



Standard Specification for Shock-Absorbing Properties of North American Football Field Playing Systems as Measured in the Field¹

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^ε¹ NOTE—Paragraphs 4.1 and 9.3 were editorially corrected in June 2007.

1. Scope

1.1 This specification covers a test method and maximum impact attenuation for all types of installed turf playing systems for North American football. The turf playing system typically includes field areas within the inbounds lines and areas outside the inbounds lines extending to the sport specific limit lines as defined by the appropriate regulating body or appropriate standard, or both. All of these areas are areas where an athlete should expect compliant impact attenuation characteristics.

1.2 This specification is intended to establish a method to identify and report areas within an existing playing system where shock-absorbing properties exceed recommended threshold values. Shock-absorbing values for new installations should be less than the maximum thresholds set herein.

1.3 Site specific conditions may exist in which changes in surface type such as track surfacing or covers over subsurface structures, or both, are located within the extent of the limit lines which impact characteristics in a manner that place these conditions outside the scope of this standard.

1.4 It is recognized that laboratory testing results often reflect optimum conditions which may not correspond to the actual site conditions. Therefore, a method of testing along with a maximum for impact attenuation of installed synthetic turf playing systems is addressed herein.

1.5 This specification does not imply that an injury cannot be incurred if the surface system complies with this specification.

1.6 The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as standard. The values given in parentheses are mathematical conversions to SI units that are provided for information only and are not considered standard.

1.7 The following precautionary statement pertains only to the test procedure portion, Section 9, of this specification: *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

F355 Test Method for Shock-Absorbing Properties of Playing Surface Systems and Materials

F1292 Specification for Impact Attenuation of Surfacing Materials Within the Use Zone of Playground Equipment

F1551 Test Methods for Comprehensive Characterization of Synthetic Turf Playing Surfaces and Materials

2.2 ISO Standard:

ISO 6587³

NOTE 1—Additional references are listed at the end of this specification.

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.1.1 *abnormal drop, n*—any drop of the missile which, due to operator or equipment problem(s) or uncertainty, results in a reading which is questionable.

3.1.2 *average G_{max} , n*—sum of the G_{max} of the second and third drops divided by two and rounded to the nearest whole number.

3.1.3 *combination field system, n*—field system which combines a natural turf surface which is enhanced by use of synthetic elements such as synthetic turf substructures, excluding water/drainage systems and single layer mesh fabrics, which are used for the sole purpose of soil stabilization.

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F08 on Sports Equipment and Facilities and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F08.65 on Artificial Turf Surfaces and 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.

³ Available from American National Standards Institute (ANSI), 25 W. 43rd St., 4th Floor, New York, NY 10036, http://www.ansi.org.

3.1.4 *drop height, n*—height from which the missile is released as measured from the bottom of the missile face to the top of the surface system.

3.1.5 *drop test, n*—set of three successive and recorded drops of the impact missile onto the synthetic turf system within the guidelines prescribed.

3.1.6 *G, n*—ratio of magnitude of missile acceleration during impact to the acceleration of gravity, expressed in the same units (*g*, that has units, can be measured, but *G*, being a ratio, is unitless).

3.1.7 *G_{max}, n*—maximum value of *G* encountered during an impact rounded to the nearest whole number.

3.1.8 *impact velocity, n*—velocity of the missile as it impacts the surface system.

3.1.9 *infill turf system, n*—field system having a long pile height and one or more substances in the face of the fabric to provide the desired playing properties of the system.

3.1.9.1 *Discussion*—Infill substances can be either sand, rubber, or other substances, or a combination of items.

3.1.10 *limit lines, n*—limits beyond the inbound boundaries that represent the extent to which the out of bounds areas should remain free of hazards and obstructions and where an athlete may anticipate consistent surface characteristics.

3.1.10.1 *Discussion*—These limits are defined by the appropriate governing body or regulating standard for each specific sport.

