



Designation: D4349-96 (Reapproved 2004)

Classification System for Designation: D4349 – 10

Classification System and Basis for Specification for Polyphenylene Ether (PPE) Materials¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D4349; 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 classification system covers the basic polymers and copolymers known as polyphenylene ethers and polyphenylene oxides, as well as filled, modified, and reinforced versions.*~~

1.1 This classification system covers the basic polymers and copolymers known as polyphenylene ethers and polyphenylene oxides, as well as filled, modified, and reinforced versions. Recycled materials are included in this standard as Class 5 of Table PPE.

~~NOTE 1—Addition to the natural polymer or copolymer of pigments, colorants or additives may result in the final composition not meeting the requirements specified for the natural polymer or copolymer. Discussions with the supplier should take place before specifications of altered compositions are established. 1—Addition to the natural polymer or copolymer of pigments, colorants, or other additives can cause the final composition to no longer meet the requirements specified for the natural polymer or copolymer.~~

~~NOTE 2—The preferred abbreviation for polyphenylene ether is PPE, as noted in Terminology D1600.~~

~~1.2 This classification system is not intended for the selection of materials, but only as a means to call out plastic materials to be used for the manufacture of parts. The selection of these materials is to be made by personnel with expertise in the plastics field where the environment, inherent properties of the materials, performance of the parts, part design, manufacturing process, and economics are considered.~~

~~1.3 There may be other requirements necessary to identify particular characteristics important to specific applications. These may be specified by using the suffixes described in Section~~

1.2 This classification system and subsequent line callout (specification) are intended to provide a means of calling out plastic materials used in the fabrication of end items or parts. It is not intended for the selection of materials. Material selection should be made by those having expertise in the plastic field after careful consideration of the design and the performance required of the part, the environment to which it will be exposed, the fabrication process to be employed, the costs involved, and the inherent properties of the material other than those covered by this standard.

1.3 There may be other requirements necessary to identify particular characteristics important to specific applications. These are to be specified by using the suffixes described in Section 5.

1.4 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as the standard.

~~NOTE 3—No ISO standard exists that covers these materials. 3—There is no known ISO equivalent to this standard.~~

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

D256 Test Methods for Determining the Izod Pendulum Impact Resistance of Plastics

D618

D618 Practice for Conditioning Plastics for Testing

D638 Test Method for Tensile Properties of Plastics

D648 Test Method for Deflection Temperature of Plastics Under Flexural Load in the Edgewise Position

D790 Test Methods for Flexural Properties of Unreinforced and Reinforced Plastics and Electrical Insulating Materials

¹ This classification system is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D20 on Plastics and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D20.15 on Thermoplastic Materials.

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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.

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

TABLE 1 Testing Parameters

ASTM Test Method	Test Specimen and Testing Parameters
D638	Type I, 3.2-mm thickness, crosshead speed of 5 mm/min for reinforced materials and 50 mm/min for unreinforced materials.
D790	3.2 by 12.7-mm specimen, tested by Method I, Procedure A (tangent) with a crosshead speed of 1.3 mm/min and a span to depth ratio of 16 to 1.
D256	3.2 by 12.7-mm specimen, tested by Test Method A.
D648	3.2 by 12.7-mm specimen, 102-mm support span, unannealed prior to testing.

D792 [Test Methods for Density and Specific Gravity \(Relative Density\) of Plastics by Displacement](#)

D883 [Terminology Relating to Plastics](#)

D1600 [Terminology for Abbreviated Terms Relating to Plastics](#)

~~D1898 Practice for Sampling of Plastics~~

D3892 [Practice for Packaging/Packing of Plastics](#)

D4000 [Classification System for Specifying Plastic Materials](#)

E29 [Practice for Using Significant Digits in Test Data to Determine Conformance with Specifications](#)

2.2 *Underwriters Laboratories:*

UL 94 Standards for Tests for Flammability for Parts in Devices and Appliances³

3. Terminology

3.1 The terminology used in this classification is in accordance with Terminologies D883 and D1600.

3.2 The polyphenylene ether materials will be designated PPE as specified in Terminology D1600.

4. Classification

4.1 Polyphenylene ether-based materials are classified into groups according to their compositions. These groups are subdivided into classes and grades, as shown in Table PPE.

TABLE PPE Requirements for Polyphenylene Ether (PPE) Materials

NOTE 1—Values given are for natural materials only. Other colors may be different.^A

