

# Standard Classification System for Nonmetallic Gasket Materials<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation F104; 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 ( $\varepsilon$ ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

This standard has been approved for use by agencies of the Department of Defense.

#### 1. Scope

1.1 This classification system<sup>2</sup> provides a means for specifying or describing pertinent properties of commercial nonmetallic gasket materials. Materials composed of asbestos, cork, cellulose, and other organic or inorganic materials in combination with various binders or impregnants are included. Materials normally classified as rubber compounds are not included, since they are covered in Classification D2000. Gasket coatings are not covered, since details thereof are intended to be given on engineering drawings or in separate specifications. Facing materials for laminate composite gasket materials (LCGM) are included in Classification System F104. Assembled LCGMs are covered in Classification F868.

1.2 Since all of the properties that contribute to gasket performance are not included, use of the classification system as a basis for selecting materials is limited.

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 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:<sup>2</sup>

C561 Test Method for Ash in a Graphite Sample D1170 Specification for Nonmetallic Gasket Materials for General Automotive and Aeronautical Purposes (Withdrawn 1968)<sup>3</sup>

- D2000 Classification System for Rubber Products in Automotive Applications
- D5964 Practice for Rubber IRM 901, IRM 902, and IRM 903 Replacement Oils forASTM No. 1, ASTM No. 2, and ASTM No. 3 Oils
- E11 Specification for Woven Wire Test Sieve Cloth and Test Sieves
- F36 Test Method for Compressibility and Recovery of Gasket Materials
- F37 Test Methods for Sealability of Gasket Materials
- F38 Test Methods for Creep Relaxation of a Gasket Material

F146 Test Methods for Fluid Resistance of Gasket Materials

F147 Test Method for Flexibility of Non-Metallic Gasket Materials

- F148 Test Method for Binder Durability of Cork Composition Gasket Materials
- F152 Test Methods for Tension Testing of Nonmetallic Gasket Materials
- F433 Practice for Evaluating Thermal Conductivity of Gasket Materials
- F607 Test Method for Adhesion of Gasket Materials to Metal Surfaces
- F868 Classification for Laminated Composite Gasket Materials

F1315 Test Method for Density of a Sheet Gasket Material G21 Practice for Determining Resistance of Synthetic Polymeric Materials to Fungi

#### 3. Significance and Use

3.1 This classification system is intended to encourage uniformity in reporting properties; to provide a common language for communications between suppliers and consumers; to guide engineers and designers in the test methods commonly used for commercially available materials; and to be versatile enough to cover new materials and test methods as they are introduced.

3.2 This system is based on the principle that nonmetallic gasket materials can be described in terms of specific physical and mechanical properties. This enables the user, or producer, to characterize a nonmetallic gasket based on properties that are important for the application.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> This classification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F03 on Gaskets and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F03.30 on Classification. Current edition approved April 1, 2011. Published May 2011. Originally approved in 1968. Last previous edition approved in 2009 as F104 – 03 (2009). DOI: 10.1520/F0104-11.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> 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.

 $<sup>^{3}\,\</sup>text{The}$  last approved version of this historical standard is referenced on www.astm.org.

# 4. Basis of Classification

4.1 To permit "line call-out" of a material's physical and mechanical properties, this classification system establishes letter and number symbols for various performance levels of each property or characteristic.

4.2 Each "line call out" shall include:

- ASTM F104

- In parentheses, the letter "F" followed by 6 numerals describing the required basic characteristics per 8.1.

- Within the same parentheses, a dash "-" shall follow the basic characteristics, along with any supplemental characteristics per 8.2.

All six (6) numeric fields defining the basic characteristics must be occupied. If a particular characteristic is not required, a "0" must be used as a placeholder to indicate such.

4.3 The six (6) numeric fields used in the basic characteristics define (in order):

(1) Principal reinforcement

- (2) Manufacturing method
- (3) Compressibility
- (4) Thickness increase in IRM 903 oil
- (5) Weight increase in IRM 903 oil
- (6) Weight increase in water

#### Example 1:

ASTM F104 (F725400) describes a gasket material with only basic characteristics defined as follows: first numeral -7 (non-asbestos fiber, tested as type 1); second numeral -2 (beater process); third numeral -5 (20 to 30 % compressibility per Test Method F36); forth numeral -4 (15 to 30 % thickness increase after immersion in IRM 903 Oil per Test Methods F146); fifth numeral -0 (no Requirement for weight increase in IRM 903 oil per Test Methods F146); sixth numeral -0 (no requirement for weight increase in water per Test Methods F146).

