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Standard Terminology Relating to Wool¹

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acid content, *n*—*of felt*, the number of milliequivalents of acid present per unit weight of felt, measured under prescribed conditions. **D461**

alkali-solubility, *n*—*in wool*, the percent of clean wool that is soluble in a specified alkaline solution under controlled conditions of temperature and time. **D1283**

alpaca, *n*—the fleece and fiber produced by the alpaca, an animal of the genus *Llama* (*Lama glama pacus*). The fiber is obtained from several species, namely, Huacaya and Suri. **D2252**

DISCUSSION—Alpaca is normally classified according to type, representing particular combinations of characteristics appropriate to a specific use, or descriptive of geographic origin, breed or species of animal, or preparation for market.

animal fiber, *n*—any natural protein-base fiber. **D1574, D4510**

aqueous extract, *n*—*in wool testing*, the solution obtained by digesting a material with water or with a sodium chloride solution to dissolve soluble materials. **D2165**

average fiber diameter, *n*—*in wool and other animal fibers*, the average width of a group of fibers when measured on a projected image. **D2130, D2252, D3991, D3992**

black felt, *n*—those classifications of felt manufactured to various shades of the color black. **D2475**

breaking tenacity, *n*—the tenacity corresponding to the breaking load. **D1294, D2524**

DISCUSSION—Breaking tenacity is commonly expressed as grams-force per tex (gf/tex), grams-force per denier (gf/den), millinewtons per tex mN/tex), or millinewtons per denier (mN/den). Millinewtons are numerically equal to grams-force times 9.81.

burr-wool waste, *n*—waste removed by the burr guard of cards or burr pickers having a very short fiber and full of burrs or seeds. **D4845**

DISCUSSION—The nature of the waste varies according to the wool from which the burrs are taken.

carbonized and neutralized wool, *n*—a term descriptive of scoured wool processed to destroy cellulosic impurities by treating with a mineral acid or an acid salt, drying and baking, crushing, and dusting out the embrittled cellulosic matter followed by neutralization of the acidified wool. **D2118**

carded wool, *n*—scoured wool which has been processed through a carding machine. **D1575**

cashmere, *n*—*in roving, yarn, or fabrics*, cashmere hair or products made therewith having a cashmere coarse-hair content not exceeding a specified maximum percentage by length. **D2816, D2817**

cashmere coarse-hair, *n*—those coarse fibers in cashmere hair having widths greater than 30 μm . **D2816, D2817**

cashmere coarse-hair content, *n*—the total length of the cashmere coarse-hair fibers that are present, expressed as a percentage of the total length of all the cashmere hair fibers; that is, the percentage by length of cashmere coarse-hair in cashmere hair. **D2816, D2817**

cashmere down, *n*—those fibers in cashmere hair having widths of 30 μm or less. **D2816, D2817**

cashmere hair, *n*—the fibers produced by a form of goat (*Capra hircus*) indigenous to Asia and known as the cashmere goat. **D2816, D2817**

DISCUSSION—Characteristically, cashmere hair consists of fine down (undercoat) fibers and coarse (outercoat) fibers.

clean wool fiber present, *n*—*in raw wool*, the mass of wool base present in the raw wool, adjusted to a moisture content of 12 %, an alcohol-extractable content of 1.5 %, and a mineral matter content of 0.5 %. **D584, D1060, D1334**

colored fiber, *n*—*in wool top*, any fiber the color or shade of which differs from the normal color or shade of the fiber mass of the sample. **D1770**

¹ This terminology is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D13 on Textiles and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D13.13 on Wool and Felt.

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- combing wool**, *n*—wool that is strong and strictly of combing length, that is, 2 in. (50 mm) or more. **D4845**
- commercial composition**, *n*—*in wool*, the percentages by weight of wool base, moisture, and other nonwool-base components in wool to which a specific commercial designation is applied. **D2720**
- commercial designation**, *n*—*in wool*, a term applied to a lot of wool in a stated form, and having a specified commercial composition. **D2720**
- commercial moisture content**, *n*—the moisture calculated as a percentage of the weight of the wool, top, noils, yarn, fabric, etc., in the “as-is” condition; that is, containing whatever moisture, oil, grease, or other extraneous matter that may be present. **D2118**

DISCUSSION—The term “moisture regain” as defined in Terminology D123,² leads to certain difficulties in defining the clean wool basis for calculation, which do not occur when the term “moisture content” is used. Moisture content can be applied directly to the product in the as-is condition while moisture regain cannot.

