



Designation: **F964–09 F964 – 13**

# Standard Specification for Rigid Poly (Vinyl Chloride) (PVC) Exterior Profiles Used for Fencing and Railing<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation F964; 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.

## 1. Scope

1.1 This specification establishes requirements for the material properties and physical properties, including dimensional tolerances, extrusion quality, and weatherability, of rigid poly vinyl-chloride (PVC) exterior profiles used for agricultural, commercial, residential fencing and railing. Methods for testing and for identifying exterior profile extrusions that comply with this specification are also provided.

NOTE 1—Information with regard to application, assembly, and installation should be obtained from the manufacturer ~~and/or~~ in accordance with Practice ~~F1999~~, or both.

NOTE 2—Loadbearing characteristics for fence and railing assemblies are not addressed within this specification (for example, windload, horizontal or vertical guardrail loading).

1.2 The material used in these exterior profiles is limited to rigid poly (vinyl chloride) (PVC) compounds in a single homogeneous extrusion or in a coextrusion of two or more PVC compounds in distinct layers.

1.3 The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as the standard. The values in parentheses are provided for information only.

1.4 *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>

[D618 Practice for Conditioning Plastics for Testing](#)

[D635 Test Method for Rate of Burning and/or Extent and Time of Burning of Plastics in a Horizontal Position](#)

[D696 Test Method for Coefficient of Linear Thermal Expansion of Plastics Between –30°C and 30°C with a Vitreous Silica Dilatometer](#)

[D883 Terminology Relating to Plastics](#)

[D1435 Practice for Outdoor Weathering of Plastics](#)

[D1600 Terminology for Abbreviated Terms Relating to Plastics](#)

~~[D1784 Specification for Rigid Poly\(Vinyl Chloride\) \(PVC\) Compounds and Chlorinated Poly\(Vinyl Chloride\) \(CPVC\) Compounds](#)~~

[D1898 Practice for Sampling of Plastics \(Withdrawn 1998\)](#)<sup>3</sup>

~~[D2244 Practice for Calculation of Color Tolerances and Color Differences from Instrumentally Measured Color Coordinates](#)~~

[D2565 Practice for Xenon-Arc Exposure of Plastics Intended for Outdoor Applications](#)

[D4216 Specification for Rigid Poly\(Vinyl Chloride\) \(PVC\) and Related PVC and Chlorinated Poly\(Vinyl Chloride\) \(CPVC\) Building Products Compounds](#)

[D4226 Test Methods for Impact Resistance of Rigid Poly\(Vinyl Chloride\) \(PVC\) Building Products](#)

[D4726 Specification for Rigid Poly\(Vinyl Chloride\) \(PVC\) Exterior-Profile Extrusions Used for Assembled Windows and Doors](#)

[F1999 Practice for Installation of Rigid Poly\(Vinyl Chloride\) \(PVC\) Fence Systems](#)

<sup>1</sup> This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F14 on Fences and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F14.30 on Rigid Polymer Fence Systems. Current edition approved July 1, 2009/July 1, 2013. Published August 2009/July 2013. Originally approved in 1994. Last previous edition approved in 2008/2009 as F964–08/F964–09. DOI: 10.1520/F0964-09.10.1520/F0964-13.

<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> The last approved version of this historical standard is referenced on [www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org).

**G154 Practice for Operating Fluorescent Ultraviolet (UV) Lamp Apparatus for Exposure of Nonmetallic Materials**

**3. Terminology**

3.1 *General*—Definitions are in accordance with Terminologies **D883** and **D1600**, unless otherwise indicated.

3.2 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

3.2.1 *capstock*—the outer layer in a coextrusion exposed to weathering.

3.2.2 *coextrusion*—the process of coextruding profiles from two or more concentric streams of PVC compounds.

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NOTE 3—Separate PVC materials may be coextruded to form a multi-layered profile with each layer having different physical characteristics such as strength and weathering.

3.2.3 color-hold guidelines—predictive target color regions within a three-dimensional model which constitute acceptable appearance retention levels of color change resulting from weathering of specific product type and color.

