



Designation: D 2898 – 08

Standard Practice for Accelerated Weathering of Fire-Retardant-Treated Wood for Fire Testing¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This practice covers the durability of a fire-retardant treatment of wood under exposure to accelerated weathering. Four conditioning methods are described. Methods are suitable for application to a test specimen prior to subjecting that specimen to an appropriate fire test.

1.2 This practice is applicable to wood products that have been treated with fire-retardant chemicals by pressure impregnation.

1.3 The test specimens are to be in the form of, or suitable for fabrication into, test specimens, such as those described in Test Methods E 84, E 108, and E 1354 and other standard test methods for evaluating the fire performance of fire-retardant-treated wood products.

1.4 The text of these methods references notes and footnotes that provide explanatory material. These notes and footnotes (excluding those in tables and figures) shall not be considered as requirements of these test methods.

1.5 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.

1.6 *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 9 Terminology Relating to Wood and Wood-Based Products

E 84 Test Method for Surface Burning Characteristics of Building Materials

E 108 Test Methods for Fire Tests of Roof Coverings

E 176 Terminology of Fire Standards

E 1354 Test Method for Heat and Visible Smoke Release Rates for Materials and Products Using an Oxygen Consumption Calorimeter

2.2 *ICC Evaluation Service Guidelines:*³

EG 107 Classified Wood Roof Systems

2.3 *UL Standards:*⁴

UL 790 Tests for Fire Resistance of Roof Covering Material

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—Definition used in this practice are in accordance with Terminologies D 9 and E 176, unless otherwise indicated.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 This practice describes different methods of exposing fire-retardant-treated wood products or assemblies to controlled accelerated weathering or conditioning.

4.2 The conditioning simulates effects of leaching, drying, temperature, and, in two methods, ultraviolet (UV) light.

4.3 Method A is the method normally specified for regulatory purposes when testing fire-retardant-treated wood that is intended for exterior applications.

5. Apparatus

5.1 The test apparatus shall be capable of subjecting the specimen uniformly to the test conditions described in Section 7.

5.2 No special means of protecting the specimen back and edges are required, but water shall not impinge directly on those surfaces which are not exposed either to the weather in the assembled form, or to fire in the subsequent test. Water spray nozzles shall be provided and arranged so as to distribute water evenly over the exposed specimen surface.

5.3 Accompany drying cycles with heating that is thermostatically controlled. The controlling temperature shall be the air temperature measured 1 in. (25 mm) above the specimen

¹ These test methods are under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D07 on Wood and are the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D07.07 on Fire Performance of Wood.

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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 ICC Evaluation Service, Inc., 5360 Workman Mill Road, Whittier, CA 90601, <http://icc-es.org>.

⁴ Available from Underwriters Laboratories, Inc., 333 Pfingsten Road, Northbrook, IL 60062, <http://www.ul.com>.

surface. When sunlamps are part of the method, the temperature-measuring device must be shielded from the UV radiation of the sunlamps. Accompany drying with uniform forced air movement across the surface of the decks at a rate of at least 25 ft/min (0.125 m/s). Forced air movement shall be uniform across the specimen surface, with provisions made for adequate air changes to assure thorough drying.

5.4 In Methods B and C, UV light shall be distributed as evenly as possible over the specimen surface. Use sunlamps⁵ providing UV characteristics of 5.0 W/m²/nm irradiance at a wavelength of 315 to 400 nm at 1 m directed normal to and mounted 26 ± 6 in. (660 ± 152 mm) above the specimen measured from the bottom of the lamp. One lamp shall be used for each 8 ft² (0.74 m²) of specimen, or fraction thereof.

5.5 Water Spray Calibrations:

5.5.1 Measure the horizontal projected area over which each nozzle discharges water to the nearest square foot (0.09 m²). Measure the discharge of water for each nozzle for 1 min.

5.5.2 Monitor the total water use during the test. A commercial water meter is suitable for this purpose.

5.5.2.1 For Method A, the water usage shall be 42 ± 1 gal/ft² (1711 ± 41 L/m²) for a four-day cycle or 73 ± 1.7 gal/ft² (2975 ± 71 L/m²) for a seven-day cycle.

5.5.3 Each day during the water cycle, visually check the water flow from each nozzle for obvious water obstruction in the nozzle and uneven spray patterns. Make adjustments when necessary.

