



Designation: ~~D4000-11~~ Designation: D4000 - 12

## Standard Classification System for Specifying Plastic Materials<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D4000; 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.

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

### 1. Scope\*

1.1 This standard provides a classification system for tabulating the properties of unfilled, filled, and reinforced plastic materials suitable for processing into parts.

NOTE 1—The classification system serves many of the needs of industries using plastic materials. The standard is subject to revision as the need requires; therefore, the latest revision should always be used.

1.2 The classification system and subsequent line call-out (specification) is intended to be a means of identifying 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 plastics 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 inherent properties of the material not covered in this document, and the economic factors.

1.3 This classification system is based on the premise that plastic materials can be arranged into broad generic families using basic properties to arrange the materials into groups, classes, and grades. A system is thus established which, together with values describing additional requirements, permits as complete a description as desired of the selected material.

1.4 In all cases where the provisions of this classification system would conflict with the referenced ASTM specification for a particular material, the latter shall take precedence.

NOTE 2—When using this classification system the two-letter, three-digit suffix system applies.

NOTE 3—When a material is used to fabricate a part where the requirements are too specific for a broad material call-out, it is advisable for the user to consult the supplier to secure a call-out of the properties to suit the actual conditions to which the part is to be subjected.

1.5 *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>

- D149 Test Method for Dielectric Breakdown Voltage and Dielectric Strength of Solid Electrical Insulating Materials at Commercial Power Frequencies
- D150 Test Methods for AC Loss Characteristics and Permittivity (Dielectric Constant) of Solid Electrical Insulation
- D256 Test Methods for Determining the Izod Pendulum Impact Resistance of Plastics
- D257 Test Methods for DC Resistance or Conductance of Insulating Materials
- D395 Test Methods for Rubber Property Compression Set
- D412 Test Methods for Vulcanized Rubber and Thermoplastic Elastomers Tension
- D471 Test Method for Rubber Property Effect of Liquids
- D495 Test Method for High-Voltage, Low-Current, Dry Arc Resistance of Solid Electrical Insulation
- D569 Method for Measuring the Flow Properties of Thermoplastic Molding Materials
- D570 Test Method for Water Absorption of Plastics
- D573 Test Method for Rubber Deterioration in an Air Oven
- D575 Test Methods for Rubber Properties in Compression

<sup>1</sup> This classification system is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D20 on Plastics and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D20.94 on Government/Industry Standardization (Section D20.94.01).

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<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.