4.4 Supplemental characteristics may be added to line call out based on the needs of the application. The alpha numerics used to specify various supplemental characteristics are defined in 8.2.

Example 2:

ASTM F104 (F725400-B5E66M4) describes a gasket material with the same basic characteristics defined by Example 1, along with supplemental characteristics defined as follows: B5 (30 % creep relaxation per Test Methods F38); E66 (60 % weight change, and 15 to 35 % thickness change in ASTM Fuel B per Test Methods F146); M4 (no less than 6.895 MPa tensile strength per Test Methods F152).

4.5 The numeral "9" is used when the description of any characteristic (or test related thereto) is specified by some supplement to this classification system, such as notes on engineering drawings. This notation may be used to modify a test characteristic to a value not available in the tables; define gasket binder type; note use and type of a surface release agent; or note use and type of an adhesive system.

Example 3:

Using the same example and adding an L suffix requirement, ASTM F104 (F725400-B5E66M4L169), since the 9 needs to be defined on the engineering drawing, it is recommended to define the "As Specified" requirement immediately after the F104 line call out. In this case, for L169, the 1 defines the primary fiber as Aramid, the 6 indicates the secondary fiber is cellulose both per 8.2, and the 9 is defined immediately after the line call out as shown here:

ASTM F104 (F725400-B5E66M4L169); L169 (ACM Binder)

Note 1—While this "cell-type" format provides the means for close characterization and specification of each property and combinations of properties for a broad range of materials, it is subject to possible misapplications, since impossible property combinations can be coded if the user is not familiar with available commercial materials. Appendix X1 indicates properties, characteristics, and test methods that are normally considered applicable to each type of material.

# 5. Thickness Requirements

5.1 Thickness tolerance guidelines for materials identified by this classification system are provided in 8.4. Use of these guidelines as a requirement must be based on an agreement between part/material provider and end user.

5.2 Unless specified by an ASTM method, default test thickness shall be:

All materials except	0.8 mm (0.030 in.)
Type 2 and Type 5 Class 1	
Type 2 materials	1.5 to 6.4 mm (0.060 to 0.25 in.)
Type 5. Class 1 materials	0.4 mm (0.015 in.)

#### 6. Sampling

6.1 Specimens shall be selected from finished gaskets or sheets of suitable size, whichever is the more practicable. If sheets are used, they shall, where applicable, be cut squarely with the grain of the stock, and the grain direction shall be noted by an arrow. If finished gaskets are used, the dimensions of sample and any variations from method must be reported.

6.2 Sufficient specimens shall be selected to provide a minimum of three determinations for each test specified. The average of the determinations shall be considered as the result.

# 7. Conditioning

7.1 Prior to all applicable tests, specimens shall be conditioned as follows:

TYPE CLASS	CONDITIONING
1 All Except 3	Oven conditioned at 100°C ( $212^{\circ}$ F) for 1 h. Cool to 21 to $30^{\circ}$ C (70 to $85^{\circ}$ E) in a desirctor containing
	anhydrous calcium chloride
1 3	Oven condition at $100 \pm 2^{\circ}C$ (212 $\pm 3.6^{\circ}F$ ) for 4 h.
	Cool to 21 to 30°C (70 to 85°F) in a desiccator
	containing anhydrous calcium chloride.
2 All	Controlled humidity room or closed chamber at
	21 to 30°C (70 to 85°F) and 50 to 55 % relative
	humidity for at least 46 h.
0, 3, or 9 All	Preconditioned at 21 to 30°C (70 to 85°F) for 4 h
	in a closed chamber containing anhydrous calcium
	chloride as a desiccant. The air in the chamber shall
	be circulated by gentle mechanical agitation.
	Specimens shall then be transferred immediately to
	a controlled-humidity room or closed chamber with
	gentle mechanical circulation of the air and conditioned
	at 21 to $30^{\circ}$ C (70 to $85^{\circ}$ F) and 50 to 55 % relative
	humidity for at least 20 h. If a mechanical means of
	maintaining 50 to 55 % relative numidity is not available
	a tray containing a saturated solution of reagent grade
	the chamber to provide the required relative humidity
4 All	No conditioning required
	Over conditioning required.
5, 7, 01 6 All	21 to $30^{\circ}$ C (70 to $85^{\circ}$ E) in a desiccator containing

7.2 In all cases where testing is conducted outside the area of specified humidity, specimens shall be removed from the chamber one at a time just prior to testing.

