



Standard Test Method for Determining Formaldehyde Concentrations in Air and Emission Rates from Wood Products Using a Large Chamber¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This test method measures the formaldehyde concentration in air and emission rate from wood products containing formaldehyde under conditions designed to simulate product use (see 11.5 and Note 8). The concentration in air and emission rate is determined in a large chamber under specific test conditions of temperature and relative humidity. The general procedures are also intended for testing product combinations at product-loading ratios and at air-exchange rates typical of the indoor environment (1).² The products tested, the loading ratios and the air exchange rates employed are described in the test report.

1.2 This test method determines the average formaldehyde concentration in air and emission rate from a number of large size samples. The average concentration and emission rate reported, thus, will not provide information on higher or lower emitting panels in the test lot.

1.3 This method is primarily used for testing newly manufactured panel products that are shipped for testing either seal-wrapped in polyethylene or with waster sheets, or with both. When this test method is used for evaluating other than newly manufactured panel products (after original application, installation or use), the method of packaging and shipping the product for testing shall be described in the test report.

1.4 The quantity of formaldehyde in the air sample taken from the chamber is determined by an adaptation of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) 3500 chromotropic acid test procedure. If another analytical procedure is used to determine the quantity of formaldehyde in the air sample, that procedure shall give results of equivalent or greater accuracy and precision than the adapted chromotropic acid procedure. Detailed procedures based on acetylacetone, pararosaniline (see Test Method D 5221), 2,4-dinitrophenylhydrazine (DNPH) (see Test Method D 5197) and 3-methyl-2-benzothiazoline (MBTH) (see Test Method D 5014) have been found to give results equivalent or greater

in accuracy and precision than chromotropic acid. The test report shall note the analytical procedure employed.

NOTE 1—³The chromotropic acid analytical procedure described in this test method is applicable for testing urea-formaldehyde bonded wood products. According to NIOSH (4th Edition, 8/15/94) the low end of the working range for the chromotropic acid analytical procedure is 0.02 ppm. A more sensitive analytical procedure is recommended for testing wood panel products where formaldehyde concentrations in air are anticipated to be at or below this level. DNPH is recognized as such a method.

1.5 This test method is used to determine compliance with requirements such as those established for building materials by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Rules and Regulations 24 CFR 3280 for manufactured housing and by Minnesota Statutes Section 144.495. Measurement results are also used for comparing concentrations in air and emission rates from different wood products (2) and for determining compliance with product standards.

1.6 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as the standard. The values given in parentheses are for information only.

1.7 This test method is not designed for determining general organic emissions from all indoor materials and products.

NOTE 2—ASTM Committee D-22 has developed Guide D 5116 which describes small-scale environmental equipment and techniques suitable for determining organic emissions and emission rates from materials and products used indoors.

1.8 *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.* For specific hazard statements, see Section 7.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:

D 3195 Practice for Rotameter Calibration⁴

D 5014 Test Method for Measurement of Formaldehyde in Indoor Air (Passive Sampler Methodology)⁴

³ The notes appearing in this test method are not part of the mandatory sections of this standard, are informative in nature, and appear below that section of the standard to which they pertain.

⁴ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 11.03.

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D-7 on Wood and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D07.03 on Panel Products.

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² The boldface numbers in parentheses refer to a list of references at the end of the text.

D 5116 Guide for Small-Scale Environmental Chamber Determinations of Organic Emissions from Indoor Materials/Products⁴

D 5197 Test Method for Determination of Formaldehyde and Other Carbonyl Compounds in Air (Active Sampler Methodology)⁴

D 5221 Test Method for Continuous Measurement of Formaldehyde in Air⁴

E 77 Test Methods for Inspection and Verification of Thermometers⁵

E 220 Test Method for Calibration of Thermocouples by Comparison Techniques⁶

E 337 Test Method for Measuring Humidity with a Psychrometer (the Measurement of Wet- and Dry-Bulb Temperatures)⁴