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

- D618 Practice for Conditioning Plastics for Testing
- D624 Test Method for Tear Strength of Conventional Vulcanized Rubber and Thermoplastic Elastomers
- D635 Test Method for Rate of Burning and/or Extent and Time of Burning of Plastics in a Horizontal Position
- D638 Test Method for Tensile Properties of Plastics
- D648 Test Method for Deflection Temperature of Plastics Under Flexural Load in the Edgewise Position
- D695 Test Method for Compressive Properties of Rigid Plastics
- D706 Classification System and Basis for Specifications for Cellulose Acetate Molding and Extrusion Compounds
- D707 Classification System and Basis for Specification for Cellulose Acetate Butyrate Molding and Extrusion Compounds
- D747 Test Method for Apparent Bending Modulus of Plastics by Means of a Cantilever Beam
- D785 Test Method for Rockwell Hardness of Plastics and Electrical Insulating Materials
- D787 Specification for Ethyl Cellulose Molding and Extrusion Compounds
- D788 Classification System for Poly(Methyl Methacrylate) (PMMA) Molding and Extrusion Compounds
- D789 Test Methods for Determination of Solution Viscosities of Polyamide (PA)
- D790 Test Methods for Flexural Properties of Unreinforced and Reinforced Plastics and Electrical Insulating Materials
- D792 Test Methods for Density and Specific Gravity (Relative Density) of Plastics by Displacement
- D883 Terminology Relating to Plastics
- D955 Test Method of Measuring Shrinkage from Mold Dimensions of Thermoplastics
- D1003 Test Method for Haze and Luminous Transmittance of Transparent Plastics
- D1149 Test Methods for Rubber Deterioration/Cracking in an Ozone Controlled Environment
- D1203 Test Methods for Volatile Loss From Plastics Using Activated Carbon Methods
- D1238 Test Method for Melt Flow Rates of Thermoplastics by Extrusion Plastometer
- D1248 Specification for Polyethylene Plastics Extrusion Materials for Wire and Cable
- D1430 Classification System for Polychlorotrifluoroethylene (PCTFE) Plastics
- D1434 Test Method for Determining Gas Permeability Characteristics of Plastic Film and Sheeting
- D1435 Practice for Outdoor Weathering of Plastics
- D1499 Practice for Filtered Open-Flame Carbon-Arc Exposures of Plastics
- D1505 Test Method for Density of Plastics by the Density-Gradient Technique
- D1525 Test Method for Vicat Softening Temperature of Plastics
- D1562 Classification System and Basis for Specification for Cellulose Acetate Propionate Molding and Extrusion Compounds
- D1600 Terminology for Abbreviated Terms Relating to Plastics
- D1693 Test Method for Environmental Stress-Cracking of Ethylene Plastics
- D1784 Specification for Rigid Poly(Vinyl Chloride) (PVC) Compounds and Chlorinated Poly(Vinyl Chloride) (CPVC) Compounds
- D1822 Test Method for Tensile-Impact Energy to Break Plastics and Electrical Insulating Materials
- D1929 Test Method for Determining Ignition Temperature of Plastics
- D2116 Specification for FEP-Fluorocarbon Molding and Extrusion Materials
- D2137 Test Methods for Rubber Property Brittleness Point of Flexible Polymers and Coated Fabrics
- D2240 Test Method for Rubber Property Durometer Hardness
- D2287 Specification for Nonrigid Vinyl Chloride Polymer and Copolymer Molding and Extrusion Compounds
- D2288 Test Method for Weight Loss of Plasticizers on Heating
- D2565 Practice for Xenon-Arc Exposure of Plastics Intended for Outdoor Applications
- D2583 Test Method for Indentation Hardness of Rigid Plastics by Means of a Barcol Impressor
- D2584 Test Method for Ignition Loss of Cured Reinforced Resins
- D2632 Test Method for Rubber Property Resilience by Vertical Rebound
- D2843 Test Method for Density of Smoke from the Burning or Decomposition of Plastics
- D2863 Test Method for Measuring the Minimum Oxygen Concentration to Support Candle-Like Combustion of Plastics (Oxygen Index)
- D2951 Test Method for Resistance of Types III and IV Polyethylene Plastics to Thermal Stress-Cracking
- D3012 Test Method for Thermal-Oxidative Stability of Polypropylene Using a Specimen Rotator Within an Oven
- D3159 Specification for Modified ETFE-Fluoropolymer Molding and Extrusion Materials
- D3222 Specification for Unmodified Poly(Vinylidene Fluoride) (PVDF) Molding Extrusion and Coating Materials
- D3275 Classification System for E-CTFE-Fluoroplastic Molding, Extrusion, and Coating Materials
- D3294 Specification for Polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) Resin Molded Sheet and Molded Basic Shapes
- D3295 Specification for PTFE Tubing, Miniature Beading and Spiral Cut Tubing
- D3296 Specification for FEP-Fluorocarbon Tube

