



Designation: G151 – 09

Standard Practice for Exposing Nonmetallic Materials in Accelerated Test Devices that Use Laboratory Light Sources¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This practice provides general procedures to be used when exposing nonmetallic materials in accelerated test devices that use laboratory light sources. Detailed information regarding procedures to be used for specific devices are found in standards describing the particular device being used. For example, detailed information covering exposures in devices that use open flame carbon arc, enclosed carbon arc, xenon arc and fluorescent UV light source are found in Practices G152, G153, G154, and G155 respectively.

NOTE 1—Carbon-arc, xenon arc, and fluorescent UV exposures were also described in Practices G23, G26, and G53 which referred to very specific equipment designs. Practices G152, G153, and G154, and G155 are performance based standards that replace Practices G23, G26, and G53.

1.2 This practice also describes general performance requirements for devices used for exposing nonmetallic materials to laboratory light sources. This information is intended primarily for producers of laboratory accelerated exposure devices.

1.3 This practice provides information on the use and interpretation of data from accelerated exposure tests. Specific information about methods for determining the property of a nonmetallic material before and after exposure are found in standards describing the method used to measure each property. Information regarding the reporting of results from exposure testing of plastic materials is described in Practice D5870.

NOTE 2—Guide G141 provides information for addressing variability in exposure testing of nonmetallic materials. Guide G169 provides information for application of statistics to exposure test results

NOTE 3—This standard is technically equivalent to ISO 4892, Part 1.

1.4 *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*

safe safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*²

- D618 Practice for Conditioning Plastics for Testing
- D3924 Specification for Environment for Conditioning and Testing Paint, Varnish, Lacquer, and Related Materials
- D5870 Practice for Calculating Property Retention Index of Plastics
- E41 Terminology Relating To Conditioning
- E171 Specification for Atmospheres for Conditioning and Testing Flexible Barrier Materials
- E644 Test Methods for Testing Industrial Resistance Thermometers
- E691 Practice for Conducting an Interlaboratory Study to Determine the Precision of a Test Method
- E772 Terminology Relating to Solar Energy Conversion
- E839 Test Methods for Sheathed Thermocouples and Sheathed Thermocouple Material³
- G23 Practice for Operating Light-Exposure Apparatus (Carbon-Arc Type) With and Without Water for Exposure of Nonmetallic Materials (Discontinued 2001)^{3 3}
- G26 Practice for Operating Light-Exposure Apparatus (Xenon-Arc Type) With and Without Water for Exposure of Nonmetallic Materials (Discontinued 2001)^{3 3}
- G53 Practice for Operating Light-and Water-Exposure Apparatus (Fluorescent UV-Condensation Type) for Exposure of Nonmetallic Materials (Discontinued 2001)³
- G113 Terminology Relating to Natural and Artificial Weathering Tests of Nonmetallic Materials
- G130 Test Method for Calibration of Narrow- and Broad-Band Ultraviolet Radiometers Using a Spectroradiometer
- G141 Guide for Addressing Variability in Exposure Testing of Nonmetallic Materials

¹ This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee G03 on Weathering and Durability and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee G03.03 on Simulated and Controlled Exposure Tests.

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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 "Withdrawn. The last approved version of this historical standard is referenced on www.astm.org."

- G147** Practice for Conditioning and Handling of Nonmetallic Materials for Natural and Artificial Weathering Tests
- G152** Practice for Operating Open Flame Carbon Arc Light Apparatus for Exposure of Nonmetallic Materials
- G153** Practice for Operating Enclosed Carbon Arc Light Apparatus for Exposure of Nonmetallic Materials
- G154** Practice for Operating Fluorescent Light Apparatus for UV Exposure of Nonmetallic Materials
- G155** Practice for Operating Xenon Arc Light Apparatus for Exposure of Non-Metallic Materials
- G156** Practice for Selecting and Characterizing Weathering Reference Materials
- G169** Guide for Application of Basic Statistical Methods to Weathering Tests
- G177** Tables for Reference Solar Ultraviolet Spectral Distributions: Hemispherical on 37° Tilted Surface

