



Designation: **G154—12 G154 – 12a**

Standard Practice for Operating Fluorescent Ultraviolet (UV) Lamp Apparatus for Exposure of Nonmetallic Materials¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation G154; 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 (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

1. Scope*

1.1 This practice covers the basic principles and operating procedures for using fluorescent UV light, and water apparatus intended to reproduce the weathering effects that occur when materials are exposed to sunlight (either direct or through window glass) and moisture as rain or dew in actual usage. This practice is limited to the procedures for obtaining, measuring, and controlling conditions of exposure. A number of exposure procedures are listed in an appendix; however, this practice does not specify the exposure conditions best suited for the material to be tested.

NOTE 1—Practice G151 describes performance criteria for all exposure devices that use laboratory light sources. This practice replaces Practice G53, which describes very specific designs for devices used for fluorescent UV exposures. The apparatus described in Practice G53 is covered by this practice.

1.2 Test specimens are exposed to fluorescent UV light under controlled environmental conditions. Different types of fluorescent UV light sources are described.

1.3 Specimen preparation and evaluation of the results are covered in ASTM methods or specifications for specific materials. General guidance is given in Practice G151 and ISO 4892-1. More specific information about methods for determining the change in properties after exposure and reporting these results is described in ISO 4582.

1.4 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as the standard.

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.*

1.6 This standard is technically similar to ISO 4892-3 and ISO DIS 11507.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

D3980 Practice for Interlaboratory Testing of Paint and Related Materials (Withdrawn 1998)³

E691 Practice for Conducting an Interlaboratory Study to Determine the Precision of a Test Method

G53 Practice for Operating Light-and Water-Exposure Apparatus (Fluorescent UV-Condensation Type) for Exposure of Nonmetallic Materials (Withdrawn 2000)³

G113 Terminology Relating to Natural and Artificial Weathering Tests of Nonmetallic Materials

G151 Practice for Exposing Nonmetallic Materials in Accelerated Test Devices that Use Laboratory Light Sources

2.2 CIE Standard:

CIE-Publ. No. 85: Recommendations for the Integrated Irradiance and the Spectral Distribution of Simulated Solar Radiation for Testing Purposes⁴

2.3 ISO Standards:

ISO 4582 Plastics—Determination of the Changes of Colour and Variations in Properties After Exposure to Daylight Under Glass, Natural Weathering or Artificial Light⁵

¹ This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee G03 on Weathering and Durability and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee G03.03 on Simulated and Controlled Exposure Tests.

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² 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.

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

⁴ Available from Secretary, U.S. National Committee, CIE, National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), Gaithersburg, MD 20899.

⁵ 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 4892-1 Plastics—Methods of Exposure to Laboratory Light Sources, Part 1, Guidance⁵

ISO 4892-3 Plastics—Methods of Exposure to Laboratory Light Sources, Part 3, Fluorescent UV lamps⁵

ISO DIS 11507 Paint and Varnishes—Exposure of Coatings to Artificial Weathering in Apparatus—Exposure to Fluorescent Ultraviolet and Condensation Apparatus⁵

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—The definitions given in Terminology **G113** are applicable to this practice.

3.2 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard*—As used in this practice, the term *sunlight* is identical to the terms *daylight* and *solar irradiance*, *global* as they are defined in Terminology **G113**.

3.2.1 *Fluorescent Ultraviolet (UV) Apparatus*—An apparatus for performing exposure tests using fluorescent UV lamps as the light source.

4. Summary of Practice

4.1 Specimens are exposed to repetitive cycles of light and moisture under controlled environmental conditions.

4.1.1 Moisture is usually produced by condensation of water vapor onto the test specimen or by spraying the specimens with demineralized/deionized water.

4.2 The exposure condition may be varied by selection of:

4.2.1 The fluorescent lamp,

4.2.2 The lamp's irradiance level,

4.2.3 The type of moisture exposure,

4.2.4 The timing of the light and moisture exposure,

4.2.5 The temperature of light exposure, and

4.2.6 The temperature of moisture exposure, and

4.2.7 The timing of a light/dark cycle.

4.3 Comparison of results obtained from specimens exposed in same model of apparatus should not be made unless reproducibility has been established among devices for the material to be tested.

