



Standard Specification for Paintballs Used in the Sport of Paintball¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation F1979; 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.

INTRODUCTION

This specification sets forth a set of guidelines and testing procedures for the manufacturing of common calibers of paintball. The goal is to provide paintball manufacturers with a specification that promotes safety in the sport of paintball.

1. Scope

1.1 This specification establishes testing procedures and critical characteristics of common calibers of paintball which help define whether a paintball is suitable for use in the sport of paintball. Furthermore, the specification establishes minimum warning and package labeling to help ensure that the paintballs are used in a safe manner and that the risk of injury is reduced.

1.2 This specification does not cover non-recreational paintballs, for example, those used by law enforcement, scientific, military, or theatrical entities.

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

1.4 *This specification does not purport to address all of the safety issues associated with the sport of paintball. It is the responsibility of the user of this specification to establish appropriate safety and health practices and to comply with all applicable laws and regulations.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards*:²

F2272 Specification for Paintball Markers

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard*:

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F08 on Sports Equipment, Playing Surfaces, and Facilities and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F08.24 on Paintball and Equipment.

Current edition approved July 1, 2010. Published August 2010. Originally approved in 1999. Last previous edition approved in 2009 as F1979 – 09. DOI: 10.1520/F1979-10.

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.

3.1.1 *caliber, n*—the term used to refer to the size of a paintball projectile. Related to the measurement of the diameter of the paintball.

3.1.2 *cubic centimeter, n*—commonly used unit of volume extending the derived SI-unit cubic meter and corresponding to the volume of a cube measuring $1 \times 1 \times 1$ cm.

3.1.2.1 *Discussion*—The mass of one cubic centimeter of water is approximately equal to 1 g.

3.1.3 *fill material, n*—liquid inside of a paintball.

3.1.4 *paintball, n*—spherical ball, with a diameter and weight as defined in **Table 1**, comprised of a shell and a fill, and designed to be expelled from a paintball marker.

3.1.5 *paintball marker, n*—device specifically designed to discharge paintballs which conforms to Specification **F2272**.

3.1.6 *shell*—rigid to semirigid material (generally of gelatin) that encapsulates the fill of a paintball.

4. General Requirements

4.1 *pH of Fill Material*—The pH of the fill material used in the paintball shall measure between 4.0 and 8.0 as measured using a 10 % solution of the fill in distilled water. Measurements shall be made using a properly calibrated pH meter. See **Fig. 1** for the pH scale and pH levels for some common items.

4.2 *Paintball Fill Compatibility With Polycarbonate*—When tested in accordance with Section 5, no more than one of the three polycarbonate tensile bars exposed to the fill material shall develop a visible crack that is greater than 6.5 mm (0.256 in.) in length.

4.3 *Maximum Weight*—The paintballs shall not weigh more than as defined in **Table 1** based on the caliber of the paintball.

4.4 *Fill Color Limitations*—The paintballs shall not contain fill material with a color mimicking that of human blood.

4.5 *Diameter of Paintball*—The diameter of the paintball as measured both polar and at the seam shall measure within the

TABLE 1 Common Calibers of Paintballs with Minimum and Maximum Diameter and Maximum Weight

	68 Caliber	43 Caliber	50 Caliber	55 Caliber	62 Caliber
Min (mm) Diameter	18 mm	11 mm	13 mm	14 mm	16 mm
Max (mm) Diameter	16.500	10.430	12.130	13.340	15.000
Min (in.) Diameter	0.650	0.410	0.470	0.520	0.590
Max (in.) Diameter	0.709	0.448	0.521	0.573	0.646
Weight (g) Maximum	3.500	0.900	1.400	1.700	2.500
Weight (oz) Maximum	0.123	0.032	0.049	0.060	0.088

