



Designation: D3623 – 78a (Reapproved 2012)

## Standard Test Method for Testing Antifouling Panels in Shallow Submergence<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D3623; 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 U.S. Department of Defense.*

### 1. Scope

1.1 This test method covers a procedure for testing antifouling compositions in shallow marine environments and a standard antifouling panel of known performance to serve as a control in antifouling studies.

NOTE 1—Subcommittee D01.45 has a revised rating procedure now being evaluated by round robin.

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

1.3 *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 application of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

### 2. Referenced Documents

#### 2.1 ASTM Standards:<sup>2</sup>

A569/A569M Specification for Steel, Carbon (0.15 Maximum, Percent), Hot-Rolled Sheet and Strip Commercial (Withdrawn 2000)<sup>3</sup>

D2200 Practice for Use of Pictorial Surface Preparation Standards and Guides for Painting Steel Surfaces

#### 2.2 U.S. Military Specifications (See also Annex A1):

MIL-P-15328D Primer Pretreatment (Formula 117 for Metals)<sup>4</sup>

MIL-P-15929C Primer Coating, Shipboard, Vinyl-Red Lead (Formula 119—For Hot Spray)<sup>4</sup>

MIL-P-15931B Paint, Antifouling, Vinyl, Red (Formula 121/63)<sup>4</sup>

MIL-S-22698A Steel Plate, Carbon, Structural<sup>4</sup>

### 3. Terminology

#### 3.1 Definitions:

3.1.1 *shallow submergence*—an immersion to depths between 0.3 and 3.0 m (1 and 10 ft).

#### 3.2 Abbreviations:

3.2.1 The following abbreviations are used in reporting test results:

Al	algae
Barn	barnacles
E.B.	encrusting bryozoans
Hyd	hydroids
Sl	slime
Tun	tunicates
C.F.	completely fouled
F.R.	fouling resistance rating
A.F.	antifouling rating
A.C.	anticorrosive rating
O.P.	overall performance rating
CO	coelenterates
F.B.	filamentous bryozoans
Mol	molluscs
PC	polychaetes

3.2.2 Algal Mups may be delineated by classification notation by phylum as follows:

Al-b	Phaeophyta (brown)
Al-bg	Cyanophyta (blue-green)
Al-g	Chlorophyta (green)
Al-r	Rhodophyta (red)

### 4. Significance and Use

4.1 This method is designed as a screening test in evaluating antifouling coating systems. Results of the standard system in a specific marine environment are included to assist in interpreting results (see Annex A2).

4.2 Antifouling systems providing positive comparisons with the standard system should be considered acceptable for use in protecting underwater marine structures.

4.3 The degree and type of fouling will vary depending on the environment. Hence, differences in geographic location of test sites, in time of year when panels are exposed, and in weather conditions from 1 year to the next can affect results. Therefore, a fouling census on a nontoxic surface is taken. For

<sup>1</sup> This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D01 on Paint and Related Coatings, Materials, and Applications and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D01.45 on Marine Coatings.

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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.

<sup>3</sup> The last approved version of this historical standard is referenced on www.astm.org.

<sup>4</sup> Available from Standardization Documents Order Desk, DODSSP, Bldg. 4, Section D, 700 Robbins Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19111-5098, http://dodssp.daps.dla.mil.

the exposure to be valid the nontoxic surface should show heavy fouling, and the standard system should show significantly less fouling than the nontoxic surface (see [Annex A3](#) and [Annex A4](#)).

## 5. Apparatus

5.1 *Blast Cleaning Apparatus* capable of preparing panels in compliance with [8.1](#).

5.2 *Application Equipment* consisting of brush, roller, conventional spray, or airless spray. Usually the equipment is dictated by the physical properties of the coating and the film thickness desired.

5.3 *Exposure Rack* to provide firm positioning of the specimen panels such that they are held vertically in place in spite of the current and are electrically insulated from metallic contact with the rack or other panels. The rack should be positioned such that the prevailing tidal currents will move parallel to the panel face, and the panels will be immersed to a depth of a minimum of 0.3 m (1 ft) and a maximum of 3 m (10 ft). In a rack where the panels are stacked front to back, they should be spaced at least 60 mm (2½ in.) apart, with the two end positions filled with blank panels. In a rack where the panels are mounted side by side, the distance between adjacent panels should be a minimum 1.5 mm (½ in.).

