



# Standard Practice for Specimen Preparation and Mounting of Textile, Paper or Polymeric (Including Vinyl) Wall or Ceiling Coverings to Assess Surface Burning Characteristics<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation E2404; 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 practice describes procedures for specimen preparation and mounting when testing textile, paper or polymeric (including vinyl and expanded vinyl) wall or ceiling covering materials to assess flame spread and smoke development as surface burning characteristics using Test Method E84.

1.2 Testing is conducted with Test Method E84.

1.3 This practice does not provide pass/fail criteria that can be used as a regulatory tool.

1.4 Use the values stated in inch-pound units as the standard, in referee decisions. The values in the SI system of units are given in parentheses, for information only; see [IEEE/ASTM SI-10](#) for further details.

1.5 This fire standard cannot be used to provide quantitative measures.

1.6 Fire testing of products and materials is inherently hazardous, and adequate safeguards for personnel and property shall be employed in conducting these tests. Fire testing involves hazardous materials, operations, and equipment. This standard gives instructions on specimen preparation and mounting, but the fire-test-response method is given in Test Method E84. See also Section 10.

1.7 *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.*

1.8 The text of this standard references notes and footnotes which provide explanatory material. These notes and footnotes shall not be considered requirements of the standard.

## 2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards*:<sup>2 3</sup>

[C36/C36M](#) Specification for Gypsum Wallboard<sup>3</sup>

[C1186](#) Specification for Flat Fiber-Cement Sheets

[C1396/C1396M](#) Specification for Gypsum Board

[E84](#) Test Method for Surface Burning Characteristics of Building Materials

[E136](#) Test Method for Behavior of Materials in a Vertical Tube Furnace at 750°C

[E176](#) Terminology of Fire Standards

[IEEE/ASTM SI-10](#) International System of Units (SI): The Modern Metric System

2.2 *CSA Standard*:<sup>4</sup>

[CSA O121](#) Douglas Fir Plywood

2.3 *NIST Standard*:<sup>5</sup>

[Voluntary Product Standard PS 1-07](#) Structural Plywood

## 3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—For definitions of terms used in this practice refer to the terminology contained in Terminology E176.

3.2 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard*:

3.2.1 *expanded vinyl wall or ceiling covering, n*—a wall or ceiling covering consisting of a woven textile backing, an expanded vinyl base coat layer (which is a homogeneous vinyl layer that contains a blowing agent), and a nonexpanded vinyl skin coat.

3.2.2 *paper wall or ceiling covering, n*—a wall or ceiling covering with a top layer consisting of paper or an alternative cellulosic-based material, but not consisting of a wood product.

3.2.3 *polymeric wall or ceiling covering, n*—a wall or ceiling covering with a top layer consisting of polymeric-based material.

<sup>2</sup> For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, [www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org), or contact ASTM Customer Service at [service@astm.org](mailto:service@astm.org). For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

<sup>3</sup> Withdrawn.

<sup>4</sup> Available from Canadian Standards Association (CSA), 178 Rexdale Blvd., Toronto, ON Canada M9W 1R3.

<sup>5</sup> Available from National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), 100 Bureau Dr., Gaithersburg, MD 20899-3460.

<sup>1</sup> This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee E05 on Fire Standards and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee E05.22 on Surface Burning.

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