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An American National Standard

Standard Test Methods for Cigarette Ignition Resistance of Components of Upholstered Furniture¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation E 1353; 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 reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ε) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

1. Scope

1.1 This is a fire-test-response standard.

1.2 These test methods are designed for the assessment of the resistance of upholstered furniture component assemblies to combustion after exposure to smoldering cigarettes under specified conditions.

1.3 The tests apply to upholstered furniture components—cover fabrics, interior fabrics, welt cords, decking materials, barrier materials, and filling or padding materials including but not limited to: battings of natural or man-made fibers, foamed or cellular filling materials, resilient pads of natural or man-made fibers, and loose particulate filling materials (such as shredded polyurethane or feathers and down).

1.4 The individual test methods and the materials to which they apply are as follows:

1.4.1 *Cover Fabric Test*—Applies to outer cover fabrics (see Sections 11 and 12).

1.4.2 *Interior Fabric Test*—Applies to interior fabrics used in intimate contact with outer fabrics (see Sections 13 and 14).

1.4.3 *Welt Cord Test*—Applies to welt cord (see Sections 15 and 16).

1.4.4 *Filling/Padding Component Test*—Applies to resilient materials used under the cover fabric in seats or in inside vertical walls (inside arm and inside backs) (see Sections 17 and 18).

1.4.5 *Decking Materials Test*—Applies to resilient materials used in the deck under loose cushions (see Sections 19 and 20).

1.4.6 *Barrier Materials Test*—Applies to materials that are intended to serve as a barrier between cover fabric and conventional polyurethane foam (see Sections 21 and 22).

1.5 The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as the standard. The values given in parentheses are for information only.

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1.6 This standard is used to measure and describe the response of materials, products, or assemblies to heat and flame under controlled conditions, but does not by itself incorporate all factors required for fire hazard or fire risk assessment of the materials, products, or assemblies under actual fire conditions.

1.7 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. For specific hazard statements, see Section 7.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*²

E 176 Terminology of Fire Standards

E 691 Practice for Conducting an Interlaboratory Study to Determine the Precision of a Test Method

2.2 *Federal Specifications:*³

Fed.Spec. CCC-C-436-D, Cloth, Ticking, Twill, Cotton; Type I Cloth, Ticking, Twill, Cotton; Type I

2.3 *NFPA Standard:*⁴

¹ These test methods are under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee E05 on Fire Standards and are the direct responsibility of Subcommittee E05.15 on Furnishings and Contents.

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

⁴ For additional information, see Ohlemiller, T.J., Villa, K.M., Braun, E., Eberhardt, K.R., Harris, R.H., Lawson, J.R., and Gann, R.G., "Test Methods for Quantifying the Propensity of Cigarettes to Ignite Soft Furnishings," *NIST Special Publication 851*, National Institute of Standards Technology, Gaithersburg, MD, 1993.

⁴ Available from National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169-7471, <http://www.nfpa.org>.

NFPA 260 Standard Methods of Tests and Classification System for Cigarette Ignition Resistance of Components of Upholstered Furniture

3. Terminology

3.1 **Definitions**—For definitions of terms used in these test methods, refer to Terminology E 176.

3.2 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

3.2.1 *deck*—in upholstered furniture, the upholstered support under the seat cushion in a loose seat construction.

3.2.2 *obvious ignition*—pronounced continuous and self-sustaining combustion of the test system accompanied by rapid generation of heat and smoke. It is a matter of operator judgment based upon experience in this type of operation.

3.2.3 *upholstered*—covered with material (as fabric or padding) to provide a soft surface.

3.2.4 *upholstered furniture*—for the purpose of these test methods, a unit of interior furnishing that (1) contains any surface that is covered, in whole or in part, with a fabric or related upholstery cover material, (2) contains upholstery material, and (3) is intended or promoted for sitting or reclining upon.

3.2.5 *upholstery cover material*—the outermost layer of fabric or related material used to enclose the main support system or upholstery materials, or both, used in the furniture item.

3.2.6 *upholstery material*—the padding, stuffing, or filling material used in a furniture item, which may be either loose or attached, enclosed by an upholstery cover material, or located between the upholstery cover material and support system, if present.

3.2.6.1 *Discussion*—This includes, but is not limited to, material such as foams, cotton batting, polyester fiberfill, bonded cellulose, or down.

3.2.7 *welt*—the piping effect produced when welt cord and cover fabrics are sewn together for ornamental purposes to finish the edges between intersecting surfaces of upholstered furniture cushions, pillows, arms, or backs.

3.2.8 *welt cord*—the continuous small-diameter cylindrical material that is wrapped in fabric and sewn as part of the cover to make a welt edge on upholstered furniture.

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 These test methods consist of several tests used to evaluate the cigarette ignition resistance of component materials used in the manufacture of upholstered furniture. Each test involves a miniature assembly consisting of the component to be tested along with other specified materials, mounted on a plywood mock-up that resembles a small chair seat and back. The assembly is exposed to a lighted cigarette as an ignition source.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 These test methods are intended to estimate the performance of upholstered furniture under conditions of exposure to a smoldering cigarette. This is accomplished by testing furniture component assemblies. However, interactions between components in production furniture are not necessarily predicted by component assembly testing.

5.2 These test methods are not intended to measure the performance of upholstered furniture under conditions of open flame exposure and do not indicate whether the furniture will resist the propagation of flame under severe fire exposure or when tested in a manner that differs substantially from the test standard.

5.3 The results obtained with a material component tested in mock-up, in accordance with these test methods, do not necessarily indicate the performance of the same material component in other geometric configurations, such as in full-size furniture.

6. Apparatus and Materials

6.1 *Mini-Mock-Up Tester (MMT)* (see Fig. 1):

6.1.1 The mini-mock-up tester consists of a base with a centrally located guide and a stationary vertical panel, a movable horizontal carriage, and a removable vertical support panel.

6.1.2 The base consists of two wooden panels, each nominally 8 by 8 in. with nominal 0.75-in. thickness, joined together at one edge. The carriage has a 5 by 8-in. (125 by 203-mm) platform to support a horizontal specimen. The platform is 2.5 in. (38 mm) above the floor of the base and has a 1.5-in. (38-mm) lip at the front edge. The carriage is grooved to fit over a guide provided on the floor of the base. The removable vertical support panel consists of a wooden panel nominally 8 by 8 in. and with nominal 0.75-in. thickness, which stands against the vertical wall of the base.

6.2 *Decking Materials Tester (DMT)* (see Fig. 2)—The decking materials tester consists of a plywood base and a plywood retainer ring. The base measures 21 by 13.5 by 0.5 in. (533 by 343 by 13 mm). The retainer ring measures 21 by 13.5 by 0.5 in. with an opening measuring 16 by 8.5 in. (406 by 216 mm).

6.3 *Ignition Source*, consisting of cigarettes without filter tips, made from natural tobacco, 3.4 ± 0.1 in. (85 ± 2 mm) long with a packing density of 0.156 ± 0.012 oz/in.² (0.270 ± 0.020 g/cm²) and a total weight of 0.039 ± 0.004 oz (1.1 ± 0.1 g). The smoldering rate of this cigarette shall be 0.236 ± 0.024 in./min (0.10 ± 0.01 mm/s) when the cigarette is allowed to burn downward in a draft-protected area.

NOTE 1—With the cigarette supported at the bottom in a vertical position, the burning rate is determined in the region from 0.39 to 1.97 in. (10 to 50 mm) measured from the top.

6.4 *Standard Type I Cover Fabric*—The standard Type I cover fabric shall be 100 % cotton mattress ticking conforming to Fed.