



Standard Performance Specification for Textile Materials for Wearing Apparel for Use by Electrical Workers Exposed to Momentary Electric Arc and Related Thermal Hazards¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This performance specification covers the flame resistance of textile materials to be used for wearing apparel for use by electrical workers exposed to momentary electric arc and related thermal hazards.

NOTE 1—This performance specification does not cover coated fabrics commonly used in rainwear.

NOTE 2—At present, a bench scale arc test for laboratory use is not available. It is the intent of the committee to continue the search for an acceptable laboratory test based on either an electric arc exposure or an acceptable alternative which will form the basis of a modification of this specification.

1.2 Materials used for basic protection levels are covered.

1.3 Protective properties relate to thermal exposure from momentary arc and associated exposure to open flame and radiant heat. (See Appendix X1.)

1.4 This performance specification covers wearing apparel design characteristics that relate specifically to protection from exposure to momentary electric arc and that relate to the utility of the wearing apparel.

NOTE 3—A number of other thermal test methods are under consideration and development and when evaluated and proved effective by Committee F-18 will be incorporated in either this specification or an appropriate alternative test method or specification.

1.5 *This standard should be used to evaluate and describe the properties of materials, products, or assemblies in response to heat and flame under controlled laboratory condition. It should not be used to describe or appraise the fire hazard or fire risk of materials, products, or assemblies under actual fire conditions.*

1.5.1 The results of this evaluation may be used as elements of a fire-risk assessment which takes into account all of the factors which are pertinent to an assessment of the fire hazard of a particular end use.

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

1.7 The following precautionary caveat pertains only to the test methods portion, Section 8, 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.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:

- D 123 Terminology Relating to Textiles²
- D 434 Test Method for Resistance to Slippage of Yarns in Woven Fabrics Using a Standard Seam²
- D 1424 Test Method for Tear Resistance of Woven Fabrics by Falling-Pendulum (Elmendorf) Apparatus²
- D 1682 Test Methods for Breaking Load and Elongation of Textile Fabrics³
- D 2262 Test Method for Tearing Strength of Woven Fabrics by the Tongue (Single Rip) Method (Constant-Rate-of-Travel Tensile Testing Machine)²
- D 2724 Test Methods for Bonded, Fused and Laminated Apparel Fabrics²
- D 3786 Test Method for Hydraulic Bursting Strength of Knitted Goods and Nonwoven Fabrics: Diaphragm Bursting Strength Tester Method⁴
- F 1449 Guide for Care and Maintenance for Flame Resistant and Thermal Protective Clothing⁵

2.2 AATCC Test Methods:

- Method 61 Colorfastness to Washing, Domestic and Laundering, Commercial: Accelerated⁶
- Method 132 Colorfastness to Dry-Cleaning⁶
- Method 135 Dimensional Changes Automatic Home Laundering of Woven and Knitted Fabrics⁶
- Method 158 Dimensional Changes on Drycleaning in Perchloroethylene: Machine Method⁶

2.3 Federal Standard:

- Federal Test Method Standard (FTMS) No. 191A

¹ This performance specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F-18 on Electrical Protective Equipment for Workers and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F18.65 on Wearing Apparel.

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² Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 07.01.

³ Discontinued; see 1991 Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 07.01.

⁴ Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 07.02.

⁵ Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 11.03.

⁶ AATCC Technical Manual, available from American Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists, PO Box 12215, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709.

Method 5903.1, Flame Resistance Cloth Vertical ⁷

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—For definitions of textile terms used in this specification refer to Terminology D 123.

3.2 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

3.2.1 *basic protection level*—the level of protection provided by flame-resistant materials that do not continue to burn after exposure to and removal of a source of ignition. (See 7.6.)

3.2.2 *basic protection level wearing apparel*—clothing intended for continuous wear for work activities in designated locations in which exposure to momentary electric arc and related radiant heat and open-flame sources is possible.

3.2.3 *findings*—miscellaneous fabrics in garments such as zipper tapes, linings, pockets, waistbands, and facings.

3.2.4 *momentary electric arc*—a discharge of electricity through a gaseous media, normally characterized by a voltage drop in the immediate vicinity of the electrodes approximately equal to the ionization potential of the gaseous media.

