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Standard Specification for Oriented Polypropylene Film¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D 2673; 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 specification covers oriented polypropylene (OPP) film in the thickness range from 10 to 75 μm [~~0.4(0.4~~ to 3.0 mils] mils).

1.2 The film can contain colorants, stabilizers, or other additives, and can be coated for the improvement of performance properties (heat sealability, gas permeability, and so forth).

1.3 The film can be annealed (heat-set) to reduce the unrestrained linear shrinkage and shrink tension on exposure to heat.

1.4 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as ~~the~~ standard. The values given in ~~brackets~~ parentheses are for information only.

1.5 The following safety hazards caveat pertains only to the test methods portion, Section 7, 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.*

NOTE 1—There is no similar or equivalent ISO standard.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

D 618 Practice for Conditioning Plastics for Testing

D 882 ~~Test Methods~~Method for Tensile Properties of Thin Plastic Sheeting

D 1003 Test Method for Haze and Luminous Transmittance of Transparent Plastics

D 1434 Test Method for Determining Gas Permeability Characteristics of Plastic Film and Sheeting

D 1746 Test Method for Transparency of Plastic Sheeting

D 1894 Test Method for Static and Kinetic Coefficients of Friction of Plastic Film and Sheeting

~~D 1898~~Practice for Sampling of Plastics

D 1922 Test Method for Propagation Tear Resistance of Plastic Film and Thin Sheeting by Pendulum Method

D 2457 Test Method for Specular Gloss of Plastic Films and Solid Plastics

D 2578 Test Method for Wetting Tension of Polyethylene and Polypropylene Films

D 2732 Test Method for Unrestrained Linear Thermal Shrinkage of Plastic Film and Sheeting

D 2838 Test Method for Shrink Tension and Orientation Release Stress of Plastic Film and Thin Sheeting

D 3354 Test Method for Blocking Load of Plastic Film by the Parallel Plate Method

D 3892 Practice for Packaging/Packing of Plastics

D 3985 Test Method for Oxygen Gas Transmission Rate Through Plastic Film and Sheeting Using a Coulometric Sensor

D 4000 Classification System for Specifying Plastic Materials

D 4101 Specification for ~~Propylene Plastic~~Polypropylene Injection and Extrusion Materials

D 4321 Test Method for Package Yield of Plastic Film

D 5946 Test Method for Corona-Treated Polymer Films Using Water Contact Angle Measurements

D 6988 Guide for Determination of Thickness of Plastic Film Test Specimens

E96 96/E 96M Test Methods for Water Vapor Transmission of Materials

E462 1870 Test Method for Odor and Taste Transfer from Polymeric Packaging Film

F 88 ~~Test Methods~~Method for Seal Strength of Flexible Barrier Materials

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D20 on Plastics and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D20.19 on Film and Sheeting. Current edition approved ~~September~~ May 1, 2004-2009. Published ~~September 2004~~ June 2009. Originally approved in 1967. Last previous edition approved in ~~1999~~ 2004 as ~~D2673-99~~ D 2673 - 04.

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.

*A Summary of Changes section appears at the end of this standard.

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.1.1 *nominal thickness, width, yield*—target values to be as agreed upon between the seller and the purchaser.

3.1.2 *oriented polypropylene (OPP) film*—a film yielding a minimum tensile strength of 68 MPa [~~10000 psi~~](10 000 psi) in at least one principal direction (machine or transverse).

3.1.2.1 *balanced oriented PP film (OPP-B)*—a film in which the machine- and transverse-direction tensile strength both exceed 68 MPa [~~10000 psi~~](10 000 psi), but do not differ by more than 55 MPa [~~8000 psi~~](8000 psi), and the machine and transverse elongations do not differ by more than 60 % (absolute).

3.1.2.2 *biaxially oriented PP film (OPP-X)*—a film in which the machine- and transverse-direction tensile strengths both exceed 68 MPa [~~10000 psi~~](10 000 psi).

3.1.2.3 *uniaxially oriented PP film (OPP-U)*—a film oriented in one direction (machine or transverse) and yielding a minimum tensile strength of 68 MPa [~~10000 psi~~](10 000 psi) in the direction of orientation. (Sometimes called unbalanced.)

4. General Requirements

4.1 *Polymer Material*—The base polymer shall be a Group 1 or 2 polypropylene (PP), as defined in Specification D 4101, or a blend of such Group 1 or 2 PP with one or more other polymers, provided the PP fraction is the main component.

4.2 *Appearance*—The film shall be as free as commercially feasible of gels, streaks, pinholes, particulate contaminants, and undispersed raw materials. There shall be no other visible defects such as holes, tears, or blisters. The edges shall be free of nicks and cuts visible to the naked eye. There shall be no visible evidence of damage from shipping.

4.3 *Blocking*—The film shall not be blocked excessively. The limits for permissible blocking shall be as agreed upon between the seller and the purchaser.

4.4 *Thickness*—Average thickness shall be within $\pm 10\%$ of the nominal value.

4.5 *Package Yield*—Package yield shall be within the following ranges:

	Deviation from nominal, %
Any one roll	±10
Up to 25 rolls	±10
25 to 100 rolls	±6
Above 100 rolls	±3

4.6 *Width*—Average width shall be within $-3 + 19$ mm [~~-0.12+0.75 in.~~]($-0.12 + 0.75$ in.) of nominal.

4.7 *Length and Splices*—To be agreed upon between the seller and the purchaser.

4.8 *Food-Packaging Requirements*—Films intended for the packaging of food, drugs, and cosmetics shall comply with the requirements of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act as amended.³

5. Specific Requirements

5.1 The film material shall comply with the definition of oriented PP film (see 3.1).

5.2 For the characterization of commercial PP film, this specification provides a cell classification based on six performance parameters, as defined in Table 1. Thus, each film is characterized by a code designation consisting of a six-digit number, preceded by the acronym OPP-U, OPP-X, or OPP-B.

NOTE 2—An example of this code designation would be OPP-B101020, which identifies an untreated balanced film with high gloss and low friction.

6. Sampling

6.1 Adequate statistical sampling shall be considered an acceptable alternative. A batch or lot of film shall be considered as a unit of manufacture as prepared for shipment.

³ Available from FDA Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, 200 C Street SW, Washington, DC 20204, or on the web at <http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/cfr-table-search.html> or Telephone: (202) 205-5251.

TABLE 1 Cell Classification for OPP Film^A

Designation Order	Film Property	Cell Limits				
		0	1	2	3	4
1	Coefficient of friction	unspecified	<0.20	0.20 to 0.35	0.35 to 0.50	>0.50
2	Linear thermal shrinkage unrestrained, 120°C, %	unspecified	0 to 3	>3 to 6	>6 to 20	>20
3	Wetting tension, dyne/cm	unspecified	<38	≥38		
4	Heat-sealability, g/mm	unspecified	4 to 10	≥10 to 25	>25	
5	Gloss, 45°	unspecified	50 min	70 min	85 min	
6	Haze, %	unspecified	15 max	7 max	3 max	

^AWith this type of classification it is possible to assemble on paper a combination of properties that is impossible to obtain with the present state of technology. A purchaser wishing to use this specification for the first time will probably find it necessary to contact suppliers to learn what materials are commercially available. After establishing which available material(s) meet the requirements of the application, the purchaser can then specify the material by the appropriate cell classification.