- commercial weight**, *n*—billed weight as determined by a generally accepted method or as agreed to by the purchaser and the seller. **D2720**

DISCUSSION—For shipments of commercially designated scoured wool, wool top, or wool noil, the generally accepted commercial weight is the weight of wool base contained in the shipment as determined by definite prescribed methods, plus the weights of moisture and other components corresponding to the commercial composition of the commercially designated material.

- constant-rate-of-extension (CRE) type tensile testing machine**, *n*—*in tensile testing*, an apparatus in which the pulling clamp moves at a uniform rate, and the force-measuring mechanism moves a negligible distance with increasing force, less than 0.13 mm (0.005 in.). **D1294, D2524**

- constant-rate-of-loading (CRL) type tensile testing machine**, *n*—*in testing tensile*, an apparatus in which the rate of increase of the force is uniform with time after the first 3 s and the specimen is free to elongate, this elongation being dependent on the extension characteristics of the specimen at any applied force. **D1294, D2524**

- constant-rate-of-traverse (CRT) type tensile testing machine**, *n*—*in tensile testing*, an apparatus in which the pulling clamp moves at a uniform rate and the force is applied through the other clamp, which moves appreciably to actuate a force-measuring mechanism, producing a rate of increase of force or extension that is usually not constant and is dependent on the extension characteristics of the specimen. **D1294, D2524**

- core**, *n*—*in sampling fiber packages*, the portion of wool or other fiber obtained by using a sampling tube. **D1060**

- cortex**, *n*—*in mammalian hair fibers*, the principal body of the fiber made up of elongated cells. **D4510**

- cuticle**, *n*—*in mammalian hair fibers*, the layers of flattened cells enclosing the cortex, which forms an envelope of overlapping scales surrounding the fiber. **D4510**

diameter, average fiber—See **average fiber diameter**.

- dimensional change in boiling water (felt)**, *n*—the change in length and width with any associated change in thickness produced by immersion in boiling water under specified conditions. **D461**

- epidermis**, *n*—*in mammalian hair fibers*, the outside or surface layer of the fiber consisting of flat, irregular, horny cells or scales. **D4845**

- extractable matter**, *n*—nonfibrous material in or on a textile, not including water, which is removable by a specified solvent or solvents as directed in a specified procedure. **D461, D1574**

DISCUSSION—Extractable matter does not include moisture but (1) is non-fibrous material, (2) is usually oily, waxy, or resinous in nature, and (3) may include protein, particularly if the extracting solvent is ethyl alcohol or contains ethyl alcohol.

- felt**, *n*—a textile structure characterized by interlocking and consolidation of its constituent fibers achieved by the interaction of a suitable combination of mechanical energy, chemical action, moisture, and heat but without the use of weaving, knitting, stitching, thermal bonding, or adhesives. **D2475**

DISCUSSION—In practice, light needling may be used to supplement the ability of the fibers to interlock and consolidate.

- fineness**, *n*—*of textile fibers*, a relative measure of size, diameter, linear density or mass per unit length expressed in a variety of units. **D2252, D3991, D3992**

DISCUSSION—The fineness of alpaca, wool, and other animal fibers is expressed as the average fiber width or average fiber diameter in micrometers (μm).

- flame resistance**, *n*—the property of a material whereby flaming combustion is prevented, terminated, or inhibited following application of a flaming or nonflaming source of ignition, with or without subsequent removal of the ignition source. **D461**

- gage length**, *n*—*in tensile testing*, the length of a specimen measured between the points of attachment to clamps while under

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.

uniform tension.