3.2.5 *radiant heat*—heat communicated by energy propagated through space and transmitted by electromagnetic waves.

3.2.6 *thermal hazard*—the heat energy sufficient to cause burn injury to human tissue subjected to a momentary electric arc.

3.2.7 *user*—the employer or entity purchasing the equipment to be utilized by workers for their protection; in the absence of such an employer or entity, the individual purchasing and utilizing the protective equipment.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 This specification provides performance properties for textile materials used in wearing apparel that represent initial minimum requirements for basic protection levels.

4.1.1 The performance properties have been selected based on materials in use and take into consideration durability requirements for specific apparel.

4.2 At the present time, the basic protection level for exposure to momentary electric arc and related thermal hazards is defined by a vertical flame-resistance test. (See 7.6 and the other tests listed in Section 7.)

4.3 Work practices vary from user to user depending upon many factors. These may include, but are not limited to, operating system voltages, construction design, work procedure or techniques, and weather conditions. Therefore, except for the restrictions set forth in this specification because of design limitations, the use and maintenance of this equipment is beyond the scope of this specification.

4.3.1 It is common practice and the responsibility of the user of this type of protective equipment to prepare complete instructions and regulations to govern in detail the correct and safe use of such equipment.

5. Materials and Manufacture

5.1 Material tests shall be performed on textile materials as they are delivered to the clothing manufacturer.

5.1.1 Material tests may be performed on samples taken from finished garments.

5.2 Lot size for the initial (without laundering) flammability test shall be 4572 m (5000 yd) of manufactured fabric or the manufactured yardage, whichever is less. One sample of 1.0 m shall be taken from each lot.

5.3 Lot size for all other tests except design tests shall be 45 720 m (50 000 yd) or at least every three months, whichever is more frequent. One sample of 4.0 m shall be taken from each lot.

5.4 Design tests shall be run on the original and when changes are made to flame resistant textile materials, for example, fiber type, yarn type, weaving style, fabric weight, dyeing, finishing procedure.

6. Requirements

6.1 Thread, findings, and closures used in garment construction shall not contribute to the severity of injuries to the wearer in the event of a momentary electric arc and related thermal exposure.

6.2 The properties of materials for basic protection level wearing apparel shall conform to the specifications in Table 1 and Table 2, when evaluated in accordance with Section 7.

NOTE 4—Physical characteristic tests and values in Section 7 and Table 1 and Table 2 are based on experience from woven and knit fabrics currently in use and may not be applicable to other fabric types.

NOTE 5—Characteristics (for example, clothing ensembles, design, and laundry maintenance) of protective garments for basic protection level wearing apparel should be guided by the information contained in Appendix X1.

6.3 Garments shall be labeled with the following information:

6.3.1 Tracking identification code system;

6.3.2 Meets requirements of ASTM F1506;

6.3.3 Manufacturer's name;

6.3.4 Size and other associated standard labeling; and

6.3.5 Care instructions and fiber content.

7. Test Methods

7.1 *Breaking Load*—Determine the breaking load in accordance with Test Methods D 1682 (Grab test G: CRT or CRE).

7.2 *Tear Resistance*—Determine the tear resistance in accordance with Test Method D 1424.

7.2.1 As an option for selected materials, Test Method D 2262 may be employed. This option may be exercised upon agreement between the buyer and the seller. However, correlation between this test method and Test Method D 1424 is not expected.

7.3 *Seam Slippage*—Determine the seam slippage in accordance with Test Method D 434.

7.4 *Colorfastness:*

7.4.1 *Laundering*—Determine the colorfastness to laundering in accordance with AATCC Method 61, IIA,

7.4.2 *Dry Cleaning*—Determine the colorfastness to dry cleaning in accordance with AATCC Method 132.

NOTE 6—Launderable fabrics are expected to be dry-cleanable except where all or part of the fabric is not dry-cleanable and is so labeled. Goods labeled "Dry Clean Only" are to be only dry-cleaned.

⁷ Available from Standardization Documents Order Desk, Bldg. 4, Section D, 700 Robbins Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19111-5094, Attn: NPODS.