3.1.11 *missile, n*—striking part of the testing apparatus.

3.1.12 *natural grass field system, n*—field system which is comprised of live and growing grass or other plant like materials which are rooted in soil.

3.1.13 *pile, n*—surface texture composed of many individual thin strands or groups of strands bound to a backing fabric in a repetitive array.

3.1.14 *pile layover, n*—horizontal motion of the pile under the influence of impact.

3.1.15 *restraining ring, n*—rigid circular device with a smooth or polished surface, creating little or no friction, used to restrict the horizontal movement of the missile upon impact.

3.1.16 *synthetic turf field system, n*—composite of synthetic contact surface material, any fill material used in the contact surface, energy absorbing material, fabric layers, adhesives, if any, and other constructed layers (as applicable to the individual system construction).

3.1.17 *test point, n*—location on the field system at which a series of measurements is taken.

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 Turf field systems are tested according to this standard and Test Method F355, Procedure A. A free-fall drop height of 2 ft (61 cm), as measured from the bottom of the missile face to the top of the turf field system shall be used. Any debris or material not part of the surface system shall be removed from the test point location prior to testing. Three successive drops, allowing a 1 min pause between drops, are recorded. The average *G_{max}* for the tested point will be calculated as the sum of the second and third *G_{max}* values divided by two and rounded to the nearest whole number.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 Data obtained from this specification are indicative of the relative impact attenuation characteristics of the turf playing field system and can be used only for comparison and establishing requirements for use.

6. Performance Requirements

6.1 When tested in accordance with this specification and Test Method F355, Procedure A, the average *G_{max}* at any single test point shall be <200 average *G_{max}* when tested at a free-fall drop height of 2 ft (61 cm).

6.2 If a turf surface system is tested in accordance with this specification, and the average *G_{max}* of one or more of the tested points reported is ≥200 average *G_{max}*, the surface system should be brought into compliance and retested for verification.

7. Test Apparatus

7.1 The impacting missile shall be cylindrical with a circular, flat, metal, impacting surface weighing 20 lb (9.1 kg), having a 20 in.² (129 cm²) surface face with the impacting edges slightly beveled to eliminate sharp edges, a provision for mounting the accelerometer within ±1° of the vertical axis of the missile and for reaching a velocity of 11.35 ± 0.56 ft/s (3.46 ± 0.17 m/s) (referenced in Section 27 of Test Methods F1551 as the velocity corresponding to a theoretical drop height of 24 in. (61 cm) (at sea level) upon impact from the drop height.

7.2 To restrict the influence of pile layover, the test equipment shall be designed to include a rigid restraining ring with a smooth or polished surface, creating little or no friction, having an interior dimension not to exceed the diameter of the missile by more than 0.039 in. (1 mm). The ring shall be securely mounted horizontal to the surface such that a minimum of ¼ of the missile shall freely pass through it prior to striking the surface, ensuring a vertical impact and precluding the missile's rebound onto the top of the ring. Other guidance systems can be utilized, provided they do not allow lateral movement greater than 0.039 in. (1 mm) upon impact and rebound of the missile.

7.3 The test equipment shall have sufficient stability to eliminate undesirable vibrations in the apparatus which might be recorded on the acceleration-time curve and to permit a vertical free-fall of the missile from the release height of 24 in. (61 cm) to the surface.

7.4 The signal from the acceleration transducer shall be conditioned with a low pass filter: complying to Channel Class 1000 as specified in Specification F1292 (ISO 6587).

7.5 The acceleration recording system must be capable of accurately resolving the deceleration to a minimum of ±1 % of true value.

7.6 The acceleration transducer must be capable of withstanding impacts of at least 1000 *g* without damage.

7.7 A minimum system sampling rate required is 20 000 Hz.

7.8 The test equipment shall be capable of visual display and recording of the acceleration-time curve of each drop.

8. Test Positions

8.1 The following eight test point locations are required: