



Designation: E2785 – 11

# Standard Test Method for Exposure of Firestop Materials to Severe Environmental Conditions<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation E2785; 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 ( $\epsilon$ ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

## INTRODUCTION

Firestops are installed in buildings to prevent the spread of fire. Each firestop design is dependent on its specific arrangement, thickness, density, and shape of materials used in its construction and upon the specific assembly in which it is fire tested. There are at least five types of materials used in firestops. They are endothermic, intumescent, insulative, subliming, and ablative. Some firestops use more than one type in a specific design. The purpose of this test method is to provide a common set of procedures for evaluating the potential behavior of materials used in firestops to various environmental conditions. There are other materials used in firestop systems that are not of the five types listed above, which are not intended to be evaluated by this test method.

## 1. Scope

1.1 This test method evaluates a change in physical properties, chemical properties, or both, of firestop materials after a standardized environmental exposure. This test method does not evaluate the fire performance of the firestop materials.

1.2 This test method establishes indicators that will aid in determining the use of the tested material in buildings.

1.3 This test method evaluates the properties of component products used within a firestop system, and does not evaluate the properties of assembled firestop systems.

NOTE 1—This test method does not preclude the possibility of exposing complete firestop systems to one or more severe environmental exposures and then exposing the complete firestop system to a fire test.

1.4 This test method is intended to be a screening method in the evaluation of the relative behavior of a specific material before and after a standardized set of severe exposure criteria. Individual tests are not intended to be the only determining factor in evaluating or selecting a firestop material because each test has limitations.

1.5 The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as standard. The values given in parentheses are mathematical conversions to SI units that are provided for information only and are not considered standard.

1.6 *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>

- C177 Test Method for Steady-State Heat Flux Measurements and Thermal Transmission Properties by Means of the Guarded-Hot-Plate Apparatus
- C1442 Practice for Conducting Tests on Sealants Using Artificial Weathering Apparatus
- D412 Test Methods for Vulcanized Rubber and Thermoplastic Elastomers—Tension
- D870 Practice for Testing Water Resistance of Coatings Using Water Immersion
- D2041 Test Method for Theoretical Maximum Specific Gravity and Density of Bituminous Paving Mixtures
- D3045 Practice for Heat Aging of Plastics Without Load
- D3850 Test Method for Rapid Thermal Degradation of Solid Electrical Insulating Materials By Thermogravimetric Method (TGA)
- D4434 Specification for Poly(Vinyl Chloride) Sheet Roofing
- D4637 Specification for EPDM Sheet Used In Single-Ply Roof Membrane

<sup>1</sup> This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee E06 on Performance of Buildings and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee E06.21 on Serviceability.

Current edition approved Nov. 1, 2011. Published January 2012. DOI: 10.1520/E2785-11.

<sup>2</sup> For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, [www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org), or contact ASTM Customer Service at [service@astm.org](mailto:service@astm.org). For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

- D4714 Test Method for Determination of Effect of Moist Heat (50 % Relative Humidity and 90°C) on Properties of Paper and Board (Withdrawn 2010)<sup>3</sup>
- D5510 Practice for Heat Aging of Oxidatively Degradable Plastics (Withdrawn 2010)<sup>3</sup>
- D5893 Specification for Cold Applied, Single Component, Chemically Curing Silicone Joint Sealant for Portland Cement Concrete Pavements
- D6083 Specification for Liquid Applied Acrylic Coating Used in Roofing
- D6754 Specification for Ketone Ethylene Ester Based Sheet Roofing
- D6878 Specification for Thermoplastic Polyolefin Based Sheet Roofing
- D6947 Specification for Liquid Applied Moisture Cured Polyurethane Coating Used in Spray Polyurethane Foam Roofing System
- E84 Test Method for Surface Burning Characteristics of Building Materials
- E119 Test Methods for Fire Tests of Building Construction and Materials
- E145 Specification for Gravity-Convection and Forced-Ventilation Ovens
- E176 Terminology of Fire Standards
- E473 Terminology Relating to Thermal Analysis and Rheology
- E631 Terminology of Building Constructions
- E814 Test Method for Fire Tests of Penetration Firestop Systems
- F495 Test Method for Weight Loss of Gasket Materials Upon Exposure to Elevated Temperatures
- G151 Practice for Exposing Nonmetallic Materials in Accelerated Test Devices that Use Laboratory Light Sources
- G155 Practice for Operating Xenon Arc Light Apparatus for Exposure of Non-Metallic Materials

### 3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—Definitions in the following standards will prevail for terms not defined in this test method.