## 6. Materials

6.1 *Test Panel*—The substrate for the standard antifouling coating system shall be medium low-carbon steel plate per Specification [A569/A569M](#),<sup>5</sup> 3 mm thick by 150 to 250 mm by 250 to 300 mm (⅛ in. thick by 6 to 10 by 10 to 12 in.) with a minimum area per side of 465 cm<sup>2</sup> (72 in.<sup>2</sup>). A 6-mm (¼-in.) diameter hole, ½ to 1 in. from the top and centered shall be drilled for holding the panel while handling and painting. The test coating system shall be applied to that substrate for which it is designed provided there is a minimum area per side of 466 cm<sup>2</sup> (72 in.<sup>2</sup>).

6.2 *Standard Coating System*—The standard antifouling coating system shall consist of:

6.2.1 Green pretreatment coating conforming to U.S. Military Specification MIL-P-15328B (Formula 117), B revision only.

6.2.2 Vinyl red lead primer conforming to U.S. Military Specification MIL-P-15929C (Formula 119), C revision only.

6.2.3 Vinyl antifouling coating conforming to U.S. Military Specification MIL-P-15931B (Formula 121/63), B revision only.

6.3 *Test Coating System*—The test antifouling coating may be applied to the standard primer system, or to any other suitable anticorrosive primer system.

## 7. Safety Precautions

7.1 **Warning**—Antifouling paints contain toxic materials that could cause skin and eye irritation on contact and adverse physiological effects if ingested or inhaled. In the preparation

of panels and the application of various types of antifouling paints the use of appropriate protective clothing and equipment is required consistent with local, state, and federal government regulations, and recognized industrial and technical standards. Spills, overspray, and unused material should not be flushed down the drain, but should be disposed of as hazardous waste.

## 8. Procedure

8.1 Abrasive blast the required number of panels to near-white metal (Sa 2½ of Method [D2200](#)) to obtain a profile of 25 to 38 μm (1 to 1.5 mils).

NOTE 2—A profile of 25 to 38 μm (1 to 1.5 mils) can be obtained with the following parameters: (1) Type and size of grit, No. 46 (sand); (2) Pressure, 620 kPa (90 psi); (3) Angle, 90 deg; (4) Distance from surface, 75 to 125 mm (3 to 5 in.); (5) Nozzle size, 9 mm (¾ in.).

8.2 On the clean, dry, uncontaminated, blasted surface apply to each standard panel one coat of pretreatment coating MIL-P-15328D to give a nominal dry film thickness of 13 μm (½ mil).

NOTE 3—All coating drying times are for a minimum temperature of 21°C and a maximum relative humidity of 70 %.

8.3 Within 24 h of application of the pretreatment coating apply the first coat of red lead vinyl primer MIL-P-15929C. Apply a total of four coats of red lead vinyl primer to give a nominal dry film thickness of 150 μm (6 mils). Allow a minimum of 2 h and a maximum of 24 h drying between coats of red lead vinyl primer.

8.4 Allowing a minimum of 2 h and a maximum of 24 h drying after the last coat of red lead vinyl primer, apply the first coat of vinyl antifouling coating MIL-P-15931B to the standard panels, and the test coating to the test panels. A 19-mm (¾-in.) numbered vinyl tape can be applied before the second coat of antifouling coating for identification. Allowing a minimum of 2 h and a maximum of 24 h drying after the first coat, apply a second coat of the respective antifouling coating to give a nominal dry film thickness for both antifouling coats of 100 μm (4 mils).

8.5 Before immersion permit the second coat of antifouling coating to dry a minimum of 4 h and a maximum of 2 weeks, the latter time allowing for shipping the panels to the immersion site.

8.6 Expose for a minimum period of 1 year at an immersion site with a high incidence of fouling as indicated by attachments on a dark nontoxic surface such as slate. A monthly fouling census as well as a yearly accumulation when appropriate is required.