5.5.4 Review the total water flow at the end of each day and at the end of each water cycle. Correct the cause of any off-limit conditions.

5.5.5 The characteristics or quality of the water shall be noted (see **Note 1**).

NOTE 1—Water quality, especially pH and hardness, can impact the accelerated weathering of the treated specimens and should be noted.

6. Test Specimens

6.1 The test specimen shall include all parts of the corresponding fire test specimen that are subjected to weather exposure in normal use. Shingles or shakes shall be applied to their intended sheathing.

NOTE 2—Specimens may be mounted in sections that can be reassembled subsequently without trimming into the appropriate fire test specimen.

6.2 The specimen surface shall have a slope of 4 in 12 in Methods A, C, and D of this standard. For Method B, the surface shall have a slope ranging from 4 in 12 minimum to 8 in 12 maximum.

7. Exposure Cycle

7.1 Method A:

7.1.1 The total duration of this method is twelve weeks (84 days).

7.1.2 Subject the specimens to an exposure cycle consisting of twelve one-week cycles. Each cycle is to consist of 96 h (4 days) of water exposure and 72 h (3 days) of drying.

7.1.3 Apply water in a moderately fine spray uniformly over the exposed specimen surfaces by spray nozzles that deliver an average of 0.7 in. of water per hour (0.05 mm/s) or 0.0073 gal/min-ft² (0.30 L/min-m²) of specimen surface) at a temperature between 35 and 60°F (2 and 16°C).

7.1.3.1 Recirculation of the water is not permitted.

7.1.3.2 For decks intended for testing by Test Methods **E 108**, nozzles shall be mounted approximately seven feet (2.1 m) above the test decks.

7.1.4 Dry at a thermostatically controlled temperature of 135 to 140°F (57 to 60°C).

7.1.5 At the end of each cycle, change the position of each specimen within the apparatus so that each specimen or segment occupies approximately an equal number of cycles in each location used.

7.2 Method B:

7.2.1 The total duration of this method is 1000 h (41 days, 16 h).

7.2.2 Subject the specimen to a exposure cycle consisting of forty-two 24-h cycles. Each cycle is to consist of 4 h wetting, 4 h drying, 4 h wetting, 4 h drying, and 8 h rest. The last cycle is terminated without the 8-h rest period.

7.2.3 Apply water in a moderately fine spray uniformly over the exposed specimen surface at a rate of 0.3 ± 0.02 gal/min-ft² (12.2 ± 0.8 L/min-m²) of specimen surface. The temperature shall not exceed 90°F (32°C). During the first three cycles, drain all water rather than recirculate it. In each subsequent wetting period, circulate a volume of at least 5 gal (18 L) of fresh water through each spray head.

7.2.4 Dry at a temperature of 150 ± 5°F (63 ± 3°C), with this temperature attained within 15 min from the start of drying. Exposure to the UV sunlamps shall be continuous throughout the drying period.

7.2.5 At the end of one or more cycles, change the position of the specimens within the apparatus so that each specimen or segment occupies approximately an equal number of cycles in each location used.

7.3 Method C:

7.3.1 The total duration of this method is twelve weeks (84 days).

7.3.2 Subject the specimens to an exposure consisting of 252 eight-hour cycles. Each cycle consists of four hours of water exposure, followed by four hours of drying.

7.3.3 For the water exposure, use spray nozzles that deliver an average of 0.3 ± 0.02 gal/min-ft² (0.027 L/min-m²) at a temperature of 35 to 90°F (1.6 to 32.2°C) to apply the uniformly distributed water exposure.

7.3.3.1 For decks intended for testing by Test Methods **E 108**, nozzles shall be mounted approximately two feet above the test decks.

7.3.3.2 Recirculation of the water is permitted with the following restrictions. At the end of each of the first three wetting cycles, and before each of last three wetting cycles, all water shall be drained from the system and replaced with fresh water. For all other wetting cycles, fresh water shall be introduced at a rate that provides a minimum of 5 gal (19 L) of fresh water per nozzle, per cycle.

⁵ General Electric Type H275 RUV (275 W) or Osram Ultra-Vitalox (300 W), or equivalent, is suitable. General Electric no longer manufactures the Type H275 bulb.