2.2 ISO Standards:

ISO 4892, Part 1 Plastics: Exposure to laboratory Light Sources—General Guidance⁴

ISO 9370 Plastics: Instrumental Determination of Radiant Exposure in Weathering Tests—General Guidance and Basic Test Method⁴

2.3 CIE Document:

CIE Publication Number 85: 1989, Technical Report—Solar Spectral Irradiance⁵

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—The definitions given in Terminologies **E41**, **E772**, and **G113** are applicable to this practice.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 Significance:

4.1.1 When conducting exposures in devices that use laboratory light sources, it is important to consider how well the accelerated test conditions will reproduce property changes and failure modes associated with end-use environments for the materials being tested. In addition, it is essential to consider the effects of variability in both the accelerated test and outdoor exposures when setting up exposure experiments and when interpreting the results from accelerated exposure tests.

4.1.2 No laboratory exposure test can be specified as a total simulation of actual use conditions in outdoor environments. Results obtained from these laboratory accelerated exposures can be considered as representative of actual use exposures only when the degree of rank correlation has been established for the specific materials being tested and when the type of degradation is the same. The relative durability of materials in actual use conditions can be very different in different locations because of differences in UV radiation, time of wetness, relative humidity, temperature, pollutants, and other factors. Therefore, even if results from a specific exposure test conducted according to this practice are found to be useful for comparing the relative durability of materials exposed in a

particular exterior environment, it cannot be assumed that they will be useful for determining relative durability of the same materials for a different environment.

4.1.3 Even though it is very tempting, calculation of an *acceleration factor* relating x h or megajoules of radiant exposure in a laboratory accelerated test to y months or years of exterior exposure is not recommended. These acceleration factors are not valid for several reasons.

4.1.3.1 Acceleration factors are material dependent and can be significantly different for each material and for different formulations of the same material.

4.1.3.2 Variability in the rate of degradation in both actual use and laboratory accelerated exposure test can have a significant effect on the calculated acceleration factor.

4.1.3.3 Acceleration factors calculated based on the ratio of irradiance between a laboratory light source and solar radiation, even when identical bandpasses are used, do not take into consideration the effects on a material of irradiance, temperature, moisture, and differences in spectral power distribution between the laboratory light source and solar radiation.

NOTE 4—If use of an acceleration factor is desired in spite of the warnings given in this practice, such acceleration factors for a particular material are only valid if they are based on data from a sufficient number of separate exterior and laboratory accelerated exposures so that results used to relate times to failure in each exposure can be analyzed using statistical methods. An example of a statistical analysis using multiple laboratory and exterior exposures to calculate an acceleration factor is described by J.A. Simms (1).⁶

4.1.4 There are a number of factors that may decrease the degree of correlation between accelerated tests using laboratory light sources and exterior exposures. More specific information on how each factor may alter stability ranking of materials is given in **Appendix X1**.

4.1.4.1 Differences in the spectral distribution between the laboratory light source and solar radiation.

4.1.4.2 Light intensities higher than those experienced in actual use conditions.

4.1.4.3 Test conditions where specimens are exposed continuously to light when actual use conditions provide alternate periods of light and dark.

4.1.4.4 Specimen temperatures higher than those in actual conditions.

4.1.4.5 Exposure conditions that produce unrealistic temperature differences between light and dark colored specimens.

4.1.4.6 Exposure conditions that do not have any temperature cycling or that produce temperature cycling, or thermal shock, or both, that is not representative of use conditions.

4.1.4.7 Unrealistically high or low levels of moisture.

4.1.4.8 Absence of biological agents or pollutants.

4.2 Use of Accelerated Tests with Laboratory Light Sources:

4.2.1 Results from accelerated exposure tests conducted according to this standard are best used to compare the relative performance of materials. A common application is conducting a test to establish that the level of quality of different batches does not vary from a control material with known performance.

⁴ Available from American National Standards Institute (ANSI), 25 W. 43rd St., 4th Floor, New York, NY 10036, <http://www.ansi.org>.