E 741 Test Methods for Determining Air Change in a Single Zone by Means of Tracer Gas Dilution⁷

2.2 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Document:⁸

Manufactured Home Construction and Safety Standards, 24 CFR 3280, Federal Register, Vol 49, No. 155, Aug. 8, 1984

2.3 NIOSH Document:⁸

Formaldehyde Method, 3500, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 1989

2.4 ANSI Standards:⁹

HPVA/ANSI HP-1-1994 Hardwood and Decorative Plywood

ANSI A208.1-1993 Particleboard

ANSI A208.2-1994 Medium Density Fiberboard

2.5 Other Document:¹⁰

Minnesota Statutes Section 144.495, 325F.18 and 325F.181, Formaldehyde Gases in Building Materials, 1986

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

3.1.1 *air change rate*—the ratio of hourly conditioned and filtered outside air brought into the chamber, and chamber volume measured in identical volume units (normally expressed in air changes per hour, AC/h).

3.1.2 *emission rate*—formaldehyde emissions per area of exposed surface of tested product in the large chamber per time duration of air sample, normally expressed in mg/(m²·h).

3.1.3 *loading ratio*—the total exposed surface area (not including panel edges) of each product divided by the test chamber volume.

4. Significance and Summary of Test Method

4.1 *Significance and Use:*

4.1.1 Limitations on formaldehyde concentrations in air have been established for some building products permanently installed in manufactured and conventional homes. This test method provides a standard means of testing typical product sizes, such as 1.2 by 2.4 m (4 by 8 ft) sheets, at product loadings consistent with product end use.

4.2 *Summary of Test Method:*

4.2.1 This test method incorporates a chamber of 22 m³ (800 ft³) minimum size to evaluate formaldehyde concentrations in air and emission rates from building products over a specified duration of time. This test method employs a single set of environmental conditions but different product loading ratios to assess formaldehyde concentrations in air and emission rates from certain wood products. Conditions controlled in the procedure are as follows:

4.2.1.1 Conditioning of specimens prior to testing,

4.2.1.2 Exposed surface area of the specimens in the test chamber,

4.2.1.3 Test chamber temperature and relative humidity,

4.2.1.4 Number of air changes per hour, and

4.2.1.5 Air circulation within the chamber.

4.2.1.6 At the end of a 16- to 20-h period in the test chamber, the air is sampled and the concentration of formaldehyde in air and emission rate are determined.

NOTE 3—Care must be exercised in the extension of the results to formaldehyde concentrations in air and emission rates from products under different conditions of air change rate or loading ratio, or both.

5. Interferences

5.1 The NIOSH 3500 analytical method lists phenols as a negative interference when present at an 8:1 excess over formaldehyde. Modification in the analytical procedure shall be made when relatively high phenol formaldehyde concentrations (8:1) are anticipated (3, 4).

6. Apparatus

6.1 *Test Chamber:*

6.1.1 The interior volume of the chamber shall be a minimum of 22 m³ (800 ft³). The interior of the test chamber shall be free of refrigeration coils that condense water and items such as humidifiers with water reservoirs as condensate will have the potential of collecting formaldehyde and thus influencing test results. The interior surfaces of the chamber shall be of materials found to minimize adsorption. (Stainless steel, aluminum, and polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) have produced recoveries of ≥95 % at a 0.4 ppm formaldehyde challenge concentration in air and have been found appropriate as chamber lining materials.) All joints except for doors used for loading and unloading specimens shall be sealed. Doors shall be self-sealing. The test chamber shall be equipped with metal specimen racks with dividers spaced a minimum of 150 mm (6 in.) to support specimens on edge.

6.1.2 *Make-Up Air:*

6.1.2.1 The make-up air shall come from a filtered dust-free environment and not contain more formaldehyde than is capable of being measured considering the sensitivity of the analytical procedure using the sampling rate and volume of air as described in 10.2. This shall be accomplished by passing make-up air through a filter bed of activated carbon, activated

⁵ Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 14.03.

