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Standard Specification for Fire Safety for Candle Accessories¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This specification prescribes minimum safety requirements for candle accessories to help ensure a reasonable degree of safety for normal use with candles, thereby improving personal safety and reducing fires, deaths, and injuries.

1.2 This specification is not intended to replace other safety practices such as adult supervision, close monitoring of product when in use, and fire detection, alarm, or suppression systems.

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

1.4 *This standard is used to measure and describe the response of materials, products, or assemblies to heat and flame under controlled conditions, but does not by itself incorporate all factors required for fire hazard or fire risk assessment of the materials, products, or assemblies under actual fire conditions.*

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:*²

D92 Test Method for Flash and Fire Points by Cleveland Open Cup Tester

E136 Test Method for Behavior of Materials in a Vertical Tube Furnace at 750°C

E176 Terminology of Fire Standards

F1972 Guide for Terminology Relating to Candles and Associated Accessory Items

F2417 Specification for Fire Safety for Candles

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—Certain candle-related terminology has already been addressed in Guide F1972. Certain additional fire-related terminology is found in Terminology E176. The reader is directed to those standards for definitions not found in 3.2.

3.2 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

3.2.1 *burn time, n*—time interval a test specimen supports sustained flaming combustion after removal of the ignition source until all flaming ceases.

3.2.2 *candle accessory, n*—object designed, intended, or marketed for use with a candle.

3.2.3 *candle burner, n*—candle holder that has an enclosed, but vented, area in which to put a candle, said candle providing a source of heat or light or both.

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F15 on Consumer Products and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F15.45 on Candle Products. Current edition approved March 1, 2012/July 1, 2013. Published March 2012/August 2013. Originally approved in 2007. Last previous edition approved in 2009/2012 as F2601 – 09/F2601 – 12. DOI: 10.1520/F2601-12.10.1520/F2601-13.

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.

3.2.3.1 *Discussion*—

Does not include the item known as a “candle follower” also referred to by the term “candle burner” in the liturgical industry.

3.2.4 *candle holder, n*—candle accessory onto which a candle is placed. It may support, hold or contain a candle when in use.

3.2.4.1 Discussion—

Filled candles are not candle holders.

3.2.5 *candle ring, n*—candle accessory intended to surround the candle with decorative materials in proximity to a candle, including, but not limited to, a continuous ring or loose fill material.

3.2.6 *consumption rate, n*—rate at which a candle is consumed measured in grams of fuel consumed per hour.

3.2.6.1 Discussion—

Consumption rate is determined by weighing a candle prior to burning and then again at the end of the life or burn cycle of the candle. The weight consumed in grams is then divided by the burn time in hours to arrive at a consumption rate in grams per hour.

3.2.7 *ignition, n*—initiation of combustion.

3.2.7.1 Discussion—

The combustion is typically evidenced by glow or flame. The combustion may be sustained or transient.

3.2.8 *noncombustible, adj*—not capable of igniting and burning when subjected to a fire under specified conditions.

3.2.8.1 Discussion—

Materials that pass Test Method E136 are considered noncombustible.

3.2.9 *potpourri burner, n*—candle burner designed to provide a source of heat to warm a reservoir of extraneous material.

3.2.10 *sustained flaming, n*—existence of flame on or over the surface of the specimen for periods of 4 s or more.

3.2.10.1 Discussion—

Sustained flaming starts at the beginning of the period when a flame is found on or over the surface.

4. Safety Requirements

4.1 *Safety Requirements for Candle Rings*—This safety requirement applies to all candle rings with the following exceptions: rings constructed exclusively of noncombustible materials, rings constructed exclusively of live plants or fresh cut flowers, or both, that remain hydrated during their intended life, or items which include rings that incorporate barrier technology (see 5.2.4.14-5.2.4.16).

4.1.1 Rationale:

4.1.1.1 Candle rings are used in proximity to a known source of ignition (candle flame).

4.1.1.2 Flammable components of candle rings increase the risk of fires when using candle products.

4.1.2 Performance Requirement:

4.1.2.1 A candle ring shall pass the flammability requirements for candle rings if, when tested according to 5.2, it does not ignite or has a burn time less than or equal to an average of 30 s for three tests per component and the burn time for any one test shall not exceed 60 s. During any test, flaming shall not spread over the entire candle ring. The test shall be conducted on all applicable components of the ring.

4.2 *Safety Requirements for Candle Holders—Holders, Shades, and Toppers*—This safety requirement applies to all candle holders, including candle burners and potpourri burners, and candle shades and toppers, with the following exceptions: holders items constructed exclusively of noncombustible materials (see Note 1) or which incorporate barrier technology. (See 5.2.4.15.)

NOTE 1—Observations indicate that some porous materials which are otherwise considered to be noncombustible, for example, unglazed ceramics and terra cotta, absorb molten wax or other combustible liquids and can support sustained flaming combustion. This note has been provided for informational purposes only.

4.2.1 Rationale:

4.2.1.1 Candle ~~holders~~ holders, shades, and toppers are used with burning candles placed directly ~~on~~ under, on, or in them.

