



Designation: **D3596—09 D3596 – 13**

## Standard Practice for Determination of Gels (Fisheyes) In General-Purpose Poly(Vinyl Chloride) (PVC) Resins<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D3596; 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 practice provides a quantitative measure of the gels remaining in a flexible vinyl compound processed from general-purpose poly(vinyl chloride) (PVC) resins under a prescribed set of working conditions.

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

1.3 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety problems, 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—There is no known ISO equivalent to this standard.

### 2. Referenced Documents

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

**D883 Terminology Relating to Plastics**

**D1600 Terminology for Abbreviated Terms Relating to Plastics**

### 3. Terminology

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

### 4. Summary of Practice

4.1 A sample of PVC resin is mixed with calcium/zinc stabilizer, stearic acid, carbon black, and a plasticizer in a laboratory mixer. The dry blend is milled on a two-roll laboratory mill.

4.2 The milled sheet is press-polished and the gels counted using a bottom-lighted viewing box and a magnifying comparator.

### 5. Significance and Use

5.1 The gel (fisheye) in PVC resins is generally recognized as a hard particle of resin which will not fuse when the plastic mass is subjected to set conditions of hot processing. The number of unfused particles present is related to the conditions used. The presence of an excess of such particles is detrimental to many applications.

### 6. Apparatus

6.1 *Laboratory Mixer*, with stainless steel mixing bowl.

6.2 *Two-Roll Mill*, 152.4 by 304.8 mm (6 by 12 in.), 263.5 mm (10.5 in.) between guides, differential speed ratio  $1.40 \pm 0.04$ , fast roll speed  $34 \pm 2$  rpm, with an adjustable temperature range of 120–205°C (250–400°F).

NOTE 2—If the mill available does not meet these criteria, the specifications of the mill used should be included in the report.

6.3 *Surface Pyrometer*

6.4 *Balance*, 0.1-g sensitivity.

<sup>1</sup> This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee **D20** on Plastics and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee **D20.15** on Thermoplastic Materials. Current edition approved Feb. 1, 2009; Nov. 1, 2013. Published February 2009; November 2013. Originally approved in 1977. Last previous edition approved in 2004; 2009 as **D3596 – 92**; **D3596 – 09**; (**2001**); DOI: 10.1520/D3596-09; 10.1520/D3596-13.

<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.

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