



Designation: D4203 – 12

# Standard Specification for and Basis for Specifications for Styrene-Acrylonitrile (SAN) Injection and Extrusion Materials<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D4203; 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 specification covers unfilled, filled, and reinforced styrene acrylonitrile (SAN) materials suitable for injection molding and extrusion.

1.2 This classification system and subsequent line callout (specification) are intended to provide a means of calling out plastic materials used in the fabrication of end items or parts. It is not intended for the selection of materials. Material selection can be made by those having expertise in the plastic field only 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 costs involved, and the inherent properties of the material other than those covered by this standard.

1.3 The properties included in this standard are those required to identify the compositions covered. Other requirements necessary to identify particular characteristics important to specialized applications are to be specified using the suffixes specified in Section 5.

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

1.5 The following precautionary caveat pertains only to the test methods portion, Section 11, of this specification: *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.*

NOTE 1—This standard and ISO 4894-1 and ISO 4894-2 address the same subject matter, but differ in technical content. Although this standard and ISO 4894-1 and ISO 4894-2 differ in approach or detail, data obtained using either are technically equivalent.

<sup>1</sup> This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D20 on Plastics and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D20.15 on Thermoplastic Materials.15.03).

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## 2. Referenced Documents

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

- D256 Test Methods for Determining the Izod Pendulum Impact Resistance of Plastics
  - D618 Practice for Conditioning Plastics for Testing
  - D638 Test Method for Tensile Properties of Plastics
  - D648 Test Method for Deflection Temperature of Plastics Under Flexural Load in the Edgewise Position
  - 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
  - D1238 Test Method for Melt Flow Rates of Thermoplastics by Extrusion Plastometer
  - D1525 Test Method for Vicat Softening Temperature of Plastics
  - D1600 Terminology for Abbreviated Terms Relating to Plastics
  - D2584 Test Method for Ignition Loss of Cured Reinforced Resins
  - D3641 Practice for Injection Molding Test Specimens of Thermoplastic Molding and Extrusion Materials
  - D3892 Practice for Packaging/Packing of Plastics
  - D4000 Classification System for Specifying Plastic Materials
  - E29 Practice for Using Significant Digits in Test Data to Determine Conformance with Specifications
  - E105 Practice for Probability Sampling of Materials
  - IEEE/ASTM SI-10 Standard for Use of the International System of Units (SI): The Modern Metric System
- ### 2.2 ISO Standards:<sup>3</sup>
- ISO 75 Plastics—Determination of Temperature of Deflection Under Load

<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.

<sup>3</sup> Available from American National Standards Institute (ANSI), 25 W. 43rd St., 4th Floor, New York, NY 10036, <http://www.ansi.org>.

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

- ISO 178 Plastics—Determination of Flexural Properties
- ISO 180/1A Plastics—Determination of Izod Impact Strength
- ISO 294 Plastics—Injection Moulding Test Specimens of Thermoplastic Materials
- ISO 306 Plastics—Thermoplastic materials—Determination of Vicat Softening Temperature (VST)
- ISO 527 Plastics—Determination of Tensile Properties
- ISO 1133 Plastics—Determination of the Melt Mass-Flow Rate (MFR) and Melt Volume-Flow Rate (MVR) of Thermoplastics
- ISO 1183 Plastics—Methods for Determining the Density of Non-Cellular Plastics
- ISO 4894 Plastics—Styrene/Acrylonitrile (SAN) Molding and Extrusion Materials: Part 1: Designation System and Basis for Specifications, Part 2: Preparation of Test Specimens and Determination of Properties

### 3. Terminology

3.1 The terminology used in this classification system is in accordance with Terminologies D883 and D1600.

### 4. Classification

4.1 SAN materials are typically general-purpose materials used in either molding or extrusion processes and applications. There is currently no group, class, or grade distinctions and no basic property table given.

NOTE 2—Where no basic property table exists, the generic family designation will be followed by three zeros, for example: SAN000.

4.1.1 They are usually grouped as reinforced or unreinforced. Therefore, SAN materials are classified by Table A for reinforced materials and Table B for unreinforced materials. Specialty products such as antistatic, barrier, etc. would also utilize the suffix system described in Section 5.

4.1.2 Each compound is given a five-digit cell classification representing the physical properties in the order in which they are listed in the cell table.

4.2 Reinforced, filled, and lubricated versions of the SAN materials are classified in accordance with Table A, which specifies the properties after the addition of reinforcements or lubricants at the nominal level indicated (see 4.2.1).