- D3307 Specification for Perfluoroalkoxy (PFA)-Fluorocarbon Resin Molding and Extrusion Materials
- D3350 Specification for Polyethylene Plastics Pipe and Fittings Materials
- D3418 Test Method for Transition Temperatures and Enthalpies of Fusion and Crystallization of Polymers by Differential Scanning Calorimetry
- ~~D3595 Specification for Polychlorotrifluoroethylene (PCTFE) Extruded Plastic Sheet and Film~~
- D3638 Test Method for Comparative Tracking Index of Electrical Insulating Materials
- D3713 Test Method for Measuring Response of Solid Plastics to Ignition by a Small Flame
- D3763 Test Method for High Speed Puncture Properties of Plastics Using Load and Displacement Sensors
- D3801 Test Method for Measuring the Comparative Burning Characteristics of Solid Plastics in a Vertical Position
- D3892 Practice for Packaging/Packing of Plastics
- D3895 Test Method for Oxidative-Induction Time of Polyolefins by Differential Scanning Calorimetry
- D3915 Specification for Rigid Poly(Vinyl Chloride) (PVC) and Chlorinated Poly(Vinyl Chloride) (CPVC) Compounds for Plastic Pipe and Fittings Used in Pressure Applications
- D3935 Specification for Polycarbonate (PC) Unfilled and Reinforced Material
- D3965 Classification System and Basis for Specifications for Rigid Acrylonitrile-Butadiene-Styrene (ABS) Materials for Pipe and Fittings
- D3985 Test Method for Oxygen Gas Transmission Rate Through Plastic Film and Sheeting Using a Coulometric Sensor
- D4020 Specification for Ultra-High-Molecular-Weight Polyethylene Molding and Extrusion Materials
- D4066 Classification System for Nylon Injection and Extrusion Materials (PA)
- D4067 Classification System for and Basis for Specification for Reinforced and Filled Poly(Phenylene Sulfide) (PPS) Injection Molding and Extrusion Materials Using ASTM Methods
- D4101 Specification for Polypropylene Injection and Extrusion Materials
- D4181 Classification for Acetal (POM) Molding and Extrusion Materials
- D4203 Specification for Styrene-Acrylonitrile (SAN) Injection and Extrusion Materials
- D4216 Specification for Rigid Poly(Vinyl Chloride) (PVC) and Related PVC and Chlorinated Poly(Vinyl Chloride) (CPVC) Building Products Compounds
- D4329 Practice for Fluorescent UV Exposure of Plastics
- D4349 Classification System and Basis for Specification for Polyphenylene Ether (PPE) Materials
- D4364 Practice for Performing Outdoor Accelerated Weathering Tests of Plastics Using Concentrated Sunlight
- D4396 Specification for Rigid Poly(Vinyl Chloride) (PVC) and Chlorinated Poly(Vinyl Chloride) (CPVC) Compounds for Plastic Pipe and Fittings Used in Nonpressure Applications
- ~~D4441 Specification for Aqueous Dispersions of Polytetrafluoroethylene~~
- D4474 Classification System for Styrenic Thermoplastic Elastomer Injection Molding and Extrusion Materials (TES)
- D4507 Specification for Thermoplastic Polyester (TPES) Materials
- D4549 Classification System and Basis for Specification for Polystyrene and Rubber-Modified Polystyrene Molding and Extrusion Materials (PS)
- D4617 Classification System for Phenolic Compounds (PF)
- D4634 Classification System and Basis for Specification for Styrene-Maleic Anhydride Molding and Extrusion Materials (S/MA)
- D4673 Classification System for Acrylonitrile-Butadiene-Styrene (ABS) Plastics and Alloys Molding and Extrusion Materials
- D4745 Specification for Filled Compounds of Polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) Molding and Extrusion Materials
- D4804 Test Method for Determining the Flammability Characteristics of Nonrigid Solid Plastics
- D4812 Test Method for Unnotched Cantilever Beam Impact Resistance of Plastics
- D4894 Specification for Polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) Granular Molding and Ram Extrusion Materials
- D4895 Specification for Polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) Resin Produced From Dispersion
- D4976 Specification for Polyethylene Plastics Molding and Extrusion Materials
- D4986 Test Method for Horizontal Burning Characteristics of Cellular Polymeric Materials
- D5021 Specification for Thermoplastic Elastomer-Chlorinated Ethylene Alloy (TECEA)
- D5046 Classification for Fully Crosslinked Elastomeric Alloys (FCEAs)
- D5048 Test Method for Measuring the Comparative Burning Characteristics and Resistance to Burn-Through of Solid Plastics Using a 125-mm Flame
- D5132 Test Method for Horizontal Burning Rate of Polymeric Materials Used in Occupant Compartments of Motor Vehicles
- D5138 Classification System and Basis for Specification for Liquid Crystal Polymers Molding and Extrusion Materials (LCP)
- D5203 Specification for Polyethylene Plastics Molding and Extrusion Materials from Recycled Post-Consumer (HDPE) Sources
- D5204 Classification System for Polyamide-Imide (PAI) Molding and Extrusion Materials
- D5205 Classification System and Basis for Specification for Polyetherimide (PEI) Materials
- ~~D5260 Classification for Chemical Resistance of Poly(Vinyl~~

Chloride) (PVC) Homopolymer and Copolymer Compounds and Chlorinated Poly(Vinyl Chloride) (CPVC) Compounds