4.4 Comparison of results obtained from specimens exposed in different models of apparatus should not be made unless correlation has been established among devices for the material to be tested.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 The use of this apparatus is intended to induce property changes associated with the end use conditions, including the effects of the UV portion of sunlight, moisture, and heat. These exposures may include a means to introduce moisture to the test specimen. Exposures are not intended to simulate the deterioration caused by localized weather phenomena, such as atmospheric pollution, biological attack, and saltwater exposure. Alternatively, the exposure may simulate the effects of sunlight through window glass. Typically, these exposures would include moisture in the form of condensing humidity.

NOTE 2—**Caution:** Refer to Practice **G151** for full cautionary guidance applicable to all laboratory weathering devices.

5.2 Variation in results may be expected when operating conditions are varied within the accepted limits of this practice. Therefore, no reference shall be made to results from the use of this practice unless accompanied by a report detailing the specific operating conditions in conformance with the Section 10.

5.2.1 It is recommended that a similar material of known performance (a control) be exposed simultaneously with the test specimen to provide a standard for comparative purposes. It is recommended that at least three replicates of each material evaluated be exposed in each test to allow for statistical evaluation of results.

6. Apparatus

6.1 *Laboratory Light Source*—The light source shall be fluorescent UV lamps. A variety of fluorescent UV lamps can be used for this procedure. Differences in lamp intensity or spectrum may cause significant differences in test results. A detailed description of the type(s) of lamp(s) used should be stated in detail in the test report. The particular testing application determines which lamp should be used. See **Appendix X1** for lamp application guidelines.

NOTE 3—Do not mix different types of lamps. Mixing different types of lamps in a fluorescent UV light apparatus may produce major inconsistencies in the light falling on the samples, unless the apparatus has been specifically designed to ensure a uniform spectral distribution.

NOTE 4—Many fluorescent lamps age significantly with extended use. Follow the apparatus manufacturer's instructions on the procedure necessary to maintain desired irradiance (**1,2**).

6.1.1 Actual irradiance levels at the test specimen surface may vary due to the type or manufacturer of the lamp used, or both, the age of the lamps, the distance to the lamp array, and the air temperature within the chamber and the ambient laboratory temperature. Consequently, the use of a radiometer to monitor and control the radiant energy is recommended.

6.1.2 Several factors can affect the spectral power distribution of fluorescent UV lamps:

6.1.2.1 Aging of the glass used in some types of lamps can result in changes in transmission. Aging of glass can result in a significant reduction in the short wavelength UV emission of some lamp types,

6.1.2.2 Accumulation of dirt or other residue on lamps can affect irradiance,

6.1.2.3 Thickness of glass used for lamp tube can have large effects on the amount of short wavelength UV radiation transmitted, and

6.1.2.4 Uniformity and durability of phosphor coating.

6.1.3 *Spectral Irradiance:*

NOTE 5—Fluorescent UVA lamps are available with a choice of spectral power distributions that vary significantly. The more common may be identified as UVA-340 and UVA-351. These numbers represent the characteristic nominal wavelength (in nm) of peak emission for each of these lamp types. The actual peak emissions are at 343 and 350 nm, respectively.

6.1.3.1 *Spectral Irradiance of UVA-340 Lamps for Daylight UV*—The spectral power distribution of UVA-340 fluorescent lamps shall comply with the requirements specified in [Table 1](#).

NOTE 6—The main application for UVA-340 lamps is for simulation of the short and middle UV wavelength region of daylight.

6.1.3.2 *Spectral Irradiance of UVA-351 Lamps for Daylight UV Behind Window Glass*—The spectral power distribution of UVA-351 lamp for Daylight UV behind Window Glass shall comply with the requirements specified in [Table 2](#).

NOTE 7—The main application for UVA-351 lamps is for simulation of the short and middle UV wavelength region of daylight which has been filtered through window glass (3).

6.1.3.3 *Spectral Irradiance of UVB-313 Lamps*—The spectral power distribution of UVB-313 fluorescent lamps shall comply with the requirements specified in [Table 3](#).

NOTE 8—Fluorescent UVB lamps have the spectral distribution of radiation peaking near the 313-nm mercury line. They emit significant amounts of radiation below 300 nm, the nominal cut on wavelength of global solar radiation, that may result in aging processes not occurring outdoors. Use of this lamp is not recommended for sunlight simulation. See [Table 3](#).

**TABLE 1 Relative Ultraviolet Spectral Power Distribution
Specification for Fluorescent UVA-340 Lamps for Daylight UV^{A,B}**

Spectral Bandpass Wavelength λ in nm	Minimum Percent ^C	Benchmark Solar Radiation Percent ^{D,E,F}	Maximum Percent ^C
$\lambda < 290$			0.01
$290 \leq \lambda \leq 320$	5.9	5.8	9.3
$320 < \lambda \leq 360$	60.9	40.0	65.5
$360 < \lambda \leq 400$	26.5	54.2	32.8

^A Data in [Table 1](#) are the irradiance in the given bandpass expressed as a percentage of the total irradiance from 290 to 400 nm. The manufacturer is responsible for determining conformance to [Table 1](#). [Annex A1](#) states how to determine relative spectral irradiance.

^B The data in [Table 1](#) are based on the rectangular integration of 65 spectral power distributions for fluorescent UV devices operating with UVA 340 lamps of various lots and ages. The spectral power distribution data is for lamps within the aging recommendations of the device manufacturer. The minimum and maximum data are at least the three sigma limits from the mean for all measurements.

^C The minimum and maximum columns will not necessarily sum to 100 % because they represent the minimum and maximum for the data used. For any individual spectral power distribution, the calculated percentage for the bandpasses in [Table 1](#) will sum to 100 %. For any individual fluorescent UVA-340 lamp, the calculated percentage in each bandpass must fall within the minimum and maximum limits of [Table 1](#). Test results can be expected to differ between exposures using devices with fluorescent UVA-340 lamps in which the spectral power distributions differ by as much as that allowed by the tolerances. Contact the manufacturer of the fluorescent UV devices for specific spectral power distribution data for the fluorescent UVA-340 lamp used.

^D The benchmark solar radiation data is defined in ASTM G177 and is for atmospheric conditions and altitude chosen to maximize the fraction of short wavelength solar UV. While this data is provided for comparison purposes only, it is desirable for the laboratory accelerated light source to provide a spectrum that is a close match to the benchmark solar spectrum.

^E Previous versions of this standard used solar radiation data from Table 4 of CIE Publication Number 85. See [Appendix X3](#) for more information comparing the solar radiation data used in this standard with that for CIE 85 Table 4.

^F For the benchmark daylight spectrum, the UV irradiance (290 to 400 nm) is 9.8 % and the visible irradiance (400 to 800 nm) is 90.2 % expressed as a percentage of the total irradiance from 290 to 800 nm. Because the primary emission of fluorescent UV lamps is concentrated in the 300 to 400 nm bandpass, there are limited data available for visible light emissions of fluorescent UV lamps.

TABLE 2 Relative Spectral Power Distribution Specification for Fluorescent UVA-351 Lamps for Daylight UV Behind Window Glass^{A,B}

Spectral Bandpass Wavelength λ in nm	Minimum Percent ^C	Window Glass Filtered Daylight Percent ^{D,E,F}	Maximum Percent ^C
$\lambda < 300$		0.0	0.2
$300 \leq \lambda \leq 320$	1.1	≤ 0.5	3.3
$320 < \lambda \leq 360$	60.5	34.2	66.8
$360 < \lambda \leq 400$	30.0	65.3	38.0

^A Data in Table 2 are the irradiance in the given bandpass expressed as a percentage of the total irradiance from 300 to 400 nm. The manufacturer is responsible for determining conformance to Table 1. Annex A1 states how to determine relative spectral irradiance.

