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Standard Test Methods for Microcellular Urethane Materials¹

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1. Scope*

1.1 These test methods cover the preparation of a standard-size test sample and basic tests for physical property determinations of microcellular urethane materials.

1.2 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as standard. The values given in brackets 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.*

NOTE 1—There is no known ISO equivalent to this standard.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

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

D395 Test Methods for Rubber Property—Compression Set

D412 Test Methods for Vulcanized Rubber and Thermoplastic Elastomers—Tension

D573 Test Method for Rubber—Deterioration in an Air Oven

D575 Test Methods for Rubber Properties in Compression

D624 Test Method for Tear Strength of Conventional Vulcanized Rubber and Thermoplastic Elastomers

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

D792 Test Methods for Density and Specific Gravity (Relative Density) of Plastics by Displacement

D1044 Test Method for Resistance of Transparent Plastics to Surface Abrasion

D1052 Test Method for Measuring Rubber Deterioration—Cut Growth Using Ross Flexing Apparatus

D1622 Test Method for Apparent Density of Rigid Cellular Plastics

D1630 Test Method for Rubber Property—Abrasion Resistance (Footwear Abrader)

D1938 Test Method for Tear-Propagation Resistance (Trousers Tear) of Plastic Film and Thin Sheeting by a Single-Tear Method

D2240 Test Method for Rubber Property—Durometer Hardness

D2584 Test Method for Ignition Loss of Cured Reinforced Resins

D2632 Test Method for Rubber Property—Resilience by Vertical Rebound³

D3040 Discontinued 1988; Practice for Preparing Precision Statements for Standards Related to Rubber and Rubber Testing; Replaced by D 4483³

D3137 Test Method for Rubber Property—Hydrolytic Stability

D3574 Test Methods for Flexible Cellular Materials—Slab, Bonded, and Molded Urethane Foams

D3768 Test Method for Microcellular Urethanes—Flexural Recovery

D3769 Test Method for Microcellular Urethanes—High-Temperature Sag

3. Terminology

3.1 Description of Term Specific to This Standard:

3.1.1 *microcellular urethane*—an elastomeric material made by the interaction of a polyol and an organic isocyanate, having cell diameters in the range from 0.0001 to 0.001 mm, with a minimum density of 160 kg/m³ [10 lb/ft³].

NOTE 2—In the following sections, the term “retaining the molded surfaces” refers to the two major surfaces (faces) of the sample and/or specimens prepared from it and was not meant to include the minor surfaces (ends or sides).

4. Significance and Use

4.1 Tests made on materials herein prescribed can be of considerable value in comparing physical properties of different materials, in controlling manufacturing processes, and as a basis for writing specifications.

4.2 Before proceeding with these test methods, reference should be made to the specification of the material being tested. Any test specimen preparation, conditioning, or dimensions, or

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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.

³ Withdrawn.

*A Summary of Changes section appears at the end of this standard.

combination thereof, and testing parameters covered in the materials specification shall take precedence over those mentioned in these test methods. If there are no material specifications, then the default conditions apply.

5. Sampling

5.1 Test samples can be made in any suitable mold. The following three sizes are recommended (length, width, and thickness): 305 by 152 by 3.15 mm [12 by 6 by 1/8 in.], 305 by 152 by 6.3 mm [12 by 6 by 1/4 in.], and 305 by 152 by 12.5 mm [12 by 6 by 1/2 in.].

5.2 The procedure used to prepare the test sample relating to component ratios, temperature, mixing direction, mold temperature, and curing conditions shall conform to the manufacturer's recommendations.

5.3 The test sample shall be allowed to age a minimum of 48 h before testing, at $23 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ [$73.4 \pm 3.6^\circ\text{F}$] and $50 \pm 5\%$ relative humidity.

6. Density

6.1 Determine the density in accordance with either Test Method **D792** or Test Method **D1622**. Prepare test specimens retaining the molded surfaces. If using Test Method **D1622**, report any deviations from the specified minimum specimen size.