- D5279 Test Method for Plastics: Dynamic Mechanical Properties: In Torsion
- D5336 Specification for Polyphthalamide (PPA) Injection Molding Materials
- D5420 Test Method for Impact Resistance of Flat, Rigid Plastic Specimen by Means of a Striker Impacted by a Falling Weight (Gardner Impact) ~~D5436 Specification for Cast Poly(Methyl Methacrylate) Plastic Rods, Tubes, and Shapes~~
- D5476 Classification System for Thermoplastic Polyurethane Materials (TPU)
- D5575 Classification System for Copolymers of Vinylidene Fluoride (VDF) with Other Fluorinated Monomers
- D5593 Classification for Thermoplastic Elastomers Olefinic (TEO)
- D5628 Test Method for Impact Resistance of Flat, Rigid Plastic Specimens by Means of a Falling Dart (Tup or Falling Mass)
- D5630 Test Method for Ash Content in Plastics
- D5676 Specification for Recycled Polystyrene Molding and Extrusion Materials
- D5857 Specification for Polypropylene Injection and Extrusion Materials Using ISO Protocol and Methodology
- D5927 Classification System for Thermoplastic Polyester (TPES) Injection and Extrusion Materials Based on ISO Test Methods
- D5990 Classification System for Polyketone Injection Molding and Extrusion Materials (PK)
- D6314 Specification for Fluorocarbon Perfluoromethoxy (MFA) Resin Molding and Extrusion Materials
- D6338 Classification System for Highly Crosslinked Thermoplastic Vulcanizates (HCTPVs) Based on ASTM Standard Test Methods
- D6339 Classification System for and Basis for Specifications for Syndiotactic Polystyrene Molding and Extrusion (SPS)
- D6358 Classification System and Basis for Specification for Poly (Phenylene Sulfide) (PPS) Injection Molding and Extrusion Materials Using ISO Methods
- D6360 Practice for Enclosed Carbon-Arc Exposures of Plastics
- D6394 Specification for Sulfone Plastics (SP) ~~D6457 Specification for Extruded and Compression Molded Rod and Heavy-Walled Tubing Made from Polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE)~~
- ~~D6585 Specification for Unsintered Polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) Extruded Film or Tape~~
- D6778 Classification System and Basis for Specification for Polyoxymethylene Molding and Extrusion Materials (POM)
- D6779 Classification System for and Basis of Specification for Polyamide Molding and Extrusion Materials (PA)
- D6835 Classification System for Thermoplastic Elastomer-Ether-Ester Molding and Extrusion Materials (TEEE)
- D6869 Test Method for Coulometric and Volumetric Determination of Moisture in Plastics Using the Karl Fischer Reaction (the Reaction of Iodine with Water)
- D7209 Guide for Waste Reduction, Resource Recovery, and Use of Recycled Polymeric Materials and Products
- E29 Practice for Using Significant Digits in Test Data to Determine Conformance with Specifications [/astm-d4000-12](http://www.astm.org/standards/d4000-12)
- E84 Test Method for Surface Burning Characteristics of Building Materials
- E96/E96M Test Methods for Water Vapor Transmission of Materials
- E104 Practice for Maintaining Constant Relative Humidity by Means of Aqueous Solutions
- E119 Test Methods for Fire Tests of Building Construction and Materials
- E162 Test Method for Surface Flammability of Materials Using a Radiant Heat Energy Source
- E662 Test Method for Specific Optical Density of Smoke Generated by Solid Materials
- E1354 Test Method for Heat and Visible Smoke Release Rates for Materials and Products Using an Oxygen Consumption Calorimeter
- F372 Test Method for Water Vapor Transmission Rate of Flexible Barrier Materials Using an Infrared Detection Technique  
2.2 *Federal Standard*.<sup>3</sup>
- Department of Transportation Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 302  
2.3 *Underwriters Laboratories*.<sup>4</sup>
- UL94 Standards for Tests for Flammability for Parts in Devices and Appliances  
2.4 *IEC and ISO Standards*.<sup>5</sup>
- IEC 600093 Recommended Methods of Tests for Volume and Surface Resistivities of Electrical Insulation Materials
- IEC 600112 Recommended Method for Determining the Comparative Tracking Index of Solid Insulation Materials Under Moist Conditions
- IEC 600243 Recommended Methods of Test for Electrical Strength of Solid Insulating Materials at Power Frequencies

<sup>3</sup> Available from U.S. Government Printing Office Superintendent of Documents, 732 N. Capitol St., NW, Mail Stop: SDE, Washington, DC 20401, <http://www.access.gpo.gov>.

<sup>4</sup> Available from Underwriters Laboratories (UL), 333 Pfingsten Rd., Northbrook, IL 60062-2096, <http://www.ul.com>.

<sup>5</sup> Available from American National Standards Institute (ANSI), 25 W. 43rd St., 4th Floor, New York, NY 10036, <http://www.ansi.org>.