#### 8. Classification Tables

8.1 Table 1 presents the basic 6 numeric fields and the available physical and mechanical characteristic and the definition of each placeholder in that field.

8.2 Table 2 presents the available supplementary physical and mechanical characteristics and the defined requirements.

8.3 Table 3 contains guideline material thickness tolerances. The tolerances in this table may not be applicable to all types of gasket materials. These values should not be used as part tolerances unless previously agreed on between producer and end user.

#### 8.4 Thickness:

8.4.1 Measure the specimens with a device actuated by a dead-weight load. The device shall be capable of reading in 0.02-mm (0.001-in.) or smaller units, and readings shall be estimated to the nearest 0.002 mm (0.0001 in.). The presser foot shall be  $6.40 \pm 0.13$  mm (0.252  $\pm 0.005$  in.) in diameter. The anvil shall have a diameter not less than that of the presser foot. The pressure on the sample shall be as specified in Table 4.

8.4.2 Take the reading by lowering the presser foot gently until it is in contact with the specimen. Take a sufficient number of readings, depending on the size of the specimen, to provide a reliable average value.

#### 9. Keywords

9.1 classification; description; gasket; line call-out; nonmetallic gasket; physical and mechanical properties; specification; testing

# <u>ASTM F104-11</u>

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# TABLE 1 Basic Physical and Mechanical Characteristics

Basic Six-Digit Number	Basic Characteristic				
First Numeral	<i>"Type" of material</i> (the principal fibrous, particulate, or first numeral of the basic six-digit number, as follows:	reinforcement material from which the gasket is made) shall conform to the			
	0 = not specified	5 = flexible graphite			
	1 = asbestos	7 = nonasbestos fiber, tested as Type 1			
	2 = cork	8 = vermiculite			
	3 = cellulose	$9 = as specified^{A}$			
	4 = fluorocarbon polymer				
Second Numeral	Class of material (method of manufacture or common number, as follows:	trade designation) shall conform to the second numeral of the basic six-digit			
	0 = 0 or specified				
	When first numeral is "1" or "7," second numeral:				
	1 = compressed sheeter process				
	2 = beater process				
	3 = paper and millipoard				
	9 = as specified When first numeral is "2" second numeral:				
	0 = not specified				
	1 = cork composition (Class 1)				
	2 = cork and elastomeric (Class 2)				
	3 = cork and cellular rubber (Class 3) $9 = \text{as specified}^A$				
	When <i>first</i> numeral is "3," second numeral:				
	0 = not specified				
	1 = untreated fiber—tag, chipboard, vulcanized fit 2 = protein treated (Class 2)	per, etc. (Class 1)			
	3 = elastomeric treated (Class 3)				
	4 = thermosetting resin treated (Class 4)				
	9 = as specified <sup>A</sup>				
	When <i>tirst</i> numeral is "4," second numeral:				
	1 = sheet PTFF				
	2 = PTFE of expanded structure				
	3 = PTFE filaments, braided, or woven				
	4 = PTFE felts				
	5 = filled PTFE				
	9 = as specified When first numeral is "5" or "8" second numeral:				
	0 = not specified				
	1 = homogeneous sheet <u>ASTM F104</u>				
	2 = laminated sheet 9 = as specified <sup>A</sup> dands/sist/142ad961-7				
Third Numeral	Compressibility characteristics determined in accorda	nce with Test Method E36, shall conform to the percent indicated by the third			
	numeral of the basic six-digit number. (Example: $4 = 1$	5 to 25 %)			
	0 = not specified	5 = 20 to 30 %			
	1 = 0 to 10 %	6 = 25 to 40 %			
	2 = 5 to 15 %*	7 = 30 to 50 %			
	3 = 10 to 20 %	8 = 40  to  60 %			
	4 = 15  to  25 %	9 = as specified			
	7 to 17 % for compressed sneeter process				
Fourth Numeral	Thickness increase when immersed in IRM 903 Oil: <sup>B</sup> indicated by the fourth numeral of the basic six-digit n	determined in accordance with Test Method F146, shall conform to the percent umber. (Example: $4 = 15$ to $30 \%$ )			
	0 = not specified	5 = 20 to 40 %			
	1 = 0 to 15 %	6 = 30 to 50 %			
	2 = 5 to 20 %	7 = 40 to 60 %			
	3 = 10 to 25 % 4 = 15 to 30 %	8 = 50 to 70 % 9 = as specified <sup>A</sup>			
Fifth Numeral	Weight increase when immersed in IRM 903 Oil. <sup>B</sup> detrindicated by the fifth numeral of the basic six-digit num	ermined in accordance with Test Method F146, shall conform to the percent nber. (Example: 4 = 30 % max)			
	0 = not specified	5 = 40 %, max			
	1 = 10 %, max	6 = 60 %, max			
	2 = 15 %, max	7 = 80 %, max			
	3 = 20 %, max	8 = 100 %, max			
	4 = 30 %, max	$9 = as specified^{A}$			

