



Designation: D4332 – 14

# Standard Practice for Conditioning Containers, Packages, or Packaging Components for Testing<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D4332; 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 for standard and special conditioning and testing atmospheres that may be used to simulate particular field conditions that a container, package, or packaging component may encounter during its life or testing cycle.

1.2 This practice describes procedures for conditioning these containers, packages, or packaging components so that they approach or reach equilibrium with the atmosphere to which they may be exposed. This standard is commonly used for conditioning when conducting transit simulation tests.

1.3 Practice D685 should be used as the relevant conditioning standard when quantification of box compression strength at standard atmosphere conditions is required.

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>
- D685 Practice for Conditioning Paper and Paper Products for Testing
  - D996 Terminology of Packaging and Distribution Environments
  - E41 Terminology Relating To Conditioning
  - E171 Practice for Conditioning and Testing Flexible Barrier Packaging
  - E337 Test Method for Measuring Humidity with a Psychrometer (the Measurement of Wet- and Dry-Bulb Temperatures)

<sup>1</sup> This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D10 on Packaging and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D10.21 on Shipping Containers and Systems - Application of Performance Test Methods.

Current edition approved Nov. 1, 2014. Published January 2015. Originally approved in 1984. Last previous edition approved in 2013 as D4332 –13. DOI: 10.1520/D4332-14.

<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.

F2825 Practice for Climatic Stressing of Packaging Systems for Single Parcel Delivery

## 3. Terminology

3.1 Terms and definitions used in this practice may be found in Terminology D996, Terminology E41, or Specification E171.

## 4. Significance and Use

4.1 Many materials from which containers and packages are made, especially cellulosic materials, undergo changes in physical properties as the temperature and the relative humidity (RH) to which they are exposed are varied. Therefore, the package should be placed and kept in a specified atmosphere for a length of time such that subsequent measurements of physical properties will be meaningful and reproducible.

4.2 The conditions described in this practice are either historically accepted standard conditions or special laboratory conditions chosen to represent particular phases of the distribution environment. These special conditions do not necessarily duplicate actual field conditions, but tend to simulate them and have effects on packages and materials which may be related to their field performance.

## 5. Atmospheric Conditions

5.1 *Preconditioning Atmosphere*—20 to 40°C (68 to 104°F) and 10 to 35 % relative humidity.

5.2 *Standard Conditioning Atmosphere*— $23 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$  (73.4  $\pm$  2°F) and 50  $\pm$  2 % relative humidity.

NOTE 1—Average values must fall within these limits. Short-term fluctuations and measurement limitations may cause individual measurements to vary up to  $\pm 2^\circ\text{C}$  ( $\pm 3.6^\circ\text{F}$ ) and  $\pm 5$  % relative humidity without significant impairment of test precision.

5.3 *Environmental Conditioning Atmosphere*—The environmental conditions shown in Table 1 may be selected when appropriate (also see Practice F2825).

NOTE 2—In the absence of a specific requirement for a particular atmospheric condition, use the conditioning atmosphere given in 5.2.

NOTE 3—Conditioning at the desert condition (see Table 1) at a constant temperature of 60°C (140°F) may have effects on some materials that do not relate to effects of cyclical field conditions.