⁶ Discontinued; see 1994 Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 14.03.

⁷ Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 04.07.

⁸ Available from Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402.

⁹ Available from American National Standards Institute, 11 W. 42nd St., 13th Floor, New York, NY 10036.

¹⁰ Available from Print Communications, Dept. of Administration, 117 University Ave., St. Paul, MN 55155.

alumina impregnated with potassium permanganate, or other materials capable of absorbing, adsorbing, or oxidizing formaldehyde.

6.1.2.2 Make-up air for the chamber must pass through a calibrated, totalizing dry gas test meter or other airflow rate measuring device with calibration traceable to the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). It is also acceptable to calibrate the airflow rate measuring device, as installed, using a tracer gas technique described in Test Method E 741. Air change rate per hour (AC/h) is calculated as $(V_2 - V_1) \div ((t - 0) \times \text{chamber volume})$; where V_2 and V_1 are dry-gas test-meter readings in cubic metres at time, t (in hours), and time 0 divided by the chamber volume in cubic metres. The air-intake port and exhaust port shall be on different walls of the chamber and at different elevations. The chamber test shall be operated at a positive pressure of 1 Pa (0.004 in. of water) or greater as determined by a permanently mounted differential pressure device.¹¹

6.1.3 *Nonsparking Fan Sizing and Positioning*—A nonsparking fan shall be used to circulate air within the chamber. The air flow shall be directed horizontally in the direction of the chamber length above where the test samples are to be placed in the chamber. The fan shall be sized and positioned to achieve a uniform concentration in air of formaldehyde (within 0.03 ppm) as determined from a minimum of six air sampling locations. These locations shall be at three elevations, 0.3 m (12 in.) from the chamber floor and ceiling, and at a height between 1.3 and 1.5 m (51 and 59 in.); and at two vertical placements, $\frac{1}{3}$ the chamber length from each end of the chamber and at chamber mid-width.

6.1.4 *Air Sampling Ports*—For testing, at least two air-sampling ports shall be used, located at equal distance along the chamber length at an elevation between 1.3 and 1.5 m (51 and 59 in.) and shall be placed at least 0.6 m (24 in.) from any interior wall. The sampling lines shall be of materials found to minimize adsorption such as stainless steel, PTFE and aluminum, securely fixed to supports during the test, and shall be as short as possible. The length of the sampling line outside the chamber shall not exceed 6 m (20 ft).

6.2 Examples of acceptable reagents, materials, and equipment are provided in Appendix X1.

7. Hazards

7.1 *Chromotropic Acid Reagent Treatment* (see 10.3.4 and A4.5)—During this hazardous operation, the operator shall wear rubber gloves, apron, and a full face mask or be protected from splashing by a transparent shield such as a hood window. The solution becomes extremely hot during addition of sulfuric acid. Add acid slowly to avoid loss of sample due to splattering.

7.2 *Cleaning Chemicals for Glassware*—Appropriate precautions shall be taken if cleaning chemicals are considered to be hazardous.

8. Test Specimens

8.1 *Standard Face and Back Configuration Testing*:

8.1.1 Loading is defined as the total exposed specimen surface area, exclusive of edge area, divided by the chamber volume (on effect of loading refer to Ref 5). If the edge exposure is greater than 5 % of the surface area, include the total edge-exposure area in the calculation of surface-exposure area. Loading ratios used for testing wood panel products containing formaldehyde are as follows:

Loading Ratios, $\pm 2\%$		
(m ² /m ³)	(ft ² /ft ³)	Product
0.95	0.29	Hardwood Plywood Wall Paneling
0.43	0.13	Particleboard Flooring Materials Industrial Particleboard Panels Industrial Hardwood Plywood Panels
0.26	0.08	Medium Density Fiberboard (MDF)

NOTE 4—See Appendix X3 for a discussion of loading ratios.