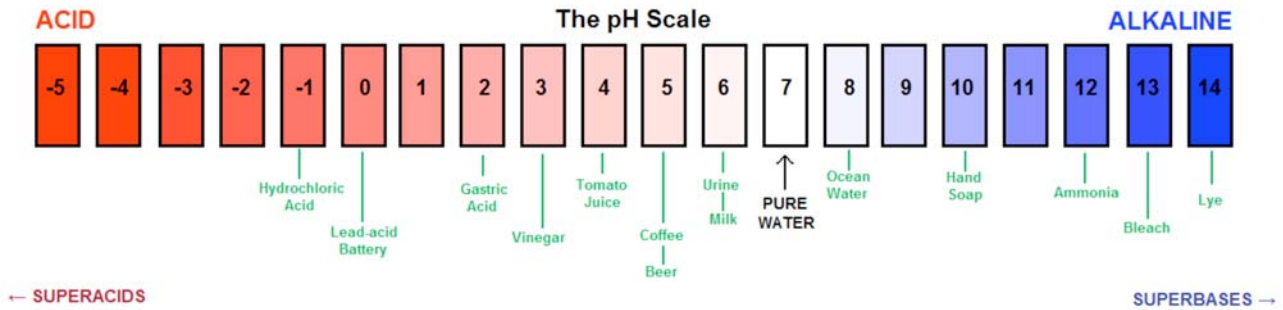


FIG. 1 The pH Scale

minimum and maximum range as defined in Table 1 based on the caliber of the paintball.

4.6 *Impact Breakage*—The impact breakage of the paintball shall be tested in accordance with Section 6. All ten of the paintballs that impact the target shall break upon impact.

4.7 *Environmental Safety*—Paintballs shall not contain environmentally hazardous or toxic substances as defined in CERCLA³ Regulations 40CFR302.4; SARA Toxic Chemical List⁴ Section 313; Clean Air Act⁵, Section 112B; and RCRA Regulations⁶ 40FR261.24 through 40CFR261.33.

TEST METHODS

5. Paintball Compatibility with Polycarbonate

5.1 *Scope*—This test method is intended to determine the compatibility of the paintball fill with polycarbonate, the plastic material currently universally used for protective eyewear lenses in paintball.

5.2 *Summary of Test Method*—This test method involves bending polycarbonate tensile bars in a test fixture while these bars are exposed to the paintball fill material and observing

how these tensile bars react to the fill. A control test is also conducted using tap water in place of the paintball fill material.

5.3 *Significance and Use*—This test method provides a means to help determine the suitability of specific paintball fill material for use in the sport of paintball. This test method provides a relative indicator of the reaction that a polycarbonate lens would have to the paintball fill material being tested.

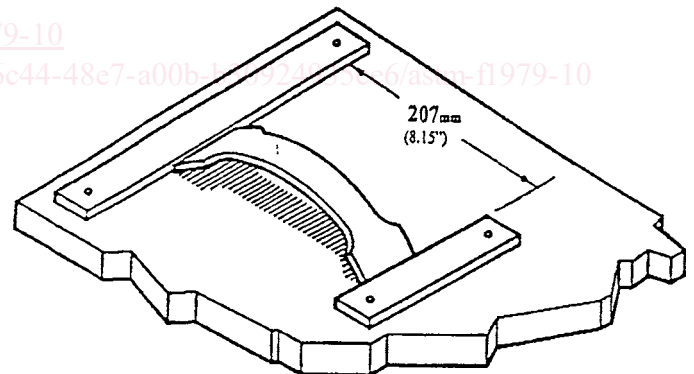


FIG. 2 Tensile Bar Shown Without Wrapping

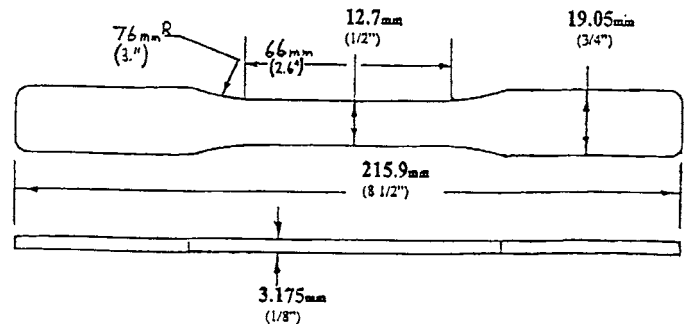


FIG. 3 Tensile Bar

³ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, "Designation of Hazardous Substances List of Hazardous Substances and Reportable Quantities," *Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liabilities Act*, Bureau of Federal Affairs, 40CFR302.4, April 4, 1985.

⁴ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, "Superfund Amendment and Reauthorization Act," *Environmental Protection Agency Regulation*, Bureau of Federal Affairs, Title III, 1986.

⁵ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, "National Emission Standards for Air Pollutants List of Hazardous Air Pollutants," *Clean Air Act*, Bureau of Federal Affairs, Section 112B, 1967.

⁶ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, "Definition of Characteristic and Listed Hazardous Waste, Identification and Listing of Hazardous Waste," *Resource Conservation and Recovery Act*, Bureau of Federal Affairs, 40CFR261, May 19, 1980.