- IEC 600250 Recommended Methods for the Determination of the Permittivity and Dielectric Dissipation Factor of Electrical Insulation Materials at Power, Audio, and Radio Frequencies Including Metre Wavelengths
- IEC 60695-2-12 Fire Hazard Testing—Part 2-12: Glowing/Hot-Wire Based Test Methods—Glow-Wire Flammability Test Method for Materials
- IEC 60695-11-10 Fire Hazard Testing—Part 11-10: Test Flames—50 W Horizontal and Vertical Flame Tests
- IEC 60695-11-20 Fire Hazard Testing—Part 11-20: Test Flames—500 W Flame Test Methods
- ISO 62 Plastics—Determination of Water Absorption
- ISO 75-1 Plastics—Determination of Temperature of Deflection Under Load—Part 1: General Principles
- ISO 75-2 Plastics—Determination of Temperature of Deflection Under Load—Part 2: Plastics and Ebonite
- ISO 178 Plastics—Determination of Flexural Properties of Rigid Plastics
- ISO 179 Plastics—Determination of Charpy Impact Strength of Rigid Materials
- ISO 180 Plastics—Determination of Izod Impact Strength of Rigid Materials
- ISO 294-4 Plastics—Injection Moulding of Test Specimens of Thermoplastic Materials—Part 4: Determination of Moulding Shrinkage
- ISO 527-1 Plastics—Determination of Tensile Properties—Part 1: General Principles
- ISO 527-2 Plastics—Determination of Tensile Properties—Part 2: Test Conditions for Moulding and Extrusion Plastics
- ISO 604 Plastics—Determination of Compressive Properties
- ISO 868 Plastics—Determination of Indention Hardness by Means of a Durometer (Shore Hardness)
- ISO 877 Plastics—Determination of Resistance to Change Upon Exposure Under Glass to Daylight
- ISO 974 Plastics—Determination of the Brittleness Temperature by Impact
- ISO 1133 Plastics—Determination of the Melt Mass-Flow Rate (MFR) and the Melt Volume-Flow Rate (MVR) of Thermoplastics
- ISO 1183 Plastics—Methods for Determining the Density and Relative Density of Non-Cellular Plastics
- ISO 2039-2 Plastics—Determination of Hardness—Part 2: Rockwell Hardness
- ISO 3795 Road Vehicles, Tractors, and Machinery for Agriculture and Forestry—Determination of Burning Behavior of Interior Materials
- ISO 4577 Plastics—Polypropylene and Propylene—Copolymers—Determination of Thermal Oxidative Stability in Air-Oven Method
- ISO 4589 Plastics—Determination of Flammability by Oxygen Index
- ISO 4607 Plastics—Method of Exposure to Natural Weathering
- ISO 4892 Plastics—Methods of Exposure to Laboratory Light Sources
- ISO 4892-4 Plastics—Methods of Exposure to Laboratory Light Sources—Part 4: Open-flame Carbon-arc
- ISO 5659 Plastics—Smoke Regeneration—Part 2: Determination of Optical Density by a Single-Chamber Test
- ISO 6603-1 Plastics—Determination of Multiaxial Impact Behavior of Rigid Plastics—Part 1: Falling Dart Method
- ISO 6721-1 Plastics—Determination of Dynamic Mechanical Properties—Part 1: General Principles
- ISO 6721-2 Plastics—Determination of Dynamic Mechanical Properties—Part 2: Torsion-Pendulum Method
- ISO 9772 Cellular Plastics—Determination of Horizontal Burning Characteristics of Small Specimens Subjected to a Small Flame
- ISO 9773 Plastics—Determination of Burning Behaviour of Thin Flexible Vertical Specimens in Contact with a Small-Flame Ignition Source
- ISO 11357-1 Plastics—Differential Scanning Calorimetry—Part 1: General principles
- ISO 11357-3 ~~Plastics—Differential Scanning Calorimetry—Part 3: Determination of Temperature and Enthalpy of Melting and Crystallization~~ Plastics—Differential Scanning Calorimetry—Part 3: Determination of Temperature and Enthalpy of Melting and Crystallization

### **3. Terminology**

3.1 Definitions—The definitions used in this classification system are in accordance with Terminology D883.

### **4. Significance and Use**

4.1 The purpose of this classification system is to provide a method of adequately identifying plastic materials in order to give industry a system that can be used universally for plastic materials. It further provides a means for specifying these materials by the use of a simple line call-out designation.

