5 gal and order should state "Refer to ASTM D3265.")

6.4 *Denatured Alcohol*, for cleaning purposes.

6.5 *Zinc Oxide*, Industry Tint Zinc Oxide.^{5,16}

6.6 *ASTM D24 Standard Reference Blacks*.^{5,17}

7. Sampling

7.1 Samples of shipments shall be taken in accordance with Practices **D 1799** and **D 1900**.

8. Calibration and Standardization

8.1 *Standard Pastes*—Prepare pastes of the ITRB, following **9.1-9.6** for the following masses, prepare the 0.1000-g Hoover Muller paste or the 0.1200-g SpeedMixer paste in duplicate:

Industry Tint Reference Black		Calibration Tint Units	Acceptable Range
Hoover Muller Pastes	SpeedMixer Pastes		
0.0900 g	0.1080 g	90.0	89.3 – 90.7
0.1000 g	0.1200 g	100.0	99.2 – 100.8
0.1100 g	0.1320 g	110.0	109.1 – 110.9
0.1200 g	0.1440 g	120.0	119.0 – 121.0
0.1300 g	0.1560 g	130.0	129.0 – 131.0

8.2 *Erichsen Tint Tester 527*:

8.2.1 Turn on the power switch and allow for 30 min warm-up.

8.2.2 Place the reflectance head on the black calibration panel and adjust the digital readout to 0.00 using the "zero" control potentiometer.

8.2.3 Following Section **9**, prepare the paste drawdown for reflectance measurement.

8.2.4 Use one of the 0.1000-g Hoover Muller or 0.1200-g SpeedMixer ITRB pastes of **8.1** to set the instrument to read 3.00 using the calibration control potentiometer.

8.2.5 Determine the reflectivity on the remaining 0.1000-g Hoover Muller or 0.1200-g SpeedMixer ITRB paste. This reflectance reading must be from 2.99 through 3.01 for the duplicate pastes to be considered acceptable.

8.2.6 If the duplicate 0.1000-g Hoover Muller or 0.1200-g SpeedMixer pastes are acceptable, the two duplicate pastes are blended together using a spatula, and the instrument is set to read 3.00 using the calibration control potentiometer.

8.2.7 If the duplicate pastes are unacceptable, prepare another 0.1000-g Hoover Muller or 0.1200-g SpeedMixer paste following **9.1-9.6**, and follow **8.2.5**.

8.2.8 Determine the reflectance value for all of the remaining ITRB pastes of **8.1**.

8.2.9 Calculate the tint strength of the standard pastes as follows:

$$\text{Tint Units} = 3.00/S \times 100 \quad (1)$$

where:

S = reflectance value of sample.

¹⁵ Supporting data (on the shelf life of this material) have been filed at ASTM International Headquarters and may be obtained by requesting Research Report RR: D24-1004.

¹⁶ The sole source of supply of Industry Tint Zinc Oxide known to the committee at this time is Forcoven Products, Inc., P.O. Box 1556, Humble, TX 77347.

¹⁷ The sole source of supply of ASTM D24 Standard Reference Blacks known to the committee at this time is Laboratory Standards and Technologies, 227 Somerset St., Borger, TX 79007.