4.2.1 A single letter shall be used for the major reinforcement or combination, or both, along with two digits that indicate the nominal quantity in percent by weight. (See Table 1.)

**TABLE 1 Reinforcement-Filler Symbols and Tolerances**

Symbol	Material	Tolerance
C	Carbon- and graphite-fiber reinforced	±2 %
G	Glass-reinforced	±2 %
L	Lubricants (PTFE, for example) graphite, silicone and molybdenum disulfide	Depends upon material and process—to be specified.
M	Mineral-reinforced	±2 %
R	Combinations of reinforcements or filler, or both	±3 % for the total reinforcement

NOTE 3—This part of the system uses percent of reinforcements or additives, or both, in the callout of the modified basic material. The types and percentages of reinforcements and additives are sometimes shown on the supplier’s technical data sheet. If necessary, additional callout of these reinforcements and additives can be accomplished by the use of the suffix part of the system, as described in Section 5.

NOTE 4—Materials containing reinforcements or fillers, or both, at nominal levels not in multiples of five are included in the nearest grade designation. For example, a material with a nominal glass fiber level of 33 % is included with a Grade G35.

4.2.2 Specific requirements for reinforced, filled, or lubricated materials shall be shown by a six-character designation. The designation shall consist of the letter A and the five digits comprising the cell numbers for the property requirements in the order in which they appear in Table A.

4.2.2.1 Although the values listed are necessary to include the range of properties available in existing materials, users should not infer that every possible combination of the properties exists or can be obtained.

NOTE 5—An example of this classification for a reinforced SAN is as follows:

The designation SAN000G30A34421:  
 SAN000 = Styrene acrylonitrile material,  
 G30 = Glass reinforced at 30 % nominal level,  
 A = Table A for property requirements,  
 3 = % AN, 30 %, min,  
 4 = Deflection temperature under load, 105°C, min,  
 4 = Specific gravity, 1.6, min,  
 2 = Tensile strength, 80 MPa, min, and  
 1 = Flexural modulus, 3000 MPa, min,  
 If no properties are specified, the designation would be SAN000G30A00000.

4.3 Table B classifies all unreinforced SAN materials. Table B shall be used in the same manner as Table A.

NOTE 6—An example of this classification for an unreinforced SAN is as follows:

The designation SAN000B22320 indicates:  
 SAN000 = Styrene acrylonitrile material,  
 B = Cell Table B, property requirements,  
 2 = % AN, 20 %, min,  
 2 = Vicat softening temperature, 100°C, min,  
 3 = Flow rate, 10 g/10 min, min  
 2 = Tensile strength, 60 MPa, min, and  
 0 = Flexural modulus, unspecified,

4.3.1 Mechanical properties of pigmented or colored SAN materials can differ from the mechanical properties of natural SAN material, depending on the choice and concentration of colorants. The main property affected is ductility, as illustrated by a reduction in Izod impact strength and tensile-elongation values. If specific properties of pigmented SAN materials are necessary, a classification using Cell Table B is employed.

4.4 ISO test methods and correlated cell values have been included for informational purposes. They have been provided for those international users wishing to determine the corresponding ISO test values for a particular SAN callout.

NOTE 7—Using the example ASTM callout in Note 6, (ISO) SAN000B22320 would indicate:

(ISO) = ISO line-property requirements,  
 SAN000 = Styrene acrylonitrile material,  
 B = Table B,  
 2 = % AN, 20%, min,  
 2 = Vicat softening point, 95°C, min,  
 3 = Flow rate, 25 g/10 min, min,  
 2 = Tensile strength, 60 MPa, min,  
 0 = Flexural modulus, unspecified.

NOTE 8—Internationally, ANSI has been working with ISO to harmonize specification and designation documents in three specific areas, including SAN. A correlation was carried out and has been appended for information purposes. This study provided the basis for the correlated ISO

values found in the cell tables and the novel approach of being able to determine a specified product's property requirements by either ASTM or ISO test methods.