3.1.1 For definitions of general terms used in this test method related to building construction, refer to Terminology E631.

3.1.2 For definitions of general terms used in this test method related to fire standards, refer to Terminology E176.

3.1.3 For definitions of general terms used in this test method related to thermal analysis and rheology, refer to Terminology E473.

#### 3.2 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

3.2.1 *ablative, adj*—characterized by the capability for rapidly dissipating heat from a substrate.

3.2.2 *endothermic, adj*—characterized by a process or change that takes place with absorption of heat and requires high temperature for initiation and maintenance.

3.2.3 *insulative, adj*—characterized by an extremely low dielectric constant, low thermal conductivity or both.

3.2.4 *intumescent, adj*—characterized by foaming and swelling when exposed to high surface temperatures or flames.

3.2.5 *subliming, adj*—characterized by the direct passage of a substance from solid to vapor without appearing in the intermediate (liquid) state.

### 4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 This test method describes the following test sequence and procedure:

4.1.1 The firestop material is measured for its physical properties or chemical properties, or both, before exposure to standardized severe environments.

4.1.2 The firestop material is exposed to standardized severe environmental exposures for a specific time period and retested for its physical properties or chemical properties, or both, at various time periods.

4.1.3 After the total exposure time period, the firestop material's physical properties or chemical properties, or both, and performance is calculated and reported as a percentage of initial values.

### 5. Significance and Use

5.1 This test method is intended to evaluate the material performance after exposure to a standardized set of severe environmental conditions. It is understood that these performance values are dependent upon these standardized exposure periods and environmental concentrations. Other values are possible if the exposure period or severe environmental concentration, or both, is changed.

5.2 This test method is intended to be used where the material is exposed to the specific extreme environmental condition in its intended field of application.

5.3 The user shall establish which properties are relevant to the application at hand, in order to determine the properties to be tested.

NOTE 2—It is not intended for all properties to be tested in all cases.

5.4 This test method is intended to evaluate only the following types of materials, as defined by their physical properties or chemical properties, or both, and used in penetration firestops:

- 5.4.1 Endothermic,
- 5.4.2 Intumescent,
- 5.4.3 Insulative,
- 5.4.4 Ablative, and
- 5.4.5 Subliming.

5.5 This test method determines initial physical properties, chemical properties, or both, to allow comparison with physical properties, chemical properties, or both after exposure. The following properties are to be considered, as applicable:

- 5.5.1 Weight loss or gain,
- 5.5.2 Volume expansion,
- 5.5.3 Thermal conductivity,
- 5.5.4 Thermogravimetric analysis (TGA),
- 5.5.5 Differential scanning calorimetry (DSC),
- 5.5.6 Tensile strength and elongation,
- 5.5.7 Visual observations, and
- 5.5.8 Loss on ignition.

<sup>3</sup> The last approved version of this historical standard is referenced on [www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org).

5.6 This test method uses the following exposures:

5.6.1 Elevated temperature,

5.6.2 High humidity,

5.6.3 Carbon dioxide and sulfur dioxide with moisture present,

5.6.4 Water immersion,

5.6.5 Temperature cycling,

5.6.6 Wet-freeze-dry cycling, and

5.6.7 Weathering.

5.7 This test method does not provide any information regarding the actual fire performance of the firestop before or after the exposure tests.

5.8 This test method will provide a comparison between formula and processing changes in materials.

5.9 This test method only provides for a comparison of the tested material before and after a standardized exposure process.