NOTE 4—Commercial products which demonstrate weathering behavior within reasonable conformance to these target guidelines during a 2-year test period can be anticipated to weather without exhibiting unacceptable color changes during the service life of the product.

3.2.4 longitudinal bow—refers to bow along the span. Longitude is measured along the span.

3.2.5 *reworked material*—material from the manufacturer’s facility of known, compatible composition meeting the material requirement of this specification that has been reground, pelletized, or solvated after having been previously processed by molding, extrusion, and so forth.

3.2.6 *single layer profile*—profiles extruded from a single PVC compound. Weathering and other physical characteristics are uniform throughout the profile.

3.2.7 *substrate*—inner layer(s) of a coextrusion not exposed to weathering.

3.2.8 *temperate northern climate*—in weather testing, a North American metropolitan area testing site located within 73 to 100° W longitude and 37 to 45° N latitude.

~~3.2.7 color-hold guidelines—predictive target color regions within a three-dimensional model which constitute acceptable appearance retention levels of color change resulting from weathering of specific product type and color.~~

~~NOTE 4—Commercial products which demonstrate weathering behavior within reasonable conformance to these target guidelines during a 2-year test period can be anticipated to weather without exhibiting unacceptable color changes during the service life of the product.~~

#### 4. Significance and Use

4.1 The purpose of this specification is to establish a recognized standard of quality for rigid poly vinyl chloride (PVC) exterior profiles for use in assembling agricultural, commercial, and residential fencing and railing. The term “PVC fence” refers to complete fencing and railings systems in which the primary structural members such as posts, rails, spindles, pickets, and gates are made from PVC exterior profiles. Accessory components (not included in this specification), including bolts, screws, hinges, latches, caps, and brackets, may be made from PVC and/or non-PVC materials, or non-PVC materials, or both. The information contained in this specification is intended to be helpful to producers, distributors, and users and to promote understanding between purchasers and sellers.

#### 5. Materials and Manufacture

5.1 The rigid poly vinyl chloride (PVC) compound for exterior-profile extrusions meeting the requirements of this specification are categorized by the cell class requirements in accordance with Specification **D4216**.

5.2 The PVC compounds used for the products meeting this specification shall meet cell Class 3-20233-23 a minimum cell class of 1-20233-23 for PVC profiles and 3-20233-23 for PVC substrate with alternate capstock materials as defined in Specification **D4216**. Compounds that have higher cell classification because one or more properties are superior to those in the specified compound are acceptable.

5.3 *Color*—The color of the profiles shall be as agreed upon between the purchaser and the seller. The color specified shall be uniform throughout a single material extrusion or throughout the capstock layer of a coextruded profile for profiles intended to be of uniform color.

5.4 The extruded profiles shall be free from visible cracks, voids, foreign inclusions, or other defects or foreign inclusions.

5.5 The PVC compound, when tested in accordance with Test Method **D635**, shall not exceed an average extent of burn of 4 in. (100 mm), with an average time of burn not to exceed 10 s. A sample thickness of 0.090 ± 0.009 in. (2.3 ± 0.2 mm) shall be used.

NOTE 5—The flammability testing data, conclusions, and recommendations of Test Method **D635** relate solely to the measurement and description of the properties of materials, products, or systems in response to heat and flame under controlled laboratory conditions and should not be used for the description or appraisal of the fire hazard of materials, products, or systems under actual fire conditions.

NOTE 6—No recycled (post consumer waste) may be used in the production of fence profiles.

5.6 *Reworked Material*—Clean reworked material may be used, provided that the fence profiles produced in whole or in part from the reworked materials meet all of the requirements of this specification.

5.7 The PVC compound in extruded section shall maintain uniform color and be free of any visual surface or structural changes, such as peeling, chipping, cracking, flaking, or pitting after weathering for six months and one year for white and for six months, one year, and two years for all other colors in hot, dry climate such as Phoenix, AZ; a hot humid climate, such as Miami, FL; and a temperate northern climate, when tested in accordance with **7.1.1-7.1.4**.

