



Designation: **D4321 – 09 D4321 – 15**

Standard Test Method for Package Yield of Plastic Film¹

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1. Scope*

1.1 This test method covers the determination of yield (area per unit mass) of plastic film.

1.2 Also described in this test method is the means for calculating nominal yield, given values for nominal density, and nominal thickness. This is needed since, in material specifications, limits for yield are normally stated in terms of the percent deviation of actual yield from nominal yield.

1.3 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as the standard. The values given in brackets are 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.*

NOTE 1—This test method standard and ISO 4591 address the same subject matter, but differ in technical content.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*²

D792 Test Methods for Density and Specific Gravity (Relative Density) of Plastics by Displacement

D883 Terminology Relating to Plastics

D1505 Test Method for Density of Plastics by the Density-Gradient Technique

D4883 Test Method for Density of Polyethylene by the Ultrasound Technique

D6988 Guide for Determination of Thickness of Plastic Film Test Specimens

E691 Practice for Conducting an Interlaboratory Study to Determine the Precision of a Test Method

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions:*

3.1.1 *density, apparent*—the weight in air of a unit volume of a material.

3.1.2 *yield*—the area per unit mass of a material.

3.2 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

3.2.1 *measured density*—the density of the fabricated film as determined by actual measurement.

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee **D20** on Plastics and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee **D20.19** on Film, Sheeting, and Molded Products.

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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.

3.2.1.1 *Discussion*—

The measured density is *not* the value used to classify the material in accordance with a standard material specification. The measured value will depend on the manufacturing process of the film.

3.2.2 *measured thickness*—the thickness of the fabricated film as determined by actual measurement.

3.2.3 *nominal density*—an estimated value of density of film as agreed upon between the user and the supplier.

3.2.4 *nominal thickness*—the target value of film thickness as agreed upon between the user and the supplier.

3.2.5 *nominal yield*—the target value of yield as agreed upon between the user and the supplier.

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

3.2.6 *package yield*—the calculated value of yield as determined by this test method.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 Actual yield is important to the film converter as this determines the actual number of units or packages that he can derive in a particular conversion from any given mass of film.

5. Apparatus

5.1 Means for preparing test specimens of accurately known area and weighing at least 1 g.

5.1.1 When film width and thickness are such that a specimen weighing at least 1 g will be produced, a rectangular metal template, nominally 100-mm ~~{4-in.}(4-in.)~~ wide, having a length greater than the width of the film from which the specimens are to be taken and having accurately parallel edges in the length direction, is to be used for preparing specimens. The width is to be accurately measured for subsequent use in calculating the specimen area. If slippage of film beneath the template during the cutting operation is a problem, cement a thin layer of cork, felt, or other suitable material onto the contact face of the template.

5.1.2 For narrower, thinner films for which the above template would not produce a specimen weighing at least 1 g, a steel straightedge ~~may be used~~ is an option. Using the steel straightedge, make cuts as far apart as necessary to produce a specimen weighing at least 1 g.

5.2 *Horizontal Flat Surface*, of a size large enough to accommodate film samples from which test specimens are to be cut.

5.3 *Sharp Utility Knife or Razor Blade*, or equivalent.

5.4 *Analytical Balance having a resolution of at least 0.001 gram*.

5.5 *Steel Tape Measure having a resolution of at least 0.001 metre (0.040 inch)*.

6. Sampling

6.1 For a lot or a commercial shipment, sample as directed in the appropriate film standard or specification. In the absence of a reference standard or specification, the sampling frequency shall be agreed upon between the supplier and user.

6.2 If results are to be obtained for only a single roll, obtain a sample with a length sufficient for three test specimens. Usually, a length of 3 m ~~{10-ft}(10 ft)~~ is sufficient.

6.3 In obtaining a sample from a roll, unwind and discard at least two turns before taking the sample. In obtaining a sample, cut across the full width of the film perpendicular to its length.

7. Procedure

7.1 Smooth out the sample onto a flat surface. If the sample is a flat tubular film, the test specimen shall be taken in double thickness. If the sample is gusseted or multi-folded, spread out the gussets or folds until the sample is a sheet or flat tube.

7.2 Measure the sample width to the nearest 0.001 m ~~{0.040 in.}(0.040 in.)~~ using a steel tape measure. Record this as the test specimen width, W_a , in metres ~~[inches]~~ (inches), for single thickness film. For flat tubular film, multiply the measured width value by 2 and record as W_a .

7.3 Cut out a specimen weighing at least 1 g by one of the following techniques.

7.3.1 Lay the template across the full width of the film with the length of the template perpendicular to the edge of the film. Press down on the top of the template in the area where the cut is being made. Cut across the entire film width on both sides of the template. Retrieve the cutout specimen. Record the premeasured width of the template as the length, L_a , in metres [inches] of the test specimen.

7.3.2 Lay the steel straightedge across the film width perpendicular to the edges of the film. Make one cut across the film width along the straightedge. Pick up the straightedge and reposition it at an appropriate distance from the first cut. Again cut across the film width with the straightedge. Measure the length of the test specimen using a steel tape measure to the nearest 0.001 m ~~{0.040 in.}(0.040 in.)~~. Record this as the length, L_a , in metres [inches] of the test specimen.

7.4 If yield of a single roll is being measured, obtain two more specimens from the roll. These specimens must be at least 1 m ~~{3-ft}(3 ft)~~ apart in accordance with 7.3. Discard the scrap between where the specimens are taken. If yield of a lot or shipment is being determined, obtain one specimen from each sampling unit from the lot or shipment.

7.5 Weigh each test specimen and record its mass, M_a , in kilograms to the nearest 0.001 g.

8. Calculation

8.1 Calculate the measured yield for each specimen as follows:

$$Y_a = (W_a \times L_a) / (M_a) \quad (1)$$

where:

Y_a = measured yield, m^2/kg [$in.^2/lb$],