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TABLE 1 Continued

Basic Six-Digit Number	Basic Characteristic		
Sixth Numeral	Weight increase when immersed in water: determined in accordance with Test Method F146, shall conform to the percent indiby the sixth numeral of the basic six-digit number. See left and below. (Example: $4 = 30 \%$ , max) $0 = not specified$ $5 = 40 \%$ , max $1 = 10 \%$ , max $6 = 60 \%$ , max $2 = 15 \%$ , max $7 = 80 \%$ , max $3 = 20 \%$ , max $8 = 100 \%$ , max $4 = 20 \%$ , max $9 = co$ appreciation		
	4 = 30 %, max	$9 = as specified^A$	

<sup>A</sup> On engineering drawings or other supplement to this classification system.

<sup>*B*</sup> IRM 901 and IRM 903 have replaced ASTM Oils No. 1 and No. 3, respectively. ASTM Oil No. 3 was discontinued due to potential health risks associated with its use. The manufacturer of ASTM Oil No. 1 discontinued it from their product lineup. A new product was developed to meet the same specification. The user should be aware that results may differ using the IRM oils versus the corresponding obsolete ASTM Oils. IRMs 901 and 903 have been approved by Committee D11, per Practice D5964, as a replacement for ASTM Oils No. 1 and 3. These oils are available from R. E. Carroll, Inc. P.O. Box 5806, Trenton, NJ 08638.

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<u>ASTM F104-11</u>

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# TABLE 2 Supplementary Physical and Mechanical Characteristics