⁵ Available from the Commission Internationale de L'Eclairage, CIE, Central Bureau, Kegelegasse 27, A-1030 Vienna, Austria or the U.S. National Committee for CIE, National Institute for Science and Technology, Gaithersburg, MD.

⁶ The boldface numbers in parentheses refer to the list of references at the end of this standard.

Comparisons between materials are best made when they are tested at the same time in the same exposure device. Results can be expressed by comparing the exposure time or radiant exposure necessary to change a characteristic property to some specified level.

4.2.1.1 Reproducibility of test results between laboratories has been shown to be good when the stability of materials is evaluated in terms of performance ranking compared to other materials or to a control^{7,8}; therefore, exposure of a similar material of known performance (a control) at the same time as the test materials is strongly recommended.

4.2.2 In some applications, weathering reference materials are used to establish consistency of the operating conditions in an exposure test.

4.2.3 Reference materials, for example, blue wool test fabric, also may be used for the purpose of timing exposures. In some cases, a reference material is exposed at the same time as a test material and the exposure is conducted until there is a defined change in property of the reference material. The test material then is evaluated. In some cases, the results for the test material are compared to those for the reference material. These are inappropriate uses of reference materials when they are not sensitive to exposure stresses that produce failure in the test material or when the reference material is very sensitive to an exposure stress that has very little effect on the test material.

NOTE 5—Definitions for control and reference material that are appropriate to weathering tests are found in Terminology G113.

NOTE 6—Practice G156 describes procedures for selecting and characterizing weathering reference materials used to establish consistency of operating conditions in a laboratory accelerated test.

NOTE 7—Results from accelerated exposure tests should only be used to establish a pass/fail approval of materials after a specific time of exposure to a prescribed set of conditions when the variability in the exposure and property measurement procedure has been quantified so that statistically significant pass/fail judgments can be made.

5. Requirements for Laboratory Exposure Devices

5.1 Light Source:

5.1.1 The exposure device shall provide for placement of specimens and any designated sensing devices in positions which provide uniform irradiance by the light source.

NOTE 8—In some devices, several individual light sources are used simultaneously. In these devices, the term *light source* refers to the combination of individual light sources being used.

5.1.2 Manufacturers of exposure devices shall assure that the irradiance at any location in the area used for specimen exposures is at least 70 % of the maximum irradiance measured in this area. Procedures for measuring irradiance uniformity are found in Annex A1.

NOTE 9—During use, the irradiance uniformity in exposure devices can be affected by several factors, such as deposits, which can develop on the optical system and chamber walls. Irradiance uniformity also can be

affected by the type and number of specimens being exposed. The irradiance uniformity as assured by the manufacturer is valid for new equipment and well defined measuring conditions.

5.1.3 Periodic repositioning of the specimens during exposure is not necessary if the irradiance at positions farthest from the point of maximum irradiance is at least 90 % of the maximum measured irradiance.

5.1.4 If irradiance at any position in the area used for specimen exposure is between 70 and 90 % of the maximum irradiance, specimens shall be periodically repositioned to reduce variability in radiant exposure. The repositioning schedule shall be agreed upon by all interested parties. Appendix X2 describes some possible specimen placement and repositioning plans and frequencies.

NOTE 10—While not required in devices meeting the irradiance uniformity requirements of 5.1.3, periodic specimen repositioning is a good practice to reduce the variability in exposure stresses experienced during the test interval.

5.1.5 Replace lamps and filters according to the schedule recommended by the device manufacturer. Follow the apparatus manufacturer's instructions for lamp and filter replacement and for pre-aging of lamps or filters, or both.

5.1.6 ASTM G177 describes a standard solar ultraviolet spectrum that can be used as a basis for comparing laboratory accelerated light sources with sunlight. The atmospheric conditions used in this standard solar spectrum were selected to maximize the fraction of short wavelength solar ultraviolet radiation.

NOTE 11—Previous versions of this standard used a solar spectrum defined in CIE Publication 85-1999, Table 4 as the benchmark for comparing light sources used in laboratory accelerated exposure tests to solar radiation. Appendix X3 provides a comparison of the atmospheric conditions and solar spectra of ASTM G177 and Table 4 of CIE 85.