^B The data in Table 2 are based on the rectangular integration of 21 spectral power distributions for fluorescent UV devices operating with UVA 351 lamps of various lots and ages. The spectral power distribution data is for lamps within the aging recommendations of the device manufacturer. The minimum and maximum data are at least the three sigma limits from the mean for all measurements.

^C The minimum and maximum columns will not necessarily sum to 100 % because they represent the minimum and maximum for the data used. For any individual spectral power distribution, the calculated percentage for the bandpasses in Table 2 will sum to 100 %. For any individual fluorescent UV device operating with UVA 351 lamps, the calculated percentage in each bandpass must fall within the minimum and maximum limits of Table 2. Test results can be expected to differ between exposures using fluorescent UV devices in which the spectral power distributions differ by as much as that allowed by the tolerances. Contact the manufacturer of the fluorescent UV devices for specific spectral power distribution data for the lamps used.

^D The window glass filtered solar radiation data is for a solar spectrum with atmospheric conditions and altitude chosen to maximize the fraction of short wavelength solar UV (defined in ASTM G177) that has been filtered by window glass. The glass transmission is the average for a series of single strength window glasses tested as part of a research study for ASTM Subcommittee G3.02.⁶ While this data is provided for comparison purposes only, it is desirable for the laboratory accelerated light source to provide a spectrum that is a close match to this benchmark window glass filtered solar spectrum.

^E Previous versions of this standard used window glass filtered solar radiation data based on Table 4 of CIE Publication Number 85. See Appendix X3 for more information comparing the solar radiation data used in the standard with that for CIE 85 Table 4.

^F For the benchmark window glass filtered solar spectrum, the UV irradiance (300 to 400 nm) is 8.2 % and the visible irradiance (400 to 800 nm) is 91.8 % expressed as a percentage of the total irradiance from 300 to 800 nm. Because the primary emission of fluorescent UV lamps is concentrated in the 300 to 400 nm bandpass, there are limited data available for visible light emissions of fluorescent UV lamps.

<https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/astm-g154-12a>

6.2 *Test Chamber*—The design of the test chamber may vary, but it should be constructed from corrosion resistant material and, in addition to the radiant source, may provide for means of controlling temperature and relative humidity. When required, provision shall be made for the spraying of water on the test specimen for the formation of condensate on the exposed face of the specimen or for the immersion of the test specimen in water.

6.2.1 The radiant source(s) shall be located with respect to the specimens such that the uniformity of irradiance at the specimen face complies with the requirements in Practice G151.

6.2.2 Lamp replacement, lamp rotation, and specimen repositioning may be required to obtain uniform exposure of all specimens to UV radiation and temperature. Follow manufacturer’s recommendation for lamp replacement and rotation.

6.3 *Instrument Calibration*—To ensure standardization and accuracy, the instruments associated with the exposure apparatus (for example, timers, thermometers, wet bulb sensors, dry bulb sensors, humidity sensors, UV sensors, and radiometers) require periodic calibration to ensure repeatability of test results. Whenever possible, calibration should be traceable to national or international standards. Calibration schedule and procedure should be in accordance with manufacturer’s instructions.

6.4 *Radiometer*—The use of a radiometer to monitor and control the amount of radiant energy received at the sample is recommended. If a radiometer is used, it shall comply with the requirements in Practice G151.

6.5 *Thermometer*—Either insulated or un-insulated black or white panel thermometers may be used. The un-insulated thermometers may be made of either steel or aluminum. Thermometers shall conform to the descriptions found in Practice G151.

6.5.1 The thermometer shall be mounted on the specimen rack so that its surface is in the same relative position and subjected to the same influences as the test specimens.

TABLE 3 Relative Spectral Power Distribution Specification for Fluorescent UVB 313 lamps^{A,B}

Spectral Bandpass Wavelength λ in nm	Minimum Percent ^C	Benchmark Solar Radiation Percent ^{D,E,F}	Maximum Percent ^C
$\lambda < 290$	1.3		5.4
$290 \leq \lambda \leq 320$	47.8	5.8	65.9
$320 < \lambda \leq 360$	26.9	40.0	43.9
$360 < \lambda \leq 400$	1.7	54.2	7.2

^A Data in Table 3 are the irradiance in the given bandpass expressed as a percentage of the total irradiance from 250 to 400 nm. The manufacturer is responsible for determining conformance to Table 3. Annex A1 states how to determine relative spectral irradiance.