4.2.1.2 ~~Direct~~ A buildup of heat or direct flame impingement ~~off~~ from the candle flame onto candle ~~holders~~ holders, shades, or toppers is possible during use, resulting in the candle ~~holder~~ holder, shade, or topper igniting.

4.2.2 *Performance Requirement*—A candle ~~holder~~ holder, shade, or topper shall pass the flammability requirements for candle ~~holders~~ holders, shades, or toppers if, when tested according to 5.2, it does not ignite or has a burn time less than or equal to an

average of 30 s for three tests per component and the burn time for any one test shall not exceed 60 s. During any test, flaming shall not spread over the entire candle ~~holder~~. holder, shade, or topper. The test shall be conducted on all applicable components of the ~~holder~~. holder, shade, or topper.

4.3 *Safety Requirements for Candle Burners and Potpourri Burners*—This safety requirement applies to all types of burners designed to use a candle as a source of heat or light, or both. Candle burners and potpourri burners are also subject to the requirements of 4.2.

4.3.1 *Rationale:*

4.3.1.1 Candle burners and potpourri burners can contribute to secondary ignition, excessive flame heights, or end of useful life problems, or a combination thereof. These are often associated with the buildup of heat or soot or both from candles placed in these types of products.

4.3.1.2 Candle burners and potpourri burners meeting the performance requirement listed in 4.3.2 will reduce the risk of fires initiated by candles used with these types of products.

4.3.2 *Performance Requirement:*

4.3.2.1 A candle burner or potpourri burner shall pass the performance requirements if there is no secondary ignition, excessive flame height, or end-of-useful life problems as detailed in Sections 4.1 through 4.3 in Specification F2417 and the burner does not ignite, crack, or break when the candle burner is tested with an appropriate scented tealight (or other supplied candle meeting the requirements in 5.3.1) according to the candle burning performance test method found in Section 5.2.4 of Specification F2417.

4.3.2.2 A minimum of three identical samples shall be tested eight times each with no failures allowed.

NOTE 2—Research³ indicates that items with a small internal volume, low ceiling height, and limited ventilation are especially at risk to fail the flame height, end-of-useful life, and secondary ignition requirements of Specification F2417.

4.4 *Safety Requirements for Stability*—This safety requirement applies to all accessories intended to be used in direct contact with burning candles.

4.4.1 *Rationale*—This requirement minimizes the hazards of candle accessory/ensemble tip over.

4.4.2 *Performance Requirement*—The candle accessory must not tip over when placed at a minimum 10.0° incline when tested with the candle specified in 5.3.1.

5. Test Methods

5.1 Candle fire safety issues addressed by these test methods include candle ~~ring~~. ring, shade, topper, and holder flammability, candle burner and potpourri burner accessories burn performance and stability.

5.2 *Flammability of Candle Rings—Rings, Shades, Toppers, or Holders:*

5.2.1 *Summary of Test Method*—Components of candle ~~rings~~. rings, shades, toppers, or holders are tested on a flat noncombustible surface for sustained flaming combustion. Components of the ~~ring~~. ring, shade, topper, or holder are tested for flammability through contact with the flame source for up to 60 s. Each test is monitored for sustained flaming combustion of the component. Three separate tests are performed on each type of component of the candle ~~ring~~. ring, shade, topper, or the candle holder. The burn time is measured.

5.2.2 *Apparatus:*

5.2.2.1 Large, flat, noncombustible surface.

5.2.2.2 *Flame Source*—A butane diffusion flame intended to represent a candle flame. The burner tube consists of a stainless steel tube with an outside diameter of nominally 8 mm and a wall thickness of 1 mm. The gas supply system consists of a pressure gauge, flow meter, fine-control valve, and cylinder regulator providing an outlet pressure of 28.5 mbar (0.4 psi). The flow meter supplies butane gas at a constant rate of 45 mL/min at 25°C. Under the specified conditions, the flame height is approximately 35 mm.

NOTE 3—An alternative flame source is permissible provided that it can be demonstrated by testing identical specimens with both the alternative flame source and the flame source specified in this test method that the tests using the alternative flame source yields failing results as often as, or more often than tests using the specified flame source.

5.2.2.3 Ring stand/clamp assembly.

5.2.2.4 Stopwatch.

5.2.2.5 Ruler.

5.2.2.6 Thermometer.

5.2.2.7 Hygrometer.

5.2.3 *Safety Hazards*—(**Warning**—There is an inherent risk of working with and around open flames. Appropriate personal protective equipment shall be used and safe work practices shall be followed. Fire suppression equipment capable of mitigating fires associated with candle accessory fire safety testing shall be readily available during testing.)

5.2.4 *Procedure:*

³ “Consumer Safety Research—Fires Associated With the Use of Night Lights and Ceramic Burners,” July 1996, Fire Research Station, Building Research Establishment. (Research conducted on behalf of the Consumer Safety Unit of the Department of Trade and Industry.) Consumer Safety Unit, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET.