



Designation: D 5823 – 00

## Standard Test Method for Tuft Height of Pile Floor Coverings<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D 5823; 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.

### 1. Scope

1.1 This test method covers the determination of tuft height using a grooved specimen holder. It applies to cut-pile and loop-pile floor covering after adhesive backing has been applied to bond the pile yarn to the backing fabric.

1.2 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as the standard for all measurements. The inch-pound values are provided for information purposes 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:

- D 123 Terminology Relating to Textile Materials<sup>2</sup>
- D 1909 Table of Commercial Moisture Regains for Textile Fibers<sup>2</sup>
- E 122 Practice for Choice of Sample Size to Estimate a Measure of Quality for a Lot or Process<sup>3</sup>

### 3. Terminology

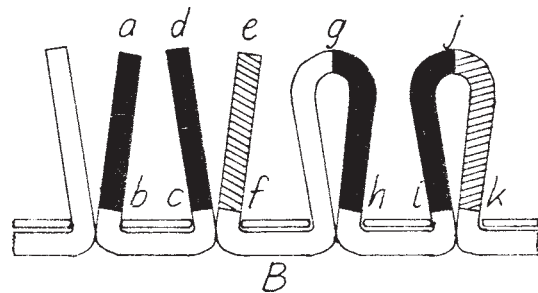
#### 3.1 Definitions:

3.1.1 *tuft height, n*—for pile yarn floor covering, the length of a tuft leg.

3.1.1.1 *Discussion*—The terms tuft height, pile height, and pile thickness are often confused due to the similarity of the terminology. Procedures for measurement of these properties are distinctly different and should not be interchanged. See Annex A1 for an explanation of the differences.

3.1.2 *tuft leg, n*—for pile yarn floor covering, one of the two portions of a tuft element that projects above the backing fabric on the pile side of the floor covering (see Fig. 1).

3.1.3 For definitions of other textile terms used in this test method, refer to Terminology D 123.



ad = cutpile tuft element  
gj = loop pile tuft element  
ab, cd, ef, gh, ij, jk = tuft legs  
cd, ef = cut pile tuft leg pair  
ij, jk = loop pile tuft leg pair, a loop  
B = one binding site

FIG. 1 Cross Section of Tufted Pile Yarn Floor Covering

### 4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 For cut pile floor covering, individual tuft leg specimens of like character (either cut or loop and of uniform height) are cut as closely as possible to the surface of the backing of a pile floor covering sample and placed, one at a time, in a grooved specimen holder that maintains the tuft yarn in a straight line while the length of the tuft leg is measured using a graduated scale and a magnifying glass.

4.2 For loop pile floor covering, the two tuft legs forming the loop are each severed from the adjacent binding sites at the backing surface to provide a specimen of twice the tuft height and the length measured as in 4.1.

### 5. Significance and Use

5.1 This test method is useful in quality and cost control during the manufacture of pile yarn floor covering. Both appearance and performance can be affected by changes in the tuft height.

5.1.1 In case of a dispute arising from differences in reported test results when using this test method for acceptance testing of commercial shipments, the purchaser and the supplier should conduct comparative tests to determine if there is a statistical bias between their laboratories. Competent statistical assistance is recommended for the investigation of bias. As a minimum, the two parties should take a group of test specimens that are as homogeneous as possible and are from a

<sup>1</sup> This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D13 on Textiles and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D13.21 on Pile Floor Coverings. Current edition approved Sept. 10, 2000. Published October 2000. Originally published as D 5823-95. Last previous edition D 5823-96.

<sup>2</sup> Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 07.01.

<sup>3</sup> Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 14.02.

lot of material of the type in question. The test specimens should then be randomly assigned in equal numbers to each laboratory for testing. The average results from the two laboratories should be compared using Student's *t*-test for unpaired data and an acceptable probability level chosen by the two parties before testing is begun. If a bias is found, either its cause must be found and corrected or the purchaser and the supplier must agree to interpret future test results in view of the known bias.

## 6. Apparatus

6.1 *Grooved Specimen Holder*, having a length at least 10 % longer than the longest tuft element to be measured.

6.1.1 *Specimen Holder*, 100-mm (4-in.) long, has been found satisfactory for this purpose.

6.1.2 The grooves shall have a V-shaped cross-section with a 1.05 rad (60°) angle at the bottom and widths across the top to accommodate several size yarns as follows:

Yarn Bulk	Groove Widths
Coarse	4.6 mm (0.18 in.)
Medium	3.3 mm (0.13 in.)
Fine	2.0 mm (0.08 in.)