^B The data in Table 3 are based on the rectangular integration of 44 spectral power distributions for fluorescent UV devices operating with UVB 313 lamps of various lots and ages. The spectral power distribution data is for lamps within the aging recommendations of the device manufacturer. The minimum and maximum data are at least the three sigma limits from the mean for all measurements.

^C The minimum and maximum columns will not necessarily sum to 100 % because they represent the minimum and maximum for the data used. For any individual spectral power distribution, the calculated percentage for the bandpasses in Table 3 will sum to 100 %. For any individual UVB 313 lamp, the calculated percentage in each bandpass must fall within the minimum and maximum limits of Table 3. Test results can be expected to differ between exposures conducted in fluorescent UV devices using UVB 313 lamps in which the spectral power distributions differ by as much as that allowed by the tolerances. Contact the manufacturer of the fluorescent UV device for specific spectral power distribution data for the device operated with the UVB 313 lamp used.

^D The benchmark solar radiation data is defined in ASTM G177 and is for atmospheric conditions and altitude chosen to maximize the fraction of short wavelength solar UV. This data is provided for comparison purposes only.

^E Previous versions of this standard used solar radiation data from Table 4 of CIE Publication Number 85. See Appendix X3 for more information comparing the solar radiation data used in this standard with that for CIE 85 Table 4.

^F For the benchmark solar spectrum, the UV irradiance (290 to 400 nm) is 9.8 % and the visible irradiance (400 to 800 nm) is 90.2 % expressed as a percentage of the total irradiance from 290 to 800 nm. Because the primary emission of fluorescent UV lamps is concentrated in the 300 to 400 nm bandpass, there are limited data available for visible light emissions of fluorescent UV lamps.

6.5.2 Some specifications may require chamber air temperature control. Positioning and calibration of chamber air temperature sensors shall be in accordance with the descriptions found in Practice G151.

<https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/05adc381-7649-42e0-9fd6-0d754e138977/astm-g154-12a>

NOTE 9—Typically, these devices control by black panel temperature only.

6.6 *Moisture*—The test specimens may be exposed to moisture in the form of water spray, condensation, or high humidity.

6.6.1 *Water Spray*—The test chamber may be equipped with a means to introduce intermittent water spray onto the test specimens under specified conditions. The spray shall be uniformly distributed over the samples. The spray system shall be made from corrosion resistant materials that do not contaminate the water used.

6.6.1.1 *Spray Water Quality*—Spray water shall have a conductivity below 5 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$, contain less than 1-ppm solids, and leave no observable stains or deposits on the specimens. Very low levels of silica in spray water can cause significant deposits on the surface of test specimens. Care should be taken to keep silica levels below 0.1 ppm. In addition to distillation, a combination of deionization and reverse osmosis can effectively produce water of the required quality. The pH of the water used should be reported. See Practice G151 for detailed water quality instructions.

6.6.2 *Condensation*—The test chamber may be equipped with a means to cause condensation to form on the exposed face of the test specimen. Typically, water vapor shall be generated by heating water and filling the chamber with hot vapor, which then is made to condense on the test specimens.

6.6.3 *Relative Humidity*—The test chamber may be equipped with a means to measure and control the relative humidity. Such instruments shall be shielded from the lamp radiation.

6.7 *Specimen Holders*—Holders for test specimens shall be made from corrosion resistant materials that will not affect the test results. Corrosion resistant alloys of aluminium or stainless steel have been found acceptable. Brass, steel, or copper shall not be used in the vicinity of the test specimens.

6.8 *Apparatus to Assess Changes in Properties*—Use the apparatus required by the ASTM or other standard that describes determination of the property or properties being monitored.