5.10 This test method shall be used as one element in evaluating materials or selecting firestop material(s) for a specific application. Other factors shall be considered, such as its fire performance as tested in accordance with Test Methods **E814** or **E119**, flame spread as tested in accordance with Test Method **E84**, durability, and its compatibility with its adjacent materials.

## 6. Apparatus

6.1 *Accelerated weathering unit* as described in Practice **G151** and, more specifically, Practice **G155**.

6.2 *Cold box or freezer*.

6.3 *Vented air circulating oven*, complying with Specification **E145** that is capable of exposing samples at  $212^{\circ}\text{F} \pm 3.6^{\circ}\text{F}$  ( $100^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 2^{\circ}\text{C}$ ).

6.4 *Balance*, calibrated to weigh specimens to the nearest 0.00035 oz (0.01 g)

6.5 A 6 in. (152 mm) *dial caliper* with a division of 0.01 in. (0.25 mm) or smaller

6.6 A small *hydraulic press* with platens larger than 5 in. (127 mm) square.

6.7 Two nominally 0.125-in. (3.2-mm) thick *metal shims* at least 4 in. (102 mm) long.

6.8 *Release liner paper*.

6.9 A *steel ruler* graduated to  $\frac{1}{64}$  in. (0.40 mm).

6.10 *Environmental chamber* that can be sealed for use of gas.

6.11 A *TGA system*.

6.12 A *DSC system*.

6.13 A *volume expansion measuring system*.

6.14 Other apparatus as specified in the referenced standards.

## 7. Sampling, Test Specimens, and Test Units

7.1 Use as-commercially-supplied material from the manufacturer, with dimensions or form modified to meet the exposure and property testing required. See **7.2** and Section **A1.1**.

7.2 Some materials that are used to seal a penetration in the field require special preparation before samples are exposed to the required environments.

7.2.1 Cast or form samples into the cured or dry state before exposure to the environmental conditions for sealants, putties, coatings, sprays, mortars, and foams.

7.2.2 Cut sheet-type materials such as wrap strips, boards, mats, blankets, pillows, preformed plugs, and sponges into a form designed to be exposed to the environmental conditions.

7.2.3 Make measurements on no less than three specimens for each time increment. Obtain and prepare samples for all exposures.

## 8. Conditioning

8.1 All test specimens shall be conditioned to equilibrium by weight in a room or chamber with a temperature of  $72^{\circ}\text{F} \pm 5^{\circ}\text{F}$  ( $22^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 3^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) at  $50\% \pm 5\%$  RH. Weigh and record the weight of each test specimen once a day until equilibrium is reached. Equilibrium is considered achieved when the weight change is less than 1 % per day. After the samples have reached equilibrium, they are to be retrieved and tested within one hour after removal from the conditioning environment.

## 9. Procedure

9.1 *Control Samples*—For each individual physical property or chemical property, or both, as enumerated in **5.4**, determine and record benchmarks for each material. The benchmark value shall be the measurement prior to any environmental exposure test.

9.2 Subject test specimens to any of the following in **9.2.1-9.2.7**, as requested by the test sponsor, and record the results. The results shall be reported for each required time increment.

9.2.1 *Elevated Temperature Exposure* in accordance with Practice **D3045**, Test Method **D4714**, or Practice **D5510**.

9.2.2 *High Humidity* in accordance with Annex **A1.6**.

9.2.3 *Concentrated Carbon Dioxide and Sulfur Dioxide* in accordance with Annex **A1.2**.

9.2.4 *Water Immersion* in accordance with Practice **D870**.

9.2.5 *Temperature Cycling* in accordance with Annex **A1.3**.

9.2.6 *Wet-Freeze-Dry Cycling* in accordance with Annex **A1.4**.