8.2 *Non-Standard Sample Configuration Testing*:

8.2.1 *Testing Products with Single Surface Exposed*—Some products have significantly different formaldehyde release characteristics for each surface and have only one surface exposed to the indoor living space.¹² In those cases, panels shall be tested back-to-back with edges taped together. The panels shall be identified as tested in the back-to-back mode.

8.2.2 *Testing Cabinets and Furniture*—Some products are made of assembled wood panel products. Such items shall be designated in the test report by the product name and a description of the cabinet or furniture items. (See Appendix X4 for a discussion of shipment of such products for testing.)

8.2.3 *Combination Testing*—Where different products are tested in combination, the test report shall fully describe the purpose of the test and the nature of the products and must note the loading ratios for each of the products tested.

NOTE 5—HUD in 24 CFR 3280 does not indicate that panels are tested back-to-back (see 8.2.1) or that different products are tested in combination. This test method, however, provides an option of performing tests on components or assembled panels in the back-to-back mode or testing products in combination where appropriate to simulate use in certain structures.

9. Sample Material Shipping and Specimen Conditioning

9.1 *Shipping*—Materials selected for testing shall be shipped from the manufacturer, distributor or building site to the laboratory in bundles, seal-wrapped in minimum 0.15-mm (6-mil) thickness polyethylene plastic, or shipped with a top and bottom waster sheet taken from the same population of the sample, or both. Materials selected for testing shall not include the top or bottom panels or pieces in a stack, unit or pallet. All material shall be held intact prior to specimen conditioning. When other than newly manufactured wood products (after original application, installation or use) are tested, the method

¹² Examples of products exhibiting this characteristic are interior wall and ceiling finish building materials that contain decorative liquid applied finishes that emit significant quantities of formaldehyde, and laminates not containing emitable formaldehyde from the exposed surfaces that are bonded to a substrate that prevents or significantly restricts emissions from the unexposed back surface of the laminates.

¹¹ A differential pressure transmitter Model 607-0 with an output signal range corresponding to 0 to 25 Pa (0–0.10 in. of water) and a digital readout (Model A-701) available from Dwyer Instruments, Inc., P.O. Box 373, Michigan City, IN, have been found suitable for determining that the chamber is at positive pressure.

of packaging and shipping the product for testing shall be fully described. Information known on the age and product history of other than newly manufactured products shall be detailed in the test report.

NOTE 6—See Appendix X4 for additional discussion on shipping materials for testing.

9.2 *Conditioning*—Condition test specimens with a minimum distance of 0.15 m (6 in.) between each specimen for seven days \pm 3 h at conditions of $24 \pm 3^\circ\text{C}$ ($75 \pm 5^\circ\text{F}$) and $50 \pm 5\%$ relative humidity. The formaldehyde concentration in the air within 0.3 m (12 in.) of where specimens are conditioned shall not be more than 0.1 ppm during the conditioning period as determined by taking air samples in the conditioning area.

10. Procedure

10.1 Test Procedure for Materials:

10.1.1 Purge the chamber by running empty or with the use of filters designed to reduce the formaldehyde background concentration in air, or both. The formaldehyde background concentration in air of the empty operating chamber shall not contain more formaldehyde than is capable of being measured considering the sensitivity of the analytical procedure and the volume of the air samples taken (see 10.2). Clean chamber surfaces periodically with water or solvent to ensure that formaldehyde background concentrations remain at or below the sensitivity of the analytical procedure used.

10.1.2 Locate the specimens in the chamber so that the air stream of the circulating fan is not blocked by any specimen.

10.1.3 Operate the chamber at $25 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$ ($77 \pm 2^\circ\text{F}$) and $50 \pm 4\%$ relative humidity (refer to Test Methods E 77, E 220 and E 337). Continuously record the temperature and humidity. Conduct the chamber test at 0.5 ± 0.05 AC/h as measured by a totalizing dry gas meter permanently placed in the chamber air intake duct.

10.1.4 Specimens remain in the operating chamber from 16 to 20 h prior to air sampling for formaldehyde concentration in air and emission rate determinations.