Group Description	Class Description	Grade Description	Heat Deflection, min		Specific Gravity, ASTM D792, min	Tensile Strength, D638, ^{B,C} MPa, min	Flexural Modulus, D790, ^{B,C} MPa, min	Izod Impact, D256, ^{B,D} J/m, min	
			at 1.82 MPa, D648, ^B °C	at 0.45 MPa, D648, ^B °C					
1 Unmodified	1 general purpose	0 other	<i>E</i>						
	2 flame retardant ^F	0 other	<i>E</i>						
	0 other	0 other	<i>E</i>						
2 PS modified materials	1 general purpose	1	90	N/A ^G	1.03	32	1750	265	
		2	100	N/A ^G	1.03	38	1900	240	
		3	100	N/A ^G	1.03	44	2150	185	
		4	110	N/A ^G	1.04	55	2300	160	
		5	130	N/A ^G	1.05	57	2300	160	
		0 other
	2 flame retardant ^F	1	67	N/A ^G	1.06	36	2200	190	
		2	80	N/A ^G	1.07	40	2250	130	
		3	85	N/A ^G	1.07	48	2350	100	
		4	105	N/A ^G	1.07	55	2350	160	
		5	125	N/A ^G	1.08	60	2500	160	
		0 other
		0 other	0 other
3 PA modified materials	1 general purpose	1	N/A ^G	145	1.05	50	2000	170	
		2	N/A ^G	155	1.05	50	2000	160	
		3	N/A ^G	170	1.05	50	1800	530	
		4	N/A ^G	180	1.05	55	2000	185	
		5	N/A ^G	195	1.05	58	2200	160	
	0 other	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	2 flame retardant ^F	0 other	<i>E</i>						
		0 other	0 other	<i>E</i>					
	0 other	0 other	...	...	...	...	...	...

³ Available from Underwriters Laboratories Inc. Publications Stock, 333 Pfingsten Road, Northbrook, IL 60067.

Group Description	Class Description	Grade Description	Heat Deflection, min		Specific Gravity, ASTM D792, min	Tensile Strength, D638, ^{B,C} MPa, min	Flexural Modulus, D790, ^{B,C} MPa, min	Izod Impact, D256, ^{B,D} J/m, min
			at 1.82 MPa, D648, ^B °C	at 0.45 MPa, D648, ^B °C				
4 Other	1 general purpose	0 other	...	...	...	...	...	...
	2 flame retardant ^F	0 other	...	...	...	...	...	...
	0 other	0 other	...	...	...	...	...	...
5 Rework modified	1 general purpose	0 other	...	...	...	...	...	...
	2 flame retardant ^F	0 other	...	...	...	...	...	...
	0 other	0 other	...	...	...	...	...	...

^A Use Tables A and B where necessary for colored materials.
^B See Table 1 for test parameters and conditions.
^C MPa × 145 = psi.
^D J/m × 0.01873 = ft-lbf/in.
^E Unfilled materials currently not available. Use Table A.
^F Flammability ratings determined in accordance with UL 94.
^G N/A—Not applicable for grade description.

TABLE A Reinforced Polyphenylene Ether Materials, Details Requirements

Designation Order Number	Property	Cell Limits									
		0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Heat deflection temperature, ^A D648, ^B 1.82 MPa, °C, min	unspecified	100	110	120	130	140	150	160	170	specify value
2	Heat deflection temperature, ^A D648, ^B 0.45 MPa, °C, min	unspecified	180	190	200	210	220	230	240	250	specify value
3	Tensile strength, D638, ^B MPa, ^C min	unspecified	45	55	65	80	100	120	140	160	specify value
4	Flexural modulus, D790, ^B MPa, ^C min	unspecified	2000	3000	4000	5000	6000	7500	9000	10 500	specify value
5	Izod impact, D256, ^B J/m, ^D min	unspecified	25	50	75	100	125	150	200	250	specify value

^A For specifying HDT use the “order number” corresponding to the appropriate test conditions for the material being defined. It is intended that one or the other of these requirements be used unless specific agreement between the supplier and the user requires both.
^B See Table 1 for test specimen sizes.
^C MPa × 145 = psi.
^D J/m × 0.01873 = ft-lbf/in.

TABLE B Unreinforced Polyphenylene Ether Materials, Details Requirements

Designation Order Number	Property	Cell Limits									
		0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Heat deflection temperature, ^A D648, ^B 1.82 MPa, °C, min	unspecified	65	75	85	95	105	115	125	135	specify value
2	Heat deflection temperature, ^A D648, ^B 0.45 MPa, °C, min	unspecified	125	135	145	155	165	175	185	195	specify value
3	Tensile strength, D638, ^B MPa, ^C min	unspecified	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	specify value
4	Flexural modulus, D790, ^B MPa, ^C min	unspecified	1500	1800	2100	2400	2700	3000	3300	3600	specify value
5	Izod impact, D256, ^B J/m, ^D min	unspecified	100	150	200	250	300	400	500	600	specify value

^A For specifying HDT use the “order number” corresponding to the appropriate test conditions for the material being defined. It is intended that one or the other of these requirements be used unless specific agreement between the supplier and the user requires both.
^B See Table 1 for test specimen sizes.
^C MPa × 145 = psi.
^D J/m × 0.01873 = ft-lbf/in.

NOTE 4—An example of this classification system is as follows:
The designation ASTM D4349 PPE 223 would indicate:

PPE	=	polyphenylene ether,
2	=	polystyrene-modified material (Group),
2	=	flame retardant (Class Description), and
3	=	requirements given in Table PPE.

4.1.1 To facilitate the incorporation of future or special materials, the “other/unspecified” category (0) for group, class, and grade is shown in Table PPE. The basic properties can be obtained from Tables A and B as they apply (see 4.3).