4.2 This classification system was developed to permit the addition of property values for future plastics.

**5. Classification**
**TABLE 1 Standard Symbols for Generic Families With Referenced Standards and Cell Tables**

Standard Symbol	Plastic Family Name	ASTM <sup>A</sup> Standard	Suggested Reference Cell Tables for Materials Without an ASTM Standard <sup>B</sup>	
			Unfilled	Filled
ABA	acrylonitrile-butadiene-acrylate		E	
ABS	acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene	D3965, D4673		
AMMA	acrylonitrile-methyl methacrylate		E	
ARP	aromatic polyester	(see LCP)		
ASA	acrylonitrile-styrene-acrylate		E	
CA	cellulose acetate	D706		
CAB	cellulose acetate butyrate	D707		
CAP	cellulose acetate propionate		E	D
CE	cellulose plastics, general		E	D
CF	cresol formaldehyde		H	H
CMC	carboxymethyl cellulose		E	
CN	cellulose nitrate		E	D
CP	cellulose propionate	D1562		
CPE	chlorinated polyethylene		F	
CPVG	chlorinated poly(vinyl chloride)	D4396, D1784, D5260, D3915, D4216		
CPVC	chlorinated poly(vinyl chloride)	D4396, D1784, D3915, D4216		
CS	casein		H	H
CTA	cellulose triacetate		E	D
EC	ethyl cellulose	D787	E	D
E-CTFE	ethylene-chlorotrifluoroethylene copolymer	D3275		
EEA	ethylene-ethyl acrylate		F	
EMA	ethylene-methacrylic acid		F	
EP	epoxy, epoxide		H	H
EPD	ethylene-propylene diene			
EPM	ethylene-propylene polymer		F	D
ETFE	ethylene-tetrafluoroethylene copolymer	D3159		
EVA	ethylene-vinyl acetate		F	
FCEA	fully crosslinked elastomeric alloy	D5046		
FEP	perfluoro (ethylene-propylene) copolymer	D2116		
FF	furan-formaldehyde	D3296	H	H
FF	furan formaldehyde		H	H
HCTPV	highly crosslinked thermoplastic vulcanizates	D6338		
IPS	impact polystyrene	(see PS)		
LCP	liquid crystal polymer	D5138		
MF	melamine-formaldehyde		H	H
PA	polyamide (nylon)	D4066, D6779		
PA	polyamide (nylon)	D4066-94, D4066-01, D6779		
PAEK	polyaryletherketone			
PAEK	polyaryletherketone			
PAI	polyamide-imide	D5204	G	G
PARA	polyacryl amide			
PB	polybutene-1		F	
PBT	poly(butylene terephthalate)	(see TPES)		
PC	polycarbonate	D3935		
PCTFE	polymonochlorotrifluoroethylene	D1430, D3595		
PCTFE	polymonochlorotrifluoroethylene	D1430		
PDAP	poly(diallyl phthalate)		H	H
PE	polyethylene	D1248, D4976, D3350, D4020, D5203		
PEBA	polyether block amide			
PEEK	polyetheretherketone			
PEI	polyether-imide	D5205		
PEO	poly(ethylene oxide)			
PESU	polyether sulfone	D6394		
PET	poly(ethylene terephthalate), general	(see TPES)		
PETG	glycol modified polyethylene terephthalate comonomer	(see TPES)		
PF	phenol-formaldehyde	D4617		
PFA	perfluoro alkoxy alkane	D3307		
PI	polyimide		G	G
PIB	polyisobutylene		F	
PK	polyketone	D5990		
PMMA	Poly(methyl methacrylate)	D788, D5436		D
PMMA	Poly(methyl methacrylate)	D788		D
PMP	poly(4-methylpentene-1)		F	
POM	polyoxymethylene (acetal)	D4181, D6778		
POP	polyphenylene oxide	(see PPE)		
PP	polypropylene	D4101, D5857		
PPA	polyphthalamide	D5336, D6779		
PPE	polyphenylene ether	D4349		
PPH	polyphenylene		G	H

**TABLE 1** *Continued*

Standard Symbol	Plastic Family Name	ASTM <sup>A</sup> Standard	Suggested Reference Cell Tables for Materials Without an ASTM Standard <sup>B</sup>	
			Unfilled	Filled
PPOX	poly(propylene oxide)			
PPS	poly(phenylene sulfide)	D4067, D6358		
PPSU	poly(phenyl sulfone)	D6394	G	G
PS	polystyrene	D4549, D5676		
PSU	polysulfone	<del>D6394</del>		
PTFE	polytetrafluoroethylene	D1430, D3159, D3222, D3294, D3295, D3307, D4441, D4745, D4894, D4895, D5575, D6314, D6457, D6585		
<u>PTFE</u>	<u>polytetrafluoroethylene</u>	<u>D1430, D3159, D3222, D3307, D4745, D4894, D4895, D6314</u>		
PUR	polyurethane		F	D
PVAC	poly(vinyl acetate)		F	D
PVAL	poly(vinyl alcohol)		F	D
PVB	poly(vinyl butyral)		F	D
PVC	poly(vinyl chloride)	D2287	F	D
PVDC	poly(vinyl idene chloride)		F	D
PVDF	poly(vinyl idene fluoride)	D3222		
PVF	poly(vinyl fluoride)		F	D
PVFM	poly(vinyl formal)		F	D
PVK	poly(vinylcarbazole)		F	D
PVP	poly(vinyl pyrrolidone)		F	D
SAN	styrene-acrylonitrile	D4203		
SB	styrene-butadiene		E	D
SI	silicone plastics		G	G
S/MA	styrene-maleic anhydride	D4634		
SMS	styrene-methylstyrene		E	D
SP	polysulfone	D6394		
SPS	syndiotactic polystyrene	D6339		
TECEA	thermoplastic elastomer-chlorinated ethylene alloy	D5021		
TEEE	thermoplastic elastomer, ether-ester	D6835		
TEO	thermoplastic elastomer-olefinic	D5593		
TES	thermoplastic elastomer-stryenic	D4474		
TPE	thermoplastic elastomer	(see individual material)		
TPES	thermoplastic polyester (general)	D4507, D5927		
TPU	thermoplastic polyurethane	D5476		
UF	urea-formaldehyde		H	H
UP	unsaturated polyester			
VDF	vinylidene fluoride	D5575		

<sup>A</sup>The standards listed are those in accordance with this classification. D— indicates that a standard is being developed by the subcommittee responsible. The standards listed are those in accordance with this classification.