5.1.6.1 Direct radiation from xenon burners, open flame carbon arcs, and some fluorescent lamps contains considerable amounts of short wavelength ultraviolet radiation not present in solar radiation. With proper selection of filters for these light sources, much of the short wavelength light can be eliminated. However, with many filters a small, but significant, amount of this short wavelength (less than 300 nm) radiation is present in the spectral distribution of the filtered light source. Fluorescent UV lamps can be selected to have a spectral output corresponding to a particular ultraviolet region of solar radiation. The xenon arc, when appropriately filtered, produces radiation with a spectral power distribution that is a good simulation of average solar radiation throughout the UV and visible region.

5.1.7 A radiometer, which complies with the requirements outlined in ISO 9370 may be used to measure irradiance, E , or the spectral irradiance, E_{λ} , and the radiant exposure, H , or the spectral radiant exposure, H_{λ} , on the specimen surface.

5.1.7.1 If used, the radiometer shall be mounted so that it receives the same irradiance as the specimen surface. If it is not positioned within the specimen plane, it shall be calibrated for irradiance at the specimen distance.

5.1.7.2 The radiometer shall be calibrated in the emission region of the light source used and shall be traceable to a recognized national standards body. Calibration of narrow or broad-band ultraviolet radiometers using a spectroradiometer

⁷ Fischer, R., "Results of Round Robin Studies of Light- and Water-Exposure Standard Practice," *Symposium on Accelerated and Outdoor Durability Testing of Organic Materials*, ASTM STP 1202, ASTM, 1993.

⁸ Ketola, W., and Fischer, R. "Characterization and Use of Reference Materials in Accelerated Durability Tests," VAMAS Technical Report No. 30, available from NIST, Gaithersburg, MD.

shall be conducted according to Method **G130**. The radiometer shall be calibrated using a light source with the same spectral power distribution as the one that the radiometer will be used to measure. In addition, the radiometer shall also be calibrated using the same test chamber geometry (that is, lamp to specimen plane distance and orientation) for which it will be used. Calibration shall be checked according to the radiation measuring instrument manufacturer's instructions. A full calibration of the radiometer shall be conducted at least once/year. More frequent calibrations are recommended.

5.1.7.3 When measured, the irradiance in the wavelength range agreed upon by all interested parties shall be reported. Some apparatus provide for measuring irradiance in a specific wavelength range for example, 300–400 or 300–800 nm, or in a narrow bandpass centered around a single wavelength, for example, 340 nm.

5.2 Temperature:

5.2.1 The surface temperature of exposed materials depends on the ambient temperature, the amount of radiation absorbed, the emissivity of the specimen, the thermal conduction within the specimen, and the heat transmission between specimen and air or specimen holder. Since it is not practical to monitor the surface temperature of individual test specimens, a specified black-panel sensor is used to measure and control temperature within the test chamber. It is strongly recommended that the black panel temperature sensor be mounted on a support within the specimen exposure area so that it receives the same radiation and cooling conditions as a flat test panel surface using the same support. The black panel also may be located at a fixed distance position different from the test specimens and calibrated for temperature in the specimen exposure area. This is not recommended, however, because black panels mounted at a fixed position away from the specimens may not indicate temperatures representative of the test specimens, even if they are calibrated to record temperature at positions within the specimen exposure area, due to differences in light intensity and movement of air.

5.2.2 Exposure devices shall use either an uninsulated black panel (commonly referred to as a black panel thermometer) or an insulated black panel (commonly referred to as a black standard thermometer) as black panel sensor. Requirements for each type are found in **Annex A2**.

5.2.3 The temperature indicated by the uninsulated black-panel or insulated thermometer depends on the irradiance of the laboratory light source and the temperature and speed of air moving in the test chamber. Uninsulated black-panel temperatures generally correspond to those for dark coatings on metal panels. Insulated black panel thermometer temperatures generally correspond to those for the exposed surface of dark samples with poor thermal conductivity. At conditions used in typical exposure tests, the temperature indicated by an insulated black panel thermometer will be 3–12°C higher than an uninsulated black panel thermometer. The response time for temperature changes is slightly slower for insulated black panel thermometers compared to uninsulated black panel thermometers.