D1294, D2524

grade, n—in wool and mohair, a numerical designation used in classifying wool and mohair in their raw, semi-processed, and processed forms based on average fiber diameter and variation of fiber diameter. **D2130, D3991, D3992**

DISCUSSION—The term “grade” should not be confused with the terms “quality” and “type.” “Quality” is a term that includes not only fineness but also characteristics such as length, crimp, strength, elasticity, luster, tactile hand, and color, all of which affect the spinnability of the fiber and the properties of the resulting yarn and fabric. The Bradford designations, for which no standards exist, use a scale similar to that for grade designations (for example: 64s, 56s, etc.) and refer to quality and not solely to fineness. “Type” is a term designating a particular combination of characteristics applicable to a specific use or descriptive of geographical origin, breed of sheep, or preparation for market.

gray felt, n—a blend of white fibers with naturally colored or dyed fibers or both and that has an overall gray appearance. **D2475**

grease wool, n—wool taken from the living sheep and which has not been commercially scoured.

D1234, D1574, D1576, D2462

hair, n—natural animal fiber other than sheep’s wool or silk.

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DISCUSSION—It is recognized that this definition implies a distinction between sheep’s wool and the covering of other animals, notwithstanding similarity in their fiber characteristics. Thus the crimped form and the scaly structure are not confined to sheep’s wool. It seems desirable in the textile trade, however, to avoid ambiguity by confining the term wool to the covering of sheep and to have available a general term for other fibers of animal origin. Normally the less widely used fibers are known by name, for example, alpaca, mohair, etc., but collectively they are classed as hairs.

kemp fiber, n—a medullated animal fiber in which the diameter of the medulla is 60 %, or more, of the diameter of the fiber. **D2968**

laboratory sample, n—a portion of material taken to represent the lot sample, or the original material, and used in the laboratory as a source of test specimens. **D2525**

laboratory sample, n—in wool top, the portions drawn from the lot in accordance with the described procedure. **D1770**

lot, n—in acceptance sampling, that part of a consignment or shipment consisting of a material from one production lot. **D2525**

lot, n—in wool, top, the entire quantity, not exceeding 20 000 lb (9100 kg) of a single combing, that comprises a single unit for which a test for neps, vegetable matter or colored fiber, or all three combined is desired. **D1770**

lot sample, n—one or more shipping units taken at random to represent an acceptance sampling lot and used as a source of laboratory samples. **D2525**

med fiber, n—a medullated animal fiber in which the diameter of the medulla is less than 60 % of the diameter of the fiber. **D2968**

medulla, n—in mammalian hair fibers, the more or less continuous cellular marrow inside the cortical layer in most medium and coarse fibers. **D2968**

medullated fiber, n—an animal fiber that in its original state includes a medulla. **D2968**

merino, adj—from pure-bred merino sheep. **D4845**

DISCUSSION—Merino wool usually has a fiber diameter of 24 μm or less.

mohair, n—the hair of the Angora goat, *Capra* species.

D3991, D3992

moisture content, n—the amount of moisture in a material determined under prescribed conditions and expressed as a percentage of the mass of the moist material, that is, the original mass comprising the dried substance plus any moisture present. **D1576, D2462**

DISCUSSION—The term “mass” is the correct designation for the property commonly designated as “weight.” A slight amount of residual moisture may not be removed from a specimen subjected to oven drying because of the relative humidity of the ambient air. The amount of moisture retained by a specimen may be estimated from published data.³ There may also be a slight additional loss in mass caused by the evaporation of volatile material other than water, the amount depending on the characteristics of any added oils or emulsions.

moisture-free, adj—the condition of a material that has been exposed in an atmosphere of desiccated air until there is no further significant change in its mass. **D1576, D2462**

DISCUSSION—Heating the material and the desiccated air to temperatures as high as 110°C increases the rate of moisture loss but does not change the final equilibrium mass of the moisture-free material.

moisture regain, n—the amount of moisture in a material determined under prescribed conditions and expressed as a percentage of the mass of the moisture-free material. **D1576, D2462**

natural fiber, n—a class name for various genera of fibers (including filaments) of (1) animal, (2) mineral, or (3) vegetable origin. **D4845**

DISCUSSION—Examples—(1) Silk and wool, (2) asbestos, (3) cotton, flax, jute, ramie.

³ Toner, R. K., Bowen, C. F., and Whitwell, J. C., “Equilibrium Moisture Relations for Textile Fibers,” *Textile Research Journal*, Vol 17, January 1947, pp. 7–18.