<sup>B</sup>Cell Tables A and B have been reserved for the referenced standards and will apply to unfilled and filled materials covered in those standards.



**TABLE 2 Reinforcement Filler<sup>A</sup> Symbols<sup>B</sup> and Tolerance Cell Tables A and B have been reserved for the referenced standards and will apply to unfilled and filled materials covered in those standards.**

5.1 Plastic materials shall be classified on the basis of their broad generic family. The generic family is identified by letter designations as found in Table 1. These letters represent the standard abbreviations for plastics in accordance with Terminology D1600.

NOTE 4—For example: PA = polyamide (nylon), EMA = ethylene-methacrylic acid, and EVA = ethylene-vinyl acetate.

5.1.1 The generic family is classified into groups in accordance, in general, with the chemical composition. These groups are further subdivided into classes and grades as shown in the basic property table that applies. The letter designation applicable is followed by a four-digit number indicating group, class, and grade. The first two digits indicate the group, the third digit the class, and the fourth digit the grade.

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ASTM D4000 Line Call-Out



1 = Two or more letters identify the generic family based on Terminology D1600.

2 = Four digits identify the specific chemical group, the modification or use class, and the grade by viscosity or level of modification. A basic property table will provide property values.

The D4000 line call-out can be used only if the plastic is listed in Table 1 and has no more than one material standard referenced. If two or more standards are referenced for a material, a direct D4000 line call-out is ambiguous.

NOTE 5—An example using the group, class, and grade is as follows: PC0122 would indicate: PC = polycarbonate, 01 (group) = polycarbonate, 2 (class) = flame retarded, and 2 (grade) with requirements given in the (PC) basic property table of Classification D3935.

NOTE 6—A previous edition of this standard used three digits for group, class, and grade; 0122 is equivalent to what was 122.

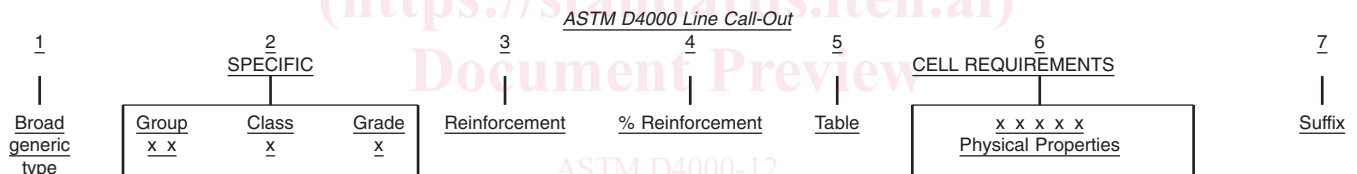
5.1.2 Basic property tables have been developed to sort the commercially available unreinforced plastics into groups, classes, and grades. These tables are found in the standards listed in Table 1.

5.1.2.1 Where a standard does not exist for this classification system the letter designation for the generic family will be followed by four 0's and the use of cell table that applies (see 5.3).

NOTE 7—Example—PI0000 would indicate a polyimide plastic (PI) from Table 1, and 0000 indicating no basic property table requirements.

5.2 Reinforced or filled versions, or both of the basic materials are identified by a single letter from Table 2 that indicates the reinforcement or filler, or both, used and two digits that indicate the nominal quantity in percent by weight. A second letter from Table 2A may be used to indicate the form or structure of the reinforcement or filler, or both, but is neither necessary nor functional for mixtures. Thus, a letter designation G for glass and 33 for percent by weight, G33, specifies a reinforced or filled material with 33 percent by weight of glass, and another letter designation E following the G (that is, GE33) specifies a filled material with 33 percent by weight of glass in the form of beads (or spheres or balls).

5.2.1 The generic family is based on the broad chemical makeup of the base polymer. By its designation, certain inherent properties are specified.



1 = Two or more letters identify the generic family based on Terminology D1600.

2 = Four digits identify the specific chemical group, the modification or use class, and the grade by viscosity or level of modification. A basic property table will provide property values.

3 = One letter indicates reinforcement type; an optional second letter indicates form of the reinforcement.

4 = Two digits indicate percent of reinforcement.

5 = One letter refers to a cell table listing of physical specifications and test methods.

6 = Five digits refer to the specific physical parameters listed in the cell table.

7 = Suffix codes indicate special requirements based on the application, and identify special tests (see Section 7).

