



Designation: F152 – 95 (Reapproved 2009)

# Standard Test Methods for Tension Testing of Nonmetallic Gasket Materials<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation F152; 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 ( $\epsilon$ ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

*This standard has been approved for use by agencies of the Department of Defense.*

## 1. Scope

1.1 These test methods cover the determination of tensile strength of certain nonmetallic gasketing materials at room temperature. The types of materials covered are those containing asbestos and other inorganic fibers (Type 1), cork (Type 2), cellulose or other organic fiber (Type 3), and flexible graphite (Type 5) as described in Classification F104. These test methods are not applicable to the testing of vulcanized rubber, a method for which is described in Test Methods D412 nor for rubber O-rings, a method for which is described in Test Methods D1414.

1.2 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as the standard. The values 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:*<sup>2</sup>

D412 Test Methods for Vulcanized Rubber and Thermoplastic Elastomers—Tension

D1414 Test Methods for Rubber O-Rings

E4 Practices for Force Verification of Testing Machines

E691 Practice for Conducting an Interlaboratory Study to Determine the Precision of a Test Method

F104 Classification System for Nonmetallic Gasket Materials

## 3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions:*

<sup>1</sup> These test methods are under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F03 on Gaskets and are the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F03.20 on Mechanical Test Methods.

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<sup>2</sup> 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.

3.1.1 *sample*—a unit or section of a unit taken from a sampling lot.

3.1.2 *specimen*—a piece of material appropriately shaped and prepared so that it is ready for a test.

3.1.3 *tensile strength*—the maximum tensile stress applied during stretching a specimen to rupture.

3.1.4 *tensile stress*—the applied force per unit or original cross-sectional area of the specimen.

## 4. Significance and Use

4.1 These test methods are described in order to standardize procedures for determining the tensile strength of nonmetallic gasket materials. The measurement of this property characterizes various classes and grades of materials of a given type and in so doing, it will give the manufacturer a measurement of the quality of his product. It also will aid the purchaser of the gasketing materials to be able to determine whether the gasket material that he has approved for a given application is being manufactured in acceptable quality.

4.2 The measurement of this property should not be misconstrued as to give the purchaser of the gasket material an indication of the performance of that material in application.

4.3 The property may be useful in establishing material specifications.

4.4 Various procedures are given for the different types of materials, and in order to compare the results from one laboratory to another, it is imperative that the applicable procedure be selected.

4.5 Various types of tension-testing apparatus are allowed to be used. These types of equipment can produce different indicated results. Laboratories having different equipment may have to establish correlations between each other; otherwise, misinterpretation of the test data could result.

## 5. Apparatus

5.1 *Dies*—The inside faces of the dies shall be polished and be perpendicular to the plane formed by the cutting edges for a depth of at least 5 mm (0.2 in.). The dies shall be sharp and free of nicks in order to prevent ragged edges on the specimen.