5.2.3.1 At low irradiance, the difference between the temperature indicated by an uninsulated black panel or insulated

black panel and the real specimen may be small. When light sources that emit very little infrared radiation are used, there generally will be very small difference in temperatures indicated by the two types of black panels or between light and dark colored specimens.

NOTE 12—There can be differences in temperature indicated by a single type of black panel thermometer, depending on the specific design of the device supplied by different manufacturers. Work is being conducted within Subcommittee 6 ISO TC/61 to characterize the differences between the different types of temperature sensing devices and between temperature sensing devices of the same type.

5.2.4 In order to evaluate the range of surface temperatures of the exposed specimens, the use of an uninsulated or insulated white panel thermometer is recommended, in addition to the uninsulated black panel or insulated black panel thermometer. In some cases, temperature of either the uninsulated or insulated white panel thermometer may be used to specify exposure conditions. The uninsulated or insulated white panel shall be constructed in the same way as the corresponding uninsulated or insulated black panel thermometer, except for use of a white coating with a good resistance to aging. The reflectance of the white coating between 450 and 800 nm shall be at least 60 % and at least 30 % between 800 and 1500 nm.

5.2.5 When requested, suppliers of insulated or uninsulated black or white panels shall provide certification that the black or white coating meets the reflectance requirements given in this practice.

5.2.6 Exposure devices that control temperature of a black or white temperature sensor shall be able to maintain fluctuations at the control point as specified in **Annex A3**.

5.2.7 Manufacturers of exposure devices shall assure that the temperature of a black or white panel temperature sensor placed anywhere within the specimen exposure area shall be within $\pm 3^\circ\text{C}$ of the set point temperature for set points up to 70°C and within $\pm 4^\circ\text{C}$ for set point temperatures above 70°C .

5.2.8 The test report shall indicate whether an insulated or uninsulated black or white panel was used. If either type of black or white panel thermometer is not positioned in the specimen exposure area, the exact position used shall be described in the test report.

5.2.9 If chamber air temperature is measured, the temperature sensing element shall be shielded from the light source and water spray. Exposure devices, which control temperature of chamber air shall be able to maintain temperature of chamber air within $\pm 3^\circ\text{C}$ of the set point temperature.

5.2.10 Calibrate thermocouples according to instructions provided by the device manufacturer. If no instructions are provided by the device manufacture, sheathed thermocouples shall be calibrated according to Method **E839**, and resistance thermometers used as the sensing element for black or white panel thermometers shall be calibrated according to Method **E644**. Unless otherwise specified, devices used to measure temperature shall be calibrated at least annually. Wherever possible, calibrations should be traceable to a nationally recognized standards agency.

5.3 Humidity and Wetting:

5.3.1 The presence of moisture may have a significant effect on exposure tests. Any apparatus operated according to this standard, which attempts to simulate the effects of moisture, shall have means for providing moisture to specimens using one or more of the following methods: humidification of chamber air, formation of condensation, water spray, or immersion. The type and rate of material degradation can be affected significantly by the method used to provide moisture stress.

5.3.2 The purity of the water used for specimen wetting is very important. Without proper treatment to remove cations, anions, organics, and particularly silica, exposed specimens will develop spots or stains that do not occur in exterior exposures. Unless otherwise specified, water used for specimen wetting shall have a maximum of 1 ppm solids and a maximum of 0.2 ppm silica. If the water used for specimen wetting is above 1 ppm solids, the solids and silica levels must be reported. Recirculation of water used for specimen wetting is not recommended and if done the recirculated water shall meet the specified purity requirements.

NOTE 13—Distillation, or a combination of deionization and reverse osmosis can effectively produce water with the desired purity.

5.3.3 If specimens are found to have deposits or stains after exposure, the water purity must be checked to determine if it meets the purity requirements described in 5.3.2. On some occasions, exposed specimens can be contaminated by deposits from bacteria that can grow in the purified water used for specimen wetting. If bacterial contamination is detected, the entire system used for specimen wetting shall be flushed with a chlorinating solution, such as sodium hypochlorite and thoroughly rinsed prior to resuming exposures.