8.7 Evaluate the antifouling panels for surface fouling and physical condition of the film system at least monthly as follows using the report form in [Table 1](#).

8.7.1 *Fouling on Surfaces*—Rate fouling present on that portion of the antifouling test surface which is intact at the time of inspection (see [9.1](#)). Rate both sides of the panel if appropriate. Ignore fouling present on the substrate or on anticorrosive undercoats. Barnacles, polychaetes, coelenterates, etc., that are immature or loosely attached should be so reported in the appropriate space. Report fouling by

<sup>5</sup> See also U.S. Military Specification MIL-S-22698, Type 1, Class A.

**TABLE 1 Behavior Report of Experimental Surfaces**

Origin:  
Series:  
Base:  
Size:

Place of Immersion:  
Depth of Immersion:  
Date Immersed:  
Date Inspected:  
Inspected by:

Test Surface No.		Fouling on Surfaces <sup>A</sup>	Physical Condition	Percent Ratings			
				F.R.	A.F.	A.C.	O.P.
		Barn: E.B.: Others:					
		Barn: E.B.: Others:					
		Barn: E.B.: Others:					
		Barn: E.B.: Others:					
		Barn: E.B.: Others:					
		Barn: E.B.: Others:					
		Barn: E.B.: Others:					
		Barn: E.B.: Others:					

<sup>A</sup> Fouling reported as found on the more heavily fouled surface. Solitary forms reported numerically; colonial forms by percent surface covered, Al: algae; Barn: barnacles; E.B.: encrusting bryozoans; Hyd: hydroids; Tun: tunicates; C.F.: completely fouled; CO: coelenterates; F.B.: filamentous bryozoans; Mol: molluscs; PC: polychaetes.

initial algal germination, low-form algae and diatoms as “algal slime.” Report absorbed organic and inorganic chemicals, trapped silt and detritus, and other unidentified slimes as “silt.”

**8.7.2 Physical Condition**—Rate the condition of coating films in accordance with 9.2. Record qualitative descriptions of film deterioration and discoloration in this column, and unless otherwise specified, refer only to the antifouling test surface. Indicate deterioration of undercoats, when evident, by the notation “A.C.” For example, “Peeling, A.F. from A.C.” or “Chipping, A.C. from steel.”

**9. Calculations:**

**9.1 Fouling Resistance (F.R.)**—Award each test surface free of fouling except for the presence of algal spores and other biological slimes a rating of 100. Reduce the rating to 95 if only incipient fouling is present. If mature forms of fouling are present, obtain the rating by subtracting from 95 the sum of the number of individuals present and percent surface covered by colonial forms. For example, if the “fouling on surface” is:

- Barn                      6, 3 to 10 mm
- E.B.                        None
- Others                    Mol 1, 20 mm
- Al-g (green) 10 %

then the F.R. percent rating would be  $95 - (6 + 1 + 10) = 78$ .

**9.2 Physical Condition:**

**9.2.1 Antifouling Film (A.F.)**—Award an antifouling test surface having no physical defects a rating of 100. Subtract the percent surface affected by film defects from 100 to obtain the rating for imperfect films.

**9.2.2 Anticorrosive Film (A.C.)**—Obtain the rating by the same procedure as 9.2.1.

**9.3 Overall Performance (O.P.)**—For overall performance, award the panel the lowest percent rating of the three preceding values.

**9.4 Normalization**—The rating system described above is based on a minimum test on one side area of 465 cm<sup>2</sup> (72 in.<sup>2</sup>). Correct the percent ratings for test surfaces of nonstandard dimensions for the difference between the minimum standard panel area of 72 in.<sup>2</sup> (465 cm<sup>2</sup>) and the area on one side of the test specimen.

**10. Report**

**10.1** Report the results of the immersion test in terms of fouling resistance and overall performance for both the material under test and the standard system.

**10.2 Other Data**—Report the place, depth, and date of immersion, whether mounted from a dock or a floating raft, date the panels were removed and inspected, panel size, and panel identification number. A census of fouling on a nontoxic surface taken each month for the period of exposure must be included in the report.