7. Tensile Properties

7.1 Determine the tensile properties in accordance with Test Method **D412**. Cut tension specimens using the Die A or any other suitable die in accordance with Test Method **D412** from the 3.15-mm [1/8-in.] or 6.3-mm [1/4-in.] test sample. Retain the molded surfaces.

7.2 *Precision*—These precision statements were prepared in accordance with the statistical and other testing terminology and concepts presented in Practice **D3040**.

7.2.1 The precision of this test method was determined from an interlaboratory study of one microcellular urethane material. One laboratory made the microcellular urethane material. One laboratory made the microcellular urethane material plaques, and three laboratories tested the material on two days.

7.2.2 **Table 1** gives the LQC precision data as obtained in the interlaboratory program. The values given are equivalent to “repeatability” for within laboratories testing and “reproducibility” for among laboratories testing.

7.2.3 A “test result” is the average result from the testing of three dumbbell specimens.

8. Tear

8.1 Using Die C, determine the tear strength in accordance with Test Method **D624**. Cut the specimen from the 3.15-mm [1/8-in.] sample, retaining the molded surface.

8.2 Determine the split tear strength in accordance with Test Method **D1938**. Cut the specimen from the 3.15-mm [1/8-in.] sample. The direction of tear shall include both molded surfaces.

8.3 Determine the block tear in accordance with Test Methods **D3574**, except the specimen shall be 19.0 mm [0.75 in.] wide by 12.5 mm [0.5 in.] thick. The tear direction shall be through the core retaining both molded surfaces.

9. Hardness

9.1 Determine the hardness in accordance with Test Method **D2240** on the 6.3-mm [1/4-in.] thick sample. Report the initial and 5-s drift value. If the determination is to be made at subnormal temperatures, condition the instrument at the same temperature. To prevent moisture from damaging the instrument, it is advisable to place the tester directly in a desiccator after removing from the cold box.

10. Compression Set

10.1 Determine the compression set in accordance with Test Methods **D395**, Method B, using 22 h at 70°C [158°F]. Cut the specimen from the 12.5-mm [0.5-in.] sample, retaining the molded surfaces.

11. Compression Deflection

11.1 Determine the compression deflection at 25 % deflection in accordance with Test Methods **D575**. Cut the specimen from the 12.5-mm [0.5-in.] sample, retaining the molded surfaces. The sample is not preflexed. The initial compression value is reported.

12. Resilience

12.1 Determine the resilience by vertical rebound test in accordance with Test Method **D2632**. Cut the specimen from the 12.5-mm [0.5-in.] sample, retaining the molded surfaces.

13. Abrasion Resistance

13.1 Determine the surface abrasion resistance by the Taber Abraser in accordance with Test Method **D1044** using the H18 wheels and 1000-g mass pieces. Cut the specimen from the 6.3-mm [1/4-in.] or 12.5-mm [1/2-in.] sample. Report the mass loss in mg/1000 cycles.

14. Surface and Core Abrasion

14.1 Determine the surface and core abrasion, using the general procedure in Test Method **D1630**. Cut or mold the specimens from the 12.7-mm [0.5-in.] slab to conform to the dimension in Test Method **D1630**. Mount the specimens in the specimen holders and place on the surface of the sandpaper. Set the dial gages at zero and at the end of every 1.25 mm [0.05 in.] of wear, record the number of cycles until a total wear of 3.8

TABLE 1 LQC Test Precision of Tensile Property Test

Property	Mean	Within Laboratories		Among Laboratories	
		S	LSD	S	LSD
100 % tensile stress, MPa [psi]	2.2 [324]	0.08 [12]	0.24 [34]	0.13 [19]	0.38 [54]
Tensile strength, MPa [psi]	4.3 [624]	0.18 [26]	0.51 [74]	0.24 [35]	0.69 [99]
Elongation, 90 %	297	9	25	11	31