5.3.4 Although it does not always correlate with silica content, it is recommended that the conductivity of the water used for specimen wetting be monitored continuously and that exposures be stopped whenever the conductivity is above 5 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$.

5.3.5 All components of the specimen wetting unit shall be fabricated from stainless steel, plastic, or other material that does not contaminate the water. If plastic materials are used, they shall not leach low molecular weight UV absorbing components into the water.

5.3.6 In devices where humidity within the test chamber is controlled, sensors used to determine humidity shall be placed within the test chamber air flow and shielded from direct radiation and water spray. When humidity is controlled, the measured relative humidity shall be within $\pm 5\%$ of the set point humidity.

5.3.6.1 Calibrate the sensors used to determine humidity according to the device manufacturer's instructions.

5.3.7 Any device intended to introduce wetting of specimens, for example, by spray or immersion, shall have means to program intervals with and without wetting.

NOTE 14—There is currently no generally accepted method for characterizing the uniformity or consistency of specimen wetting.

5.4 *Other Apparatus Requirements*—Although various apparatus designs are used in practice, each apparatus shall include the following:

5.4.1 Any device intended to provide light and dark cycles shall have means to program intervals with or without light. The time of each light and dark cycle shall be controlled to within $\pm 10\%$ of the shortest cycle time used. It is preferable to use cycle timers that are accurate and reproducible as possible. Optionally, means to provide a record of the length of light and dark cycles may be provided.

5.4.2 To fulfill the requirements of particular test procedures, the apparatus also may need to provide means to register or record the following operational parameters.

5.4.2.1 Line voltage;

5.4.2.2 Lamp voltage and where appropriate, lamp wattage;

5.4.2.3 Lamp current;

5.4.2.4 Temperature of uninsulated or insulated black or white panel thermometer;

5.4.2.5 Test chamber air temperature;

5.4.2.6 Test chamber relative humidity,

5.4.2.7 Water spray cycles;

5.4.2.8 Irradiance or radiant exposure, or both, over a specified spectral region; and,

5.4.2.9 Duration of exposure (radiation time and total, if different).

5.4.3 Follow the recommendations of the device manufacturer regarding calibration of devices used to record each operational parameter.

6. Test Specimens

6.1 *Form and Preparation*:

6.1.1 The dimensions of the test specimens normally are those specified in the appropriate test method for the property or properties to be measured after exposure. When the behavior of a specific type of article is to be determined, the article itself should be exposed whenever possible.

6.1.2 For some tests, specimens to be exposed may be cut from a larger sheet or part that is formed by extrusion, injection molding, or other process. The exact shape and dimensions of the specimens to be exposed will be determined by the specific test procedure used for measurement of the property of interest. The procedures used to machine or cut individual test specimens from a larger sheet or part may affect the results of the property measurement and the apparent durability. Therefore, the method used for specimen preparation shall be agreed upon by the interested parties and should be related closely to the method normally used to process the material in typical application.

6.1.3 Unless otherwise specified or required, do not cut individual test specimens for property measurement from larger specimens that have been exposed. The effects any cutting or machining operation may have on the properties of individual test specimens usually are much larger when the test specimens are cut from a large piece after exposure. This is especially true for materials that embrittle on exposure.

6.1.3.1 When test specimens are cut from an exposed sheet or larger part, they should be taken from an area that is at least 20 mm from the fixture holding the material or from the exposed specimen edges. In no circumstances shall any material from the exposed face be removed during the test specimen preparation.

6.1.4 When comparing materials in an exposure test, use test specimens that are similar in dimensions and exposed area.

6.2 *Number of Test Specimens:*

6.2.1 The number of test specimens for each test condition or exposure period shall be that specified in the appropriate test method for the property or properties to be measured after exposure.

6.2.2 Unless otherwise specified or required, use at least three replicate specimens where properties are measured using nondestructive tests and six replicate specimens where properties are measured using destructive tests.