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Suffix Symbol	Supplementary Ch	naracteristics		
A9	Sealability characteristics shall be deter	mined in accordance with Test Method	F37. External load, internal pressure, other	
	details of test, and results shall be as sr	pecified on engineering drawing or othe	r supplement to this classification.	
B1 through B9	Creep relaxation characteristics shall be	e determined in accordance with Test M	ethod F38. Loss of stress at end of 24 h shall	
0	not exceed the amount indicated by the	numeral of the B-symbol.		
	B1 = 10 %	B5 = 30 %		
	B2 = 15%	B6 = 40 %		
	B3 - 20 %	B7 = 50 %		
	B4 = 25 %	B8 = 60 %		
	D4 = 23 %	B0 = 35 specified <sup>A</sup>		
D00 through D99	The former ASTM standard E64. Test M	lethod for Corrosive and Adhesive Effect	ts of Gasket Materials on Metal Surfaces, was	
Doo through Doo	discontinued in 1990. The newly establish	shad tast for adhesion has become Tos	t Mothod E607	
E00 through E00	Weight and thickness change after imm	sheu lest for auflesion has become res	ined in accordance with Test Method E146	
E00 through E99	Weight increase shall not exceed the st	and ard rating number indicated by the	first numeral of the two digit number of the	
	Weight increase shall not exceed the standard rating number indicated by the <i>first</i> numeral of the two-digit number of the			
	White because shall not exceed the standard rating number indicated by the second numeral of the E-symbol.			
	(first numeral)	(cocord numeral)		
	(11St Humeral)	(Second Humeral)		
	$E0_{=}$ = not specified	$E_0 = 100$ specified		
	E1_= 10	$E_1 = 0-5$		
	E2_ = 15	$E_2 = 0 - 10$		
	E3_=20	$E_3 = 0 - 15$		
	$E4_ = 30$	$E_4 = 3-20$		
	E5_=40	$E_{5} = 10-25$		
	E6_ = 60	$E_6 = 15 - 35$		
	$E_{1} = 80$	$E_{-} = 25 - 45$		
	$E8_{-} = 100$	$E_8 = 30-60$		
	$E9_=as specified^A$	$E_9 = as specified^A$		
G000 through G999	Flexible graphite density shall be indicat	ted by the first numeral of the three dig	it number of the G-symbol as measured by	
	Test Method F1315. Default density tole	erance is ±10 %.		
	Ash content shall be indicated by the se	econd numeral of the three digit number	r of the G-symbol as measured by Test Method	
	C561.			
	Oxidation weight loss shall be indicated	by the third numeral of the three digit r	number of the G-symbol as measured by FSA-	
	G-604-07 Method B (24 h at 593°C).	tand ard c		
	Density	Ash Content	Oxidation weight	
	(first numeral)	(second numeral)	loss	
			(third numeral)	
	G-0 = Not specified	G-0 = Not specified	G-0 = Not specified	
	G-1 = 0.1 g/cc (6.2 lb/ft <sup>3</sup> )	G-1 = <15 %	G-1 = <70 %	
	$G-2 = 0.2 \text{ g/cc} (12.4 \text{ lb/ft}^3)$	G-2 = <5 %	G-2 = <50 %	
	G-3 = 0.7 g/cc (43.7 lb/ft <sup>3</sup> )	G-3 = <3 %	G-3 = <20 %	
	$G-4 = 1.0 \text{ g/cc} (62.4 \text{ lb/ft}^3)$	G-4 = <2 %	G-4 = <10 %	
	G-5 = 1.12 g/cc (70.0 lb/ft <sup>3</sup> )	G-5 = <1 %	G-5 = <5 %	
	G-6 = 1.4 g/cc (87.4 lb/ft <sup>3</sup> )	G-6 = <0.5 %	$G-9 = As specified^{A}$	
	$G-9 = As \text{ specified}^A \qquad ASTN$	$G-9 = As specified^A$		
Н	Adhesion characteristics shall be determ	nined in accordance with Test Method F	607. Results shall be as specified on engi-	
	neering drawing or other supplement to	this classification. 82c-b209-1b5		
K1 through K9	THERMAL CONDUCTIVITY characteris	tics shall be determined in accordance	with Practice F433 using a temperature of 100	
C C	$\pm$ 2°C (212 $\pm$ 3.6°F). The <i>k</i> -factor obtain	ned in W/(m·K) [Btu·in./h·ft <sup>2</sup> ·°F] shall fall	within the ranges indicated by the numeral of	
	a K symbol. Thermal conductivity testing	g is normally run as a development tool	I. This shall not be used as a certifiable re-	
	quirement unless previously agreed on	between material producer and end use	er.	
	K1 = 0 to 0.09 (0 to 0.65)	K5 = 0.29 to 0.38 (2.00 to		
		2.65)		
	K2 = 0.07 to 0.17 (0.50 to	K6 = 0.36 to 0.45 (2.50 to		
	1.15)	3.15)		
	K3 = 0.14 to 0.24 (1.00 to	K7 = 0.43 to 0.53 (3.00 to		
	1.65)	3.65)		
	K4 = 0.22 to 0.31 (1.50 to	K8 = 0.50  to  0.60 (3.50  to)		
	2.15)	4.15)		
	,	$K9 = as specified^{A}$		
1 000 through 1 999	Type 7 Class 1 or Class 2 materials Fi	irst fiber constituent indicated by the first	st numeral of the three-digit number of the	
	rype r, oracs i or oracs a materials, materials consumer monated by the institute and the inter-digit number of the levents.			
	L-symbol. Second meet constituent indicated by the second number of the L-symbol. Binder con- stituent indicated by the third number of the three-digit number of the L-symbol.			
	Firet Fibor		Binder	
	(first numoral)	(second numeral)	(third numeral)	
	(115t furtheral)	(Second numeral)		
		Lu = not specilieu	LU =	
	11 Aromid	11 Aromid		
	L1 = Aramia	L1 = Aramid		
	L2 = Glass	L2 = Glass	L2 = SBR	
	L3 = Carbon	L3 = Carbon	L3 = CR	
	L4 = Graphite	L4 = Graphite	L4 = EPDM	
	L5 = Mineral/Inorganic	L5 = Mineral/Inorganic	L5 = IR	
	L6 = Cellulose	L6 = Cellulose	L6 = CSM	
	$L9 = as specified^{A}$	L7 = none	L7 = HNBR	
		$L9 = as specified^{A}$	L9 =	
			as specified <sup>A</sup>	