TABLE 2 Reinforcement-Filler<sup>A</sup> Symbols<sup>B</sup> and Tolerance

Symbol	Material	Tolerance
C	Carbon and graphite	±2 percentage points
D	Alumina trihydrate	±2 percentage points
E	Clay	±2 percentage points
F	Cellulose	±2 percentage points
G	Glass	±2 percentage points
H	Aramid	±2 percentage points
J	Boron	±2 percentage points
K	Calcium carbonate	±2 percentage points
L	Lubricants (for example, PTFE, graphite, and so forth)	Depends upon material and process, to be specified
L	Lubricants (for example, PTFE, graphite, and so forth)	Depends upon material and process—to be specified
M	Mineral	±2 percentage points
N	Natural organic (cotton, sisal, hemp, flax, and so forth)	±2 percentage points
P	Mica	±2 percentage points
Q	Silica	±2 percentage points
R	Combinations of reinforcements or fillers, or both	±3 percentage points
S	Synthetic organic	±2 percentage points
T	Talcum	±2 percentage points
V	Metal	±2 percentage points
W	Wood	±2 percentage points
X	Not specified	To be specified

<sup>A</sup>Ash content of filled or reinforced materials, or both may be determined using either Test Method D5630 or ISO 3451-1 where applicable.

<sup>B</sup>Additional symbols may be added to this table as required.

**3. Terminology**

3.1 *Definitions*—The definitions used in this classification system are in accordance with Terminology D883.

**4. Significance and Use**

4.1 The purpose of this classification system is to provide a method of adequately identifying plastic materials in order to give industry a system that can be used universally for plastic materials. It further provides a means for specifying these materials by the use of a simple line call-out designation.

Additional symbols may be added to this table as required.

**TABLE 2A Symbols for the Form or Structure of Fillers and Reinforcing Materials**

Symbol	Symbol	Form or Structure
	C	Chips, cuttings
	D	Fines, powder
	E	Beads, spheres, balls
	F	Fiber
	G	Ground
	H	Whisker
	K	Knitted fabric
	L	Layer
	M	Mat (fabric, thick)
	N	Non-woven (fabric, thin)
	P	Paper
	R	Roving
	S	Flake
	T	Cord
	V	Veneer
	W	Woven fabric
	X	Not specified
	Y	Yarn

4.2 This classification system was developed to permit the addition of property values for future plastics.

**5. Classification**

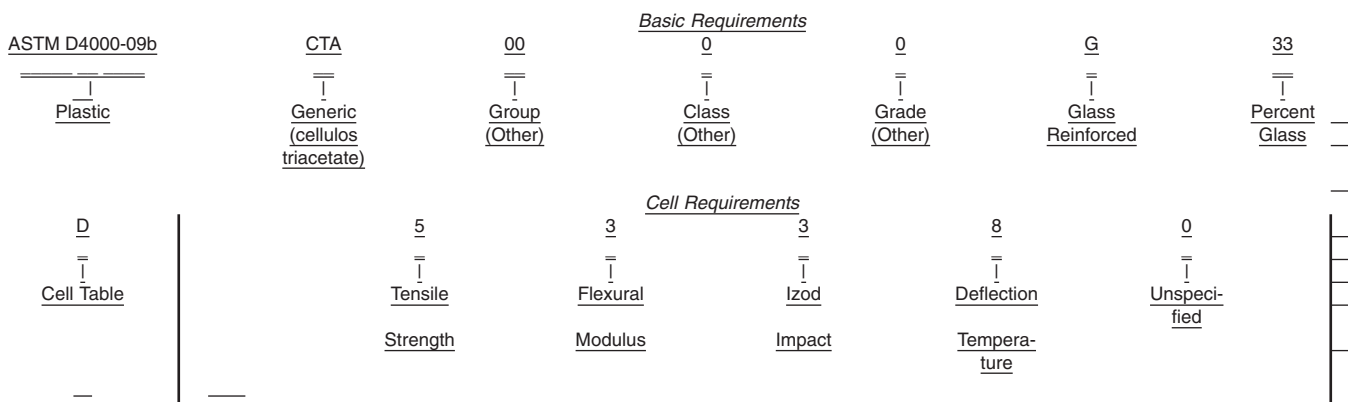
5.1 Plastic materials shall be classified on the basis of their broad generic family. The generic family is identified by letter designations as found in

5.2.2 The requirements for special or reinforced materials will use the classification system as described by the addition of a single letter that indicates the proper cell table in which the properties are listed. A specific value is designated by the cell number for each property in the order in which they are listed in the table. When a property is not to be specified, a zero is entered as the cell number. Likewise, when an acceptable value is not available in the cell table, the number 9 should be used and a suffix used indicating the specific value (see 7.3). Thus, the letter designation “A” for cell table and 53380 for property values shall always be written A53380. The cell tables that may be used for each generic family are listed in Table 1.

The following three examples illustrate correct usage of the system. Note that the second example specifies one of two referenced standards shown in Table 1 of D4000-09b.

The first example is for a cellulose triacetate containing 33 percent glass reinforcement and with the property requirements shown in Table D of ASTM D4000.

*ASTM D4000-09b CTA0000 G33 D53380*



Requirements from Table D of Classification D4000 - 09b