10.2 *Air Sampling*—Purge air sampling lines for 5 min. Take at least two simultaneous air samples. At each sampling station, bubble air through a single impinger containing 20 mL of a 1 % sodium bisulfite (NaHSO_3) solution. A filter trap shall be placed between the impinger and the flowmeter. Set a calibrated flowmeter (calibrated using the equipment listed in X1.1.7) to maintain an average airflow of 1 ± 0.05 L/min for a minimum of 60 min with time measured accurately to within 5 s. Following air sampling, analyze the collection solution. Formaldehyde concentrations from simultaneous air samples taken from the two lines shall not vary by more than 0.03 ppm. If the samples differ by more than 0.03 ppm, repeat 10.2.

10.3 Analysis of Air Samples:

10.3.1 Pipet 4 mL of the NaHSO_3 solution from the impingers into each of two 16 by 150 mm screwcap test tubes for duplicate analysis of each impinger sample.

10.3.2 Pipet 4 mL of 1 % NaHSO_3 into a 16- by 150-mm screwcap test tube to act as a reagent blank.

10.3.3 Add 0.1 mL of 1 % chromotropic acid reagent to each test tube. Shake tube after addition.

10.3.4 Slowly and carefully pipet 6.0 mL concentrated sulfuric acid into each test tube (**Precaution**—see 7.1) and allow to flow down the side of test tube. Allow the volumetric pipet to drain. DO NOT BLOW OUT. Before placing caps on test tubes, check the condition of the PTFE cap liners to make sure they are clean and not deteriorated.

10.3.5 Slowly and gently agitate test tubes to effect mixing. Mixing is complete when there is no sign of stratification.

NOTE 7—**Caution:** Avoid rapid mixing as heating and pressure will increase and potentially break the test tube.

10.3.6 If absorbance readings exceed 1.0 or if spectrophotometric analysis is performed within 2 h, heat capped test tubes to 95°C or place capped test tubes in a boiling water bath for 15 ± 2 min to ensure that the chemical reaction is completed. After removal, allow the test tubes to cool to room temperature. Carefully vent test tubes to release pressure.

10.4 Absorbance Readings:

10.4.1 Standardize the spectrophotometer using distilled water at 580 nm in accordance with the instrument's operating instructions. The reagent blank (Tube 1) shall be read against distilled water. A high absorbance for the reagent blank indicates contamination of reagent blank or improper solution preparation. If absorbance for the reagent blank compared to distilled water is greater than 0.040 (using a 12-mm cell path length) or above 0.030 (using a 10-mm cell path length), repeat the entire standardization procedure.

10.4.2 Zero the instrument using the reagent blank if the absorbance is not greater than 0.040 (12 mm path length) or 0.030 (10 mm path length) compared to distilled water as zero. Alternatively, the instrument shall be left zeroed on distilled water, and the absorbance of the reagent blank subtracted from the absorbance of the standard solutions.

10.4.3 Read and record absorbance at 580 nm for each test tube prepared (see 11.2 for calculations). If the absorbance of the specimen solution is found to fall outside the absorbance range (>1.0 or as determined in Annex A4), 10.3.1-10.3.4 shall be repeated using an appropriate dilution of each impinger solution.

11. Calculation

11.1 Convert the volume of air sampled to the volume of air at standard conditions as follows:

$$V_s = \frac{V \times P \times 298}{101 \times (T + 273)} \quad (1)$$

where:

V_s = volume of air at standard conditions (101 kPa and 298 K), L,

V = volume of air sampled, L,

P = barometric pressure, kPa, and

T = temperature of sample air, $^\circ\text{C}$.

