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Standard Test Method for Pore Size Characteristics of Geotextiles by Capillary Flow Test[1]

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D6767; 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 test method covers the determination of the pore size distribution of geotextile filters with pore sizes ranging from 1 to 500 µm.

NOTE 1—The accuracy of this procedure has been verified up to a maximum pore size of 200 µm. Above this value accuracy has been found to be equipment dependent and should be verified by the user through checks on materials with known opening sizes.

1.2 The test method measures the entire pore size distribution in terms of a surface analysis of specified pore sizes in a geotextile, defined in terms of the limiting diameters.

1.3 The analyst should be aware that adequate collaborative data for bias statements as required by Practice D2777 is not provided. See the precision and bias section for details.

1.4 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as standard. No other units of measurement are included in this standard.

1.5 *This standard may involve hazardous materials, operations, and equipment. 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.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*[2]

D1129 Terminology Relating to Water

D2777 Practice for Determination of Precision and Bias of Applicable Test Methods of Committee D19 on Water

D4354 Practice for Sampling of Geosynthetics for Testing

D4439 Terminology for Geosynthetics

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—For definitions of other terms used in these test methods, refer to Definitions D4439 and D1129.

3.2 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

3.2.1 *bubble point pore size (O_{98})* , *n*—the largest effective pore diameter detected by the sudden increase of flow rate at the beginning of the wet test.

3.2.2 *pore constriction (O)*, *n*—diameter of a circle having the same area as the smallest section of a given pore.

3.2.3 *pore size (O_i)*, *n*—capillary equivalent pore diameter for which the percent of total pore diameters i in a given geotextile based on the surface occupied by the pores are smaller than or equal to that diameter.

3.2.4 *pore size distribution (PSD)*, *n*—percent cumulative distribution of the complete range of pore sizes with in a given geotextile based on the surface occupied by the pores.

3.2.5 *wetting liquid*, *n*—liquid used to submerge the geotextile specimen prior to beginning the test.

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 Geotextile filters have discrete pores from one side to the other of the geotextile. The bubble point test is based on the principle that a wetting liquid is held in these continuous pores by capillary attraction and surface tension, and the minimum pressure required to force liquid from these pores is a function of pore diameter.

4.2 A fluid-wet geotextile will pass air when the applied air pressure exceeds the capillary attraction of the fluid in the pore

[1] This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D35 on Geosynthetics and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D35.03 on Permeability and Filtration.

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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.

constriction. Smaller pore constrictions will exhibit similar behavior at higher pressures. The relationship between pore size and pressure has been established for water.

4.3 By comparing the gas flow rates of both a wet and dry geotextile at the same pressures, the percentage of the flow passing through the filter pores larger than or equal to the specified size may be calculated from the pressure-size relationship. By increasing pressure in small steps, it is possible to determine the flow contribution of very small pore size increments by difference.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 This test method may be used to:

5.1.1 Determine the pore size distribution of a geotextile,

5.1.2 Determine the maximum pore size of a geotextile,

5.1.3 Determine the mean flow pore size of a geotextile,

5.1.4 Determine the effect of processes such as calendering or needle punching upon the pore size distribution,

5.1.5 Determine the effect of compression upon the pore size distribution of a geotextile, and

5.1.6 Determine the gas flow rate of a geotextile, and thereby its gas flow capability.

5.2 The pore size distribution test is significant not only for indicating pore sizes, but may also indicate a damaged, contaminated, or clogged geotextile.

6. Apparatus [3]

6.1 *Clean Gas Pressure Source*, with regulation (filtered air or nitrogen).

6.2 *Pressure Transducer, U-tube Manometer or Gage*, (or set of gages), covering the necessary pressure range for the pore sizes under study (see Table 1).

NOTE 2—Pressure measurements must be installed immediately upstream (for example, within 5 mm) of the sample holder.

6.3 *Closed Filter Holder*, (see Fig. 1 and Fig. 2).

NOTE 3—The filter holder should be checked for leaks by placing a geomembrane in the holder and increasing the pressure to 70 kN/m^2 and holding it for a period of one minute.

6.4 *Metal Punch*, used to cut a suitable size geotextile from the test sheet to fit the test filter holder.

6.5 *Set of Flowmeters*, covering the range from 0 to 5000 L/min.

NOTE 4—Four flowmeters with flow rates of 0 to 0.4, 0 to 2.5, 0 to 25, and 0 to 100 L/min, placed in a parallel arrangement to cover the range of flow rates anticipated are recommended for geotextiles. The smallest flow rate that could be measured by the flowmeters is typically reported to be 0.02 L/min. The manufacturer-rated precision of each flowmeter is typically reported to be 0.25 percent of the maximum reading.