5.8 The PVC compound shall have a minimum impact resistance of 0.6 in.-lb/mil (2670 J/m) after weathering six months and one year in a hot, dry climate such as Phoenix, AZ; a hot, humid climate, such as Miami, FL; and a temperate northern climate, when tested in accordance with 7.1.1-7.1.4.

5.9 The PVC compound shall have successfully met the weathering requirements prescribed in 5.7 and 5.8 for six months at each climatic testing site prior to use in production of exterior-profile extrusions, when tested in accordance with 7.1.1-7.1.4.

NOTE 7—The six-month test requirement constitutes a screening process to eliminate catastrophic failure.

## 6. Physical Requirements

6.1 *Length, Height, and Width*—The specified length, height, and width of the fencing profiles shall be as agreed upon between the purchaser and the seller, or by established internal process control standards. The actual length shall be within ±¼ in. (6.4 mm) of the specified length and the actual height and width shall be within ¼ in. (1.6 mm) of the specified height and width when measured in accordance with 8.4 and 8.5.

6.2 *Weight Tolerance*—Profile extrusion weight shall not be more than 10 % below the specified profile weight indicated in the manufacturer’s specifications.

6.3 *Impact Resistance*—All profiles are to be tested in accordance with Test Method D4226, Procedure “B,” using impactor C.125. Flat sections of the profile extrusion shall have a minimum impact failure of 1.5 in. lb/mil (6675 J/m).

6.4 *Warp—Longitudinal Bow*—The maximum longitudinal bow allowable warp shall be 0.5 % of the length of calculated using the following formula:

$$B = 4608.125 - \sqrt{(4608.125^2 - (0.5l)^2)}$$

the

where

*B* = longitudinal bow

*r* = radius of bow circle

*l* = length of extruded profile

fence profile when determined in accordance with 8.7.

NOTE 8—The Longitudinal Bow formula was derived from the Pythagorean Theorem using a right triangle inscribed within a circle with the radius equivalent to the arc formed by a 96 in. line with a 0.25 in. bow at the center of the line. See Fig. 1 for more detail.

6.5 *Dimensional Stability*—The dimensional stability of the profile extrusions shall be determined in accordance with 8.9. Extrusions shall have a maximum average shrinkage of 2.4 % for all sides measured, with no single value exceeding 3 %.

NOTE 9—Expansion and contraction of the fence profile lengths must be taken in consideration in the design of the fencing system.

6.6 *Coefficient of Linear Expansion*—The fencing profiles shall have a coefficient of linear expansion not greater than  $4.4 \times 10^{-5}$  in./in. · °F ( $7.9 \times 10^{-5}$  mm/mm · °C) when tested in accordance with Test Method D696.

NOTE 10—Expansion and contraction of the fence profile lengths must be taken in consideration in the design of the fencing system.

6.7 *Thickness of PVC Capstock*—PVC extruded profiles produced by coextrusion, which contain two or more layers, shall have an outer layer (capstock) that is no less than 0.010 in. (0.25 mm) thick at any point on all surfaces exposed to UV rays upon completed installation.

6.8 *Bond*—For PVC profiles produced by coextrusion, the bond between the layers shall be strong and uniform. It shall not be possible to separate any two layers with a probe or point of a knife blade so that the layers separate at any point.

## 7. Performance Requirements

### 7.1 Weathering

7.1.1 The exposures listed in Table 42 shall be conducted in order to meet the requirements of this specification. All exposures shall be conducted at an angle of 45 degrees South, plywood backed, in accordance with Practice D1435.

TABLE 42 Required Exposures for PVC Extrusions

Color of PVC Extrusions	Exposure Climate	Required Exposure Times, months <sup>A</sup>
White	hot, dry (Phoenix, AZ)	6 and 12
	hot, humid (Miami, FL)	6 and 12
	northern temperate	6 and 12
Any other color	hot, dry (Phoenix, AZ)	6, 12 and 24
	hot, humid (Miami, FL)	6, 12 and 24
	northern temperate	6, 12 and 24

<sup>A</sup>It is recommended that separate specimens be used for each exposure time.