11.2 Calculate total micrograms of formaldehyde collected in each impinger sample as follows:

$$C_t = C_a \times F_a \quad (2)$$

where:

C_t = total formaldehyde in the sample, μg ,

C_a = total quantity of formaldehyde in the sample aliquots taken from the impinger (as determined from the calibration curve in Annex A4), μg , and

$$F_a = \text{aliquot factor} = \frac{\text{sampling solution volume, mL}}{\text{aliquot used, mL}} \quad (3)$$

11.2.1 Calculate the concentration in air of formaldehyde in the large chamber as follows:

$$C_L = \frac{C_t \times 24.47}{V_s \times 30.03} \quad (4)$$

where:

C_L = parts of formaldehyde per million parts air, ppm,
 30.03 = molecular weight of formaldehyde, and
 24.47 = μL of formaldehyde gas in 1 μmol at 101 kPa and 298 K.

Round calculated formaldehyde concentrations in air to the nearest 0.01 ppm. Round up to the nearest 0.01 ppm all residual values at or in excess of 0.005 ppm (any value or only zeros following the 0.005). Round down all residual values below 0.005 to the nearest 0.01 ppm.

11.3 When the chamber temperature differs from 25 by 0.3°C (77 by 0.5°F) or more, adjust the large-chamber formaldehyde concentrations in air obtained to a standard temperature of 25°C (77°F) using the formula developed by Berge, et al. (6). Annex A1 contains a table of conversion factors for use at different observed test temperatures as calculated using this formula. The observed test temperature is the average temperature for the total period of 30 min prior to air sampling plus the time of air sampling.

11.4 The large chamber formaldehyde concentration in air shall be adjusted to a concentration at 50 % relative humidity when the difference in relative humidity from 50 % is greater than or equal to 1 % (see Annex A2).

11.5 The emission rate (ER) shall be calculated from the formaldehyde concentration in air observed in the large chamber at steady-state conditions. The formaldehyde ER shall be calculated as follows:

$$ER = 1.23 C_s \times N/L = \text{mg}/(\text{m}^2 \cdot \text{h}) \quad (5)$$

where:

ER = formaldehyde emissions per unit area and unit time, $\text{mg}/(\text{m}^2 \cdot \text{h})$,
 C_s = formaldehyde concentration in air at steady state conditions, ppm,
 N = ventilation rate, air changes per hour, (AC/h), and,
 L = loading rate, m^2/m^3 .

NOTE 8—Concentration in air and emission rate are only relevant to the specific test air exchange rate and test loading ratio used. Concentration in air and emission rate do not change in direct proportion with changes in air exchange rates or loading ratios. Estimates of formaldehyde exposures in structures can be made by using mathematical models (7). Concentration in air or emission rate profile information from large chamber tests can be used as mathematical model inputs. This data is not normally obtained in Test Method E 1333 unless testing is extended and chamber concentrations in air and emission rates are obtained for the tested product at multiple chamber air exchange rates or multiple product loading ratios, or both.

12. Report

12.1 Report the following information:

12.1.1 Test number,

12.1.2 Title of report shall state if standard face and back configuration testing (see 8.1) or if nonstandard configuration testing (see 8.2) was performed.

12.1.3 The manner in which materials were shipped or stored, or both; wrapped separately in vapor retarder, wrapped collectively in vapor retarder; waster sheet on top and bottom; or in original box or container. If materials were shipped unwrapped, with no top or bottom waster sheets, or not in the original box or container, it shall be noted on the test report. For other than newly manufactured products, the age and product history, if known, shall be described in the test report.

12.1.4 Name of product manufacturer or name of company submitting material, or both, and date of manufacture.

12.1.5 Description of test material or product to include generic product name, thickness, size, if surface finished or sealed (both surfaces shall be described), and special treatment (if known).

12.1.6 The nature of machining, if the test material is grooved, routed, bored or otherwise machined results in increased emitting area of the test material.

12.1.7 Specimen conditioning details to include temperature (and range), relative humidity (and range), time to nearest hour, and approximate distance between specimens.

12.1.8 Formaldehyde background concentration in air in room or area where specimens are conditioned (see 9.2).

12.1.9 Chamber volume; nominal length, width, and height.

12.1.10 Test material or product loading ratio in chamber.

12.1.11 Description of specimens as loaded into chamber including number of specimens in charge and number of surfaces exposed.