6.6 *In-Line Fluid Trap*, to protect the flowmeters from the fluid.

6.7 *Appropriate Fittings, Hose, Connectors, Piping*, to assemble apparatus as shown in ~~Figs. 2 and~~ Figs. 3 and ~~3~~4.

6.8 *x-y Recorder*, to assist in graphing results of mean flow pore test.

7. Sampling

7.1 *Lot Sample*—For routine Quality Control testing, divide the product into lots and take the lot sample as directed in Practice D4354, Section 7 "Procedure B Sampling for Quality Assurance Testing." For Specification Conformance testing, sample as directed in Practice D4354, Section 6 "Procedure A-Sampling for Specification Conformance."

7.2 *Laboratory Sample*—As a laboratory sample for acceptance testing, take a full width swatch 1 m long from the end of each roll of fabric in the lot sample, after first discarding a minimum of 1 m of fabric from the very outside of the roll.

7.3 *Test Specimens*—Cut five specimens from each swatch in the laboratory sample with each specimen being cut to fit the appropriate sieve pan. Cut the specimens from a single swatch spaced along a diagonal line on the swatch.

[3] Different equipment is available for obtaining pore size measurements including commercially available equipment from Porous Materials Inc. (PMI) (with special modifications for ~~geotextiles) and Beckman Coulter, Inc.~~geotextiles). The equipment developers should be contacted for limitation specifically in relation to measuring the larger opening sizes of geotextiles.

TABLE 1 Pressure Ranges Required

Fluid Used	Pore Size Range to be Investigated				Surface Tension dynes/cm at 25°C
	≥ 100 µm	≥ 50 µm	≥ 10 µm	≥ 1 µm	
Water	0 to 2.5 kPa	0 to 7.5 kPa	0 to 25 kPa	0 to 200 kPa	72
Petroleum distillate				0 to 100 kPa	30
Mineral oil				0 to 75 kPa	34.7

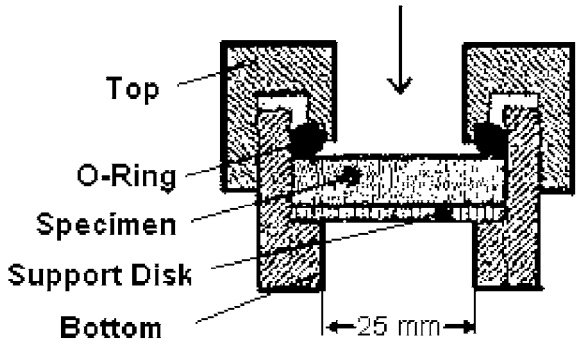

FIG. 1 Closed Filter Holder

FIG. 2 Picture of One Holder

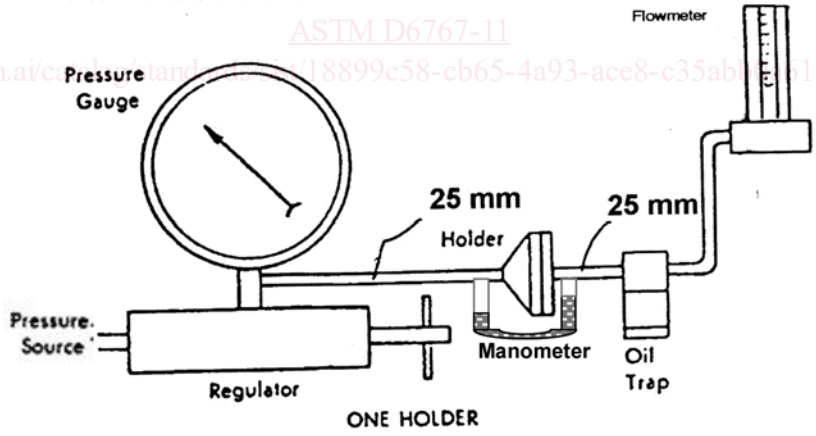

FIG. ~~2~~ 3 Setup for One Holder

8. Specimen Preparation

8.1 Weigh the specimens, submerge them in water for 1 h, and then allow the specimens to air dry at the standard atmosphere for testing. The specimen must be completely dry before testing. Weigh the specimen after air drying until a constant weight equal to or less than the initial weight of the specimen is achieved. Air may be blown over the specimens with a fan to facilitate drying.

9. Wetting Liquids

9.1 *Purity of Reagents*—Reagent grade chemicals shall be used for wetting liquids in all tests. Unless otherwise indicated, it is intended that all reagents shall conform to the specifications of the Committee on Analytical Reagents of the American Chemical