9.2.7 *Weathering* in accordance with Practice **C1442** using the Xenon-arc procedure. Irradiance level is to be set at  $0.51\text{ W}/(\text{m}^2 \cdot \text{nm})$  at 340 nm for 102 min of light and 18 min of light plus moisture, as detailed in 7.2.3 of Practice **C1442**. As an option, for users who are required to operate the machine at irradiance level of  $0.35\text{ W}/(\text{m}^2 \cdot \text{nm})$ , this exposure may be used with an adjustment using the equation for determining equivalent radiant exposures at different irradiance levels in A1.2 of Practice **C1442**.

9.3 After exposing samples to the conditions in 9.2, determine and record the properties specified in 5.5.1-5.5.8, as applicable.

9.3.1 Mass.

9.3.2 The intumescent expansion ratio for material type 5.4.2.

9.3.3 The thermal conductivity in accordance with Test Method C177 for material type 5.4.3.

9.3.4 The thermo degradation measured by TGA in accordance with Test Method D3850 for material types 5.4.1, 5.4.4, and 5.4.5.

9.3.5 The calorific value measured by DSC in accordance with Test Method D2041 for material types 5.4.1, 5.4.4, and 5.4.5.

9.3.6 Tensile strength and elongation in accordance with Test Methods D412.

9.3.7 Visual appearance.

9.3.8 Loss on ignition according to Test Method F495.

**10. Calculation or Interpretation of Results**

10.1 Express the final results of the exposure tests as a percentage of the change in each physical property or chemical property, or both (LOI, mass, specific heat, etc.), calculated as follows:

$$P = [(A - O)/O] \times 100 \quad (1)$$

where:

*P* = percentage change in property,

*O* = original value, and

*A* = value after environmental exposure.

**11. Report**

11.1 Report the following information:

11.1.1 Name of company supplying material

11.1.2 Name and lot number of material tested.

11.1.3 Designation of active material type (that is, intumescent, endothermic, etc.).

11.1.4 All data for each time interval for each test method.

11.1.5 Test method and designation for standard used for each test method.

11.1.6 Variation to any test method used including reason for variation.

11.1.7 Sample preparation procedure for all exposure tests and property tests.

11.1.8 Temperature or temperatures selected for exposure studies with reason for selection (for example, 194°F (90°C), as material reacts (intumesces) above 212°F (100°C)).

11.1.9 Irradiance level and exposure times used for Xenon-arc exposure.

11.2 All data shall be in a form similar to Table 1.

11.3 All graphs (before exposure and after exposure to environmental conditions) for TGA, DSC, and temperature profile for exposure data if more than one temperature is used in study.

**12. Precision and Bias**

12.1 The repeatability standard deviation has been determined in other test methods for the standards listed.

12.2 The reproducibility of this test method has been determined in the other test methods for the standards listed.

**TABLE 1 Exposure Data**

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Material Name: ASTM E2785-11 Lot #: \_\_\_\_\_

Material Form:<sup>A</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ Material Type:<sup>B</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ Test Lab: 6af-1875ed038f23/astm-e2785-11

Type of Exposure:<sup>C</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

Test	Test Standard <sup>D</sup>	Control (Non-Exposed)	Days Exposed <sup>E</sup>	Days Exposed <sup>E</sup>	Days Exposed <sup>E</sup>	Days Exposed <sup>E</sup>	Days Exposed <sup>E</sup>	Final % Change <sup>F</sup>
Mass (g)								
Thickness (in.)								
Length (in.)								
Width (in.)								
Intumescent Expansion Ratio (Method A)								
Intumescent Expansion Ratio (Method B)								
Thermo Conductivity (total mass loss in grams)								
TGA (mass loss)								
DSC (J/g)								
LOI (% mass loss)								

<sup>A</sup> Caulk, putty, sheet, device, board, foam, wrap strip, etc.  
<sup>B</sup> Type, such as intumescent, endothermic, insulative, ablative, or subliming.  
<sup>C</sup> Heat exposed humidity, water immersion, etc.  
<sup>D</sup> ASTM or other methods used for testing.  
<sup>E</sup> Put number of days or hours in this column and data in column below.  
<sup>F</sup> See Section 10.