12.1.12 Average temperature during the conduct of the test (see 10.1.3) and temperature range during sampling period.

12.1.13 Chamber formaldehyde concentration in air at test conditions, chamber formaldehyde concentration in air corrected to 25°C (77°F), 50 % relative humidity, rounded to nearest 0.01 ppm.

12.1.14 Formaldehyde emission rate at 25°C (77°F), 50 % relative humidity, rounded to the nearest 0.001 $\text{mg}/(\text{m}^2 \cdot \text{h})$.

12.1.15 Relative humidity average and range during sampling period and if chamber values have been corrected to 50 % relative humidity using the formula in Annex A2.

12.1.16 The analytical method employed if different than the adapted NIOSH 3500 chromatropic acid test procedure.

12.1.17 Average air-change rate during test.

12.1.18 Formaldehyde background concentration in air in chamber prior to test and formaldehyde concentration of make-up air.

12.1.19 Air-sampling rate and time.

12.1.20 Date of test.

13. Precision and Bias

13.1 Variation in the formaldehyde emission from products evaluated by this test method is a consequence of both variation in the materials tested and variation in the application of the test method. Limited information does exist to show the

kind of variability that is expected between test results when the method is used in one or more laboratories (8). The relationship of a basis chamber to four other chambers using the same test method shows good agreement. The correlation coefficient (r) is 0.94.

13.1.1 *Repeatability (Within Laboratory)*—Test results indicate a precision of within 0.03 ppm on the same samples.

13.1.2 *Reproducibility (Between Laboratory)*—A test series involving two laboratories on five matched board sets in which

conditioning of the panels was tightly controlled showed that measured concentrations in air were within $\pm 6.3\%$ for panels ranging in formaldehyde chamber concentrations in air from 0.26 to 0.53 ppm.

14. Keywords

14.1 chromotropic acid analysis; concentration in air; emission rate; formaldehyde; large chamber; wood products containing formaldehyde

ANNEXES

(Mandatory Information)

A1. TEMPERATURE CONVERSION FACTORS FOR FORMALDEHYDE

A1.1 Table A1.1 is based on the Berge, et al. (6) formula to correct formaldehyde concentrations in air for temperature:

$$C = C_o \cdot e^{-R(1/t - 1/t_o)} \quad (\text{A1.1})$$

or

$$C_o = C \cdot e^{R(1/t - 1/t_o)} \quad (\text{A1.2})$$

where:

- C = test formaldehyde concentration in air,
- C_o = corrected formaldehyde concentration in air,
- e = exponential function,
- R = coefficient of temperature (9799),
- t = actual temperature K, and
- t_o = corrected temperature, K.

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ASTM E1333-96

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TABLE A1.1 Temperature Conversion Table for Formaldehyde

NOTE 1—The Berge, et al. (6) equation is an exponential function. The greater the variance between actual and corrected temperature, the greater the potential error. Two horizontal lines within the table delineate the specified test temperature range $25 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$ ($77 \pm 2^\circ\text{F}$).

Actual		To Convert to 25°C (77°F) Multiply by	Actual		To Convert to 25°C (77°F) Multiply by
°C	(°F)		°C	(°F)	
22.2	(72)	1.36	25.0	(77)	1.00
22.5	(72.5)	1.32	25.3	(77.5)	0.97
22.8	(73)	1.28	25.6	(78)	0.94
23.1	(73.5)	1.24	25.8	(78.5)	0.91
23.3	(74)	1.20	26.1	(79)	0.89
23.6	(74.5)	1.17	26.4	(79.5)	0.86
23.9	(75)	1.13	26.7	(80)	0.83
24.2	(75.5)	1.10	26.9	(80.5)	0.81
24.4	(76)	1.06	27.2	(81)	0.78
24.7	(76.5)	1.03	27.5	(81.5)	0.76
			27.8	(82)	0.74