



Designation: D4073 – 06

Standard Test Method for Tensile-Tear Strength of Bituminous Roofing Membranes¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D4073; 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 reappraisal. A superscript epsilon (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reappraisal.

1. Scope

1.1 This test method covers the determination of the tensile-tear strength of bituminous roofing membranes.

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

[D95 Test Method for Water in Petroleum Products and Bituminous Materials by Distillation](#)

[D2829 Practice for Sampling and Analysis of Existing Built-Up Roof Systems](#)

[D3617 Practice for Sampling and Analysis of Built-Up Roof Systems During Application](#)

3. Summary of Test Method

3.1 The tensile-tear strength of a membrane in both longitudinal and transverse directions is determined by measuring the maximum load when notched specimens of specific dimensions are tested to failure at an arbitrary, fixed, tensile strain rate.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 Determining the tensile-tear strength of laboratory and field samples of roofing membranes should be useful in developing performance criteria, and as one basis for comparison of different materials and systems. The effects of

temperature, moisture, and aging may be evaluated by appropriate selection of field samples or conditioning of laboratory samples, and tests may be conducted in an environmental chamber.

5. Apparatus

5.1 *Testing Machine*— Universal or standard testing machine with automatic load and strain recording equipment, capable of cross-head movement at a constant rate of 2.54 mm/min (0.100 in./min).

5.2 *Grips*—Self-aligning grips or clamps for holding the test specimen between the stationary member and the movable member or cross-head of the testing machine. Jaw faces of the grips shall be 75 mm (3.0 in.) wide by 50 mm (2.0 in.) deep, shall provide uniform clamping pressure, and shall prevent slippage of the specimen during test.

5.3 *Environmental Chamber*—An insulated chamber with heating and cooling capabilities, designed to enclose the test specimen and clamps so that the temperature may be controlled during a test.

6. Sampling

6.1 *Field Samples*— Field samples shall be taken in accordance with Practice [D2829](#) or [D3617](#) but of a size suitable to provide sufficient material for testing in both the machine and cross-machine directions. In cases where field applied aggregate is in place, it shall be removed with a hot scraper such as a putty knife without damaging the top felt. In cases where the insulation facer is a part of the membrane system it should be included and so reported.

6.2 *Laboratory Samples:*

6.2.1 Condition all components at $23 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ ($74 \pm 4^\circ\text{F}$) and $50 \pm 5\%$ relative humidity for a minimum of 72 h prior to constructing the membrane sample.

6.2.2 Prepare sample membranes approximately 300 by 500 mm (12 by 20 in.) as required by the roof specifications being tested, exclusive of aggregate.

6.2.3 The quantity of bitumen in any layer shall be within 10 % of the quantity specified and the entire sample shall be within 5 %. (These requirements apply to laboratory prepared samples only.)

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.

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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.