**TABLE A SAN Compounds (Reinforced)**

Designation Order Number	Property	Cell Limits						
		0	1	2	3	4	5	9
1	AN Content, % AN, min	Unspecified	10	20	30	40	50	<sup>A</sup>
	(ISO, % AN, min)	(Unspecified)	(10)	(20)	(30)	(40)	(50)	<sup>A</sup>
2	Deflection temperature under load, ASTM D648, °C, min <sup>B</sup>	Unspecified	90	95	100	105	110	<sup>A</sup>
	(ISO 75, °C, min)	(Unspecified)	(90)	(95)	(100)	(105)	(110)	<sup>A</sup>
3	Specific gravity, ASTM D792, min	Unspecified	1.1	1.2	1.4	1.6	1.8	<sup>A</sup>
	(ISO 1183, min)	(Unspecified)	(1.1)	(1.2)	(1.4)	(1.6)	(1.8)	<sup>A</sup>
4	Tensile strength, ASTM D638, MPa, min <sup>B</sup>	Unspecified	60	80	100	120	140	<sup>A</sup>
	(ISO 527, MPa, min)	(Unspecified)	(60)	(80)	(100)	(120)	(140)	<sup>A</sup>
5	Flexural tangent modulus, ASTM D790 MPa, min <sup>B</sup>	Unspecified	3000	4500	6000	7500	9000	<sup>A</sup>
	(ISO 178, MPa, min)	(Unspecified)	(2800)	(4200)	(5600)	(7000)	(8500)	<sup>A</sup>

<sup>A</sup> If specific value is required, it must appear on drawing or contract, or both.

<sup>B</sup> MPa × 145 = psi.

**TABLE B SAN Compounds (Unreinforced)**

Designation Order Number	Property	Cell Limits						
		0	1	2	3	4	5	9
1	AN Content, % AN, min	Unspecified	10	20	30	40	50	<sup>A</sup>
	(ISO, % AN, min)	(Unspecified)	(10)	(20)	(30)	(40)	(50)	<sup>A</sup>
2	Vicat softening point, ASTM D1525, °C, min	Unspecified	90	100	105	110	120	<sup>A</sup>
	(ISO 306, °C, min)	(Unspecified)	(85)	(95)	(100)	(105)	(110)	<sup>A</sup>
3	Flow rate, ASTM D1238, g/10 minutes, min	Unspecified	2	5	10	15	20	<sup>A</sup>
	(ISO 1133, g/10 minutes, min)	(Unspecified)	(5)	(15)	(25)	(40)	(50)	<sup>A</sup>
4	Tensile strength, ASTM D638, MPa, min <sup>B</sup>	Unspecified	50	60	70	80	95	<sup>A</sup>
	(ISO 527, MPa, min)	(Unspecified)	(50)	(60)	(70)	(80)	(95)	<sup>A</sup>
5	Flexural tangent modulus, ASTM D790, MPa, min <sup>B</sup>	Unspecified	2600	3000	3400	3800	4200	<sup>A</sup>
	(ISO 178, MPa, min)	(Unspecified)	(2400)	(2800)	(3200)	(3600)	(3900)	<sup>A</sup>

<sup>A</sup> If specific value is required, it must appear on drawing or contract, or both.

<sup>B</sup> MPa × 145 = psi.

## 5. Suffix Requirements

5.1 When additional requirements are needed that are not covered by the cell-table requirements, they shall be indicated through the use of suffixes.

5.2 A list of suffixes can be found in Classification System D4000 (Table 3) and are to be used for additional requirements as appropriate. Additional suffixes will be added to that standard as test methods and requirements are developed and requested.

## 6. Basic Requirements

6.1 Basic requirements from the cell tables, as they apply, are always in effect unless superseded by specific suffix requirements, which always take precedence.

6.2 The plastics composition shall be uniform and shall conform to the requirements specified herein.

## 7. Detail Requirements

7.1 The materials shall conform to the requirements in Tables SAN, A, and B, and suffix requirements as they apply.

7.2 For purposes of determining conformance, all specified limits for a specification (line callout) based on this classification system are absolute limits, as defined in Practice E29.

7.2.1 With the absolute method, an observed value or a calculated value is not rounded, but is to be compared directly

with the limiting value. Conformance or nonconformance is based on this comparison.

## 8. Sampling

8.1 Sampling shall be statistically adequate to satisfy the requirements of 12.4.

8.2 A batch or lot is construed as a unit of manufacture as prepared for shipment and can consist of a blend of two or more "production runs".

## 9. Specimen Preparation

9.1 The test specimens shall be injection molded in accordance with Practice D3641. Molding conditions shall be 240 ± 5°C melt temperature and 60 ± 5°C mold temperature for all grades. Test specimens shall be molded in one piece and shall not be a composite of thinner sections. If ISO requirements are necessary, sample preparation shall be in accordance with ISO 294 and ISO 4894-2.

## 10. Conditioning

10.1 Test specimens shall be conditioned in the standard laboratory atmosphere in accordance with Procedure A of Practice D618 before performing the required tests. The minimum conditioning time shall be 24 h.