7. Test Specimen

7.1 Refer to Practice G151.

8. Test Conditions

8.1 Any exposure conditions may be used as long as the exact conditions are detailed in the report. **Appendix X2** shows some representative exposure conditions. These are not necessarily preferred and no recommendation is implied. These conditions are provided for reference only.

9. Procedure

9.1 Identify each test specimen by suitable indelible marking, but not on areas used in testing.

9.2 Determine which property of the test specimens will be evaluated. Prior to exposing the specimens, quantify the appropriate properties in accordance with recognized ASTM or international standards. If required (for example, destructive testing), use unexposed file specimens to quantify the property. See ISO 4582 **ISO 4582 Plastics—Determination of the Changes of Colour and Variations in Properties After Exposure to Daylight Under Glass, Natural Weathering or Artificial Light** for detailed guidance.

9.3 *Mounting of Test Specimens*—Attach the specimens to the specimen holders in the equipment in such a manner that the specimens are not subject to any applied stress. To assure uniform exposure conditions, fill all of the spaces, using blank panels of corrosion resistant material if necessary.

NOTE 10—Evaluation of color and appearance changes of exposed materials shall be made based on comparisons to unexposed specimens of the same material which have been stored in the dark. Masking or shielding the face of test specimens with an opaque cover for the purpose of showing the effects of exposure on one panel is not recommended. Misleading results may be obtained by this method, since the masked portion of the specimen is still exposed to temperature and humidity that in many cases will affect results.

9.4 *Exposure to Test Conditions*—Program the selected test conditions to operate continuously throughout the required number of repetitive cycles. Maintain these conditions throughout the exposure. Interruptions to service the apparatus and to inspect specimens shall be minimized.

9.5 *Specimen Repositioning*—Periodic repositioning of the specimens during exposure is not necessary if the irradiance at the positions farthest from the center of the specimen area is at least 90 % of that measured at the center of the exposure area. Irradiance uniformity shall be determined in accordance with Practice **G151**.

9.5.1 If irradiance at positions farther from the center of the exposure area is between 70 and 90 % of that measured at the center, one of the following three techniques shall be used for specimen placement.

9.5.1.1 Periodically reposition specimens during the exposure period to ensure that each receives an equal amount of radiant exposure. The repositioning schedule shall be agreed upon by all interested parties.

9.5.1.2 Place specimens only in the exposure area where the irradiance is at least 90 % of the maximum irradiance.

9.5.1.3 To compensate for test variability randomly position replicate specimens within the exposure area which meets the irradiance uniformity requirements as defined in **9.5.1**.

9.6 *Inspection*—If it is necessary to remove a test specimen for periodic inspection, take care not to handle or disturb the test surface. After inspection, the test specimen shall be returned to the test chamber with its test surface in the same orientation as previously tested.

9.7 *Apparatus Maintenance*—The test apparatus requires periodic maintenance to maintain uniform exposure conditions. Perform required maintenance and calibration in accordance with manufacturer’s instructions.

9.8 Expose the test specimens for the specified period of exposure. See Practice **G151** for further guidance.

9.9 At the end of the exposure, quantify the appropriate properties in accordance with recognized ASTM or international standards and report the results in conformance with Practice **G151**.

NOTE 11—Periods of exposure and evaluation of test results are addressed in Practice **G151**.

10. Report

10.1 The test report shall conform to Practice **G151**.

11. Precision and Bias

11.1 *Precision:*

11.1.1 The repeatability and reproducibility of results obtained in exposures conducted according to this practice will vary with the materials being tested, the material property being measured, and the specific test conditions and cycles that are used. In round-robin studies conducted by Subcommittee G03.03, the 60° gloss values of replicate PVC tape specimens exposed in different laboratories using identical test devices and exposure cycles showed significant variability (**3**). The variability shown in these round-robin studies restricts the use of “absolute specifications” such as requiring a specific property level after a specific exposure period (**4,5**).

11.1.2 If a standard or specification for general use requires a definite property level after a specific time or radiant exposure in an exposure test conducted according to this practice, the specified property level shall be based on results obtained in a round-robin that takes into consideration the variability due to the exposure and the test method used to measure the property of