**11. Precision**

**11.1** The precision statements are based on an interlaboratory study in which seven laboratories prepared pairs of panels coated with the standard antifouling system, submerged them, and after 1 year rated the fouling. The within-laboratory standard deviation was found to be 2.08. The between-laboratory standard deviation was found to be 4.67. Based on

these standard deviations, the following criteria should be used to judge the acceptability of results at the 95 % confidence level:

11.1.1 *Repeatability*—Two results each the mean of duplicates obtained by the same operator should be considered suspect if they differ by more than seven units.

11.1.2 *Reproducibility*—Two results each the mean of duplicates obtained by operators in different laboratories should be considered suspect if they differ by more than 16 units.

## 12. Keywords

12.1 antifouling; antifouling coatings; fouling; immersion; performance; static

## ANNEXES

### (Mandatory Information)

#### A1. STANDARD COATING SYSTEM FORMULAS

**TABLE A1.1 Green Pretreatment Coating, MIL-P-15328D (Formula 117)**

	Pounds per 100 gal of Mixed Material	Gallons per 100 gal of Mixed Material
Ingredients of resin component (80 gal):		
Polyvinyl-butyril resin <sup>A</sup>	56	6.10
Zinc chromate (insoluble type) <sup>B</sup>	54	1.78
Magnesium-silicate (Type A or B of Specification MIL-M-15173)	8	0.34
Lampblack (Specification TT-L-70)	0.6	0.04
Butyl alcohol, normal (Spec. TT-B-846)	125	18.48
Isopropyl alcohol, 99 % <sup>C</sup>	353	53.80
Water	15	1.80
Ingredients of acid component (20 gal):		
Phosphoric acid (Class A of Spec. O-P-313)	28	2.0
Water	25	3.0
Isopropyl alcohol, 99 % <sup>C</sup>	99	15.0

<sup>A</sup> The resin shall be a polyvinyl partial butyral resin containing only poly(vinyl butyral), poly(vinyl alcohol), and poly(vinyl acetate) in the molecule. The resin shall contain 18.0 to 20.0 % vinyl alcohol, and not more than 1.0 % of vinyl acetate. A 6 % solution of the resin in methanol shall have a viscosity of 12 to 18 cP at 20°C. The specific gravity of the resin shall be 1.05 to 1.15.

<sup>B</sup> The zinc chromate shall be of an insoluble type, showing an analysis of 16 to 19 % CrO<sub>3</sub>, and 67 to 72 % ZnO, and not more than 1 % water-soluble salts.

<sup>C</sup> Isopropyl alcohol, 99 % shall have a specific gravity of 0.785 to 0.790 at 20/20°C and a distillation range not greater than 1.5°C and this range shall include 82.3°C.

**TABLE A1.2 Vinyl Red Lead Primer, MIL-P-15929C (Formula 119)**

Ingredients	Specifications	Pounds per 100 gal	
		Composition G	Composition L
Red lead, 98 % Pb <sub>3</sub> O <sub>4</sub>		247.0	247.0
Organic suspension agent 24 % NV		8.2	8.2
Vinyl resin <sup>A</sup>		162.8	162.8
Tricresyl phosphate	TT-T-656	16.8	16.8
Methyl isobutyl ketone	TT-M-268	284.7	
Methyl <i>n</i> -butyl ketone <sup>B</sup>	TT-M-261		273.2
Methyl ethyl ketone	TT-M-261	47.0	105.5
Toluene	TT-T-548	217.7	75.1
Aliphatic naphtha <sup>C</sup>	TT-N-95,(I)		81.1

<sup>A</sup> Hydroxyl containing vinyl chloride-acetate copolymer (89.5 to 91.5 % vinyl chloride, 5.3 to 7.0 % vinyl alcohol and 2 to 4.0 % vinyl acetate); white powder, specific gravity not under 1.35, not less than 98 % through sieve 20.

<sup>B</sup> To contain not over 5 volume % of branched chain ketones.

<sup>C</sup> To contain not over 11 volume % of aromatic hydrocarbons.