6.1.3 Additional grooves of intermediate width may also be used.

6.2 *Tuft Cutting Device*, angled flush wire cutter,<sup>4</sup> having blades approximately 10-mm (3/8-in.) long, angled 0.44 to 0.61 rad (25 to 35°) to the plane of the handles and ground flush so as to permit cutting at the back surface.

6.3 *Graduated Scale*, clear or opaque, measuring to the nearest 0.5 mm (0.01 in.).

6.4 *Magnifying Glass*, 5× magnification.

6.5 *Cover Plates*, clear plastic or glass.

## 7. Sampling

7.1 *Lot Sample*—The basic sampling unit of coated floor covering is a shipping roll. The number of shipping rolls obtained from each production roll ranges from one to more than ten.

7.1.1 Take a lot sample as directed in Practice E 122 when statistical knowledge of the product variability and test method precision is available, and decision has been made on the maximum deviation that can be tolerated between the estimate to be made from the sample and the result that would be obtained by measuring every sampling unit of the lot. Otherwise, the number of sampling units in a lot sample and the use of the test results obtained from the individual test sample shall be in accordance with the manufacturer's quality control program or with the specification agreed to by the purchaser and the supplier.

7.2 *Laboratory Sample*—For acceptance testing, take a sample from each laboratory sampling unit that is full width by at least 100 mm (4 in.) longer than the strip samples required for the test. Do not cut a lab sample of coated floor covering from a seam end of a production roll.

7.3 *Test Sample*—A test sample is a designated area of a lab sample that may be marked on or cut from the lab sample. For

lab samples 3 m (10 ft) wide or wider, take three test samples, one at each edge no nearer to the edge than 5 % of the total floor covering width, and one in the middle portion of the lab sample. For lab samples at least 1.5 m (5 ft) wide but less than 3 m (10 ft), take two test samples, one at each edge no nearer to the edge than 5 % of the total floor covering width. For lab samples less than 1.5 m (5 ft) wide, only one test sample in the middle of the width is required.

7.3.1 Where it is known that systematic variations in a floor covering characteristic may occur in bands 0.5 m (18 in.) or more in width, as with modular pattern devices having separate controls or adjustments for each module, or individual needle control, take test samples from the middle of each band and in the same area of the pattern.

7.3.2 When a full width lab sample is not available, take a test sample as directed in 7.3 and state in the report the width available and the number of test specimens taken.

7.4 *Strip Sample*—From each test sample, take a strip sample approximately 63 by 250 mm (2.5 by 10 in.), with the longer dimension parallel to the manufacturing direction.

7.5 *Test Specimens*—Test 10 tufts from each strip sample.

## 8. Conditioning

8.1 Condition and maintain the strip samples in the standard atmosphere for testing textiles, 21 ± 1°C (70 ± 2°F) and 65 ± 2 % relative humidity, for 4 h or until the mass changes no more than 0.1 % in 2 h.

8.2 If the fiber in any layer of the backing has a commercial regain of more than 5 %, the strip sample shall be conditioned before measuring. Commercial moisture regains for textile fibers are listed in the Table in D 1909.

## 9. Procedure

9.1 Cut ten tuft legs of each kind of tuft, cut or loop, to be measured from the strip samples. Choose the tuft legs to take a nearly equal number of tuft legs of each kind from each strip sample. Sever the leg of each selected tuft leg or loop as close to the backing surface as possible with the angled flush wire cutter.

9.2 Select the groove of the specimen holder appropriate to the tuft element yarn diameter.

9.2.1 The groove is of appropriate size if the bend in the middle of the tuft element is substantially removed when the graduated scale or cover plate is placed over the yarn in the groove. The groove is too small if the fibers of the tuft element spread beyond the edge of the groove and hold the cover plate above the specimen holder surface. A deflection of the tuft element from straightness of as much as 1 mm (0.04 in.) will not significantly affect the measured tuft length.

9.3 Place the extended tuft element in the groove.

9.3.1 If a clear graduated scale is used, cover the groove with the graduations directly over the yarn in the groove and align the zero graduation with one end of the tuft element.

9.3.1.1 If the end of the tuft element is not cut squarely, visually select a location for measuring that is midway between the extremes of the cut.

<sup>4</sup> Jensen Tools and Alloys Angled Flush Cutter, Type GA65, has been found satisfactory for this purpose.