6.2.3 When material properties are measured using destructive tests, a separate set of specimens is needed for each exposure period. When destructive tests are used, the total number of test specimens required will be determined by the number of exposure periods used and whether unexposed file specimens are tested at the same time as exposed specimens.

6.2.4 Control materials with known durability should be included with each exposure test. It is recommended that control materials known to have relatively poor and good durability be used. Control materials are used for the purpose of comparing the performance of the test materials to the controls. Before laboratory to laboratory comparisons are made it is necessary to establish agreed upon control materials. The number of specimens of the control material should be the same as that used for test materials.

6.3 *Storage and Conditioning:*

6.3.1 Conditioning and handling of test, control, reference, and file specimens shall be according to Practice **G147**.

6.3.2 If test specimens are cut or machined from larger pieces, they should be conditioned after machining according to Practice **D618**, or Specifications **D3924**, **E171**. In some circumstances, it may be necessary to precondition the sheets prior to cutting or machining to facilitate specimen preparation. The properties of some materials are very sensitive to moisture content and the duration of conditioning may need to be longer than those specified in these standards, particularly where specimens have been exposed to climatic extremes.

7. General Procedure

7.1 Mark each specimen that will be exposed with a unique identifying number in accordance with Practice **G147**.

7.1.1 Do not touch the surface of exposed specimens or optical components with bare skin because oils that are deposited may act as UV absorbers or contain contaminants which accelerate degradation.

7.2 Specific conditions and procedures for the exposure test depend on the type of device used and the material being tested. For open flame carbon-arc, enclosed carbon-arc, fluorescent UV, and xenon-arc exposures, these can be found in Practices **G152**, **G153**, **G154**, and **G155** and in other standards, which reference these practices.

7.2.1 For each exposure test, specific set points for important parameters such as irradiance, temperature, and humidity are used. Typically, these parameters are measured and controlled at a single position within the chamber. During normal operation, there is an allowable departure of the measured value from the set point. **Annex A3** provides detailed informa-

tion about the maximum allowable departure of the measured value from the set point.

7.2.2 A single point measurement does not mean conditions throughout the cabinet are the same. It does not mean two tests run in similar cabinets will produce the same results. Cabinets that control temperature by the black panel will not produce the same test as cabinets that control by air temperature.

7.3 Select material properties that exhibit a significant change during the exposure period in order to provide weathering performance discrimination among a series of materials.

7.4 Follow the procedures described in the appropriate standard for measuring the properties of test specimens before and after exposure.

7.5 If nondestructive tests are used to measure properties of the materials being tested, measure the properties of specimens before beginning the exposure. After each exposure increment, measure the same property that is measured initially on the specimens. Take care to make the property measurement in the same position used for the initial measurement.

NOTE 15—To monitor the response of the instrument used to measure the desired property, one can measure a calibration standard each time the instrument is used.

7.6 If destructive tests are used to measure properties of the materials being tested, prepare a separate set of test specimens for each exposure period. Compare the value of the property after exposure to the property measured on an unexposed set of specimens measured prior to beginning the exposure. Alternatively, the property can be measured on a separate set of unexposed file specimens at the same time as the property of exposed specimens is measured. The results for the unexposed files specimens and from the exposed specimens can then be compared.

NOTE 16—Procedures and formulas for calculating the change in material property of test materials and reference materials after exposure can be found in Practice **D5870**.

7.7 Some materials will change color during storage in the dark, particularly after weathering. It is essential that color measurement or visual comparisons be carried out as soon as possible after exposure once the exposed surface has dried.

8. Periods of Exposure and Evaluation of Test Results

8.1 In most cases, periodic evaluation of test and control materials is necessary to determine the variation in magnitude and direction of property change as a function of exposure time or radiant exposure.

8.2 The time or radiant exposure necessary to produce a defined change in a material property can be used to evaluate or rank the stability of materials. This method is preferred over evaluating materials after an arbitrary exposure time or radiant exposure.

8.2.1 Exposure to an arbitrary time or radiant exposure may be used for the purpose of a specific test if agreed upon by the parties concerned or if required for conformance to a particular specification. When a single exposure period is used, select a time or radiant exposure that will produce the largest performance differences between the test materials or between the test material and the control material.