



Designation: D4685/D4685M – 15

Standard Test Method for Pile Fabric Abrasion¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This test method covers the determination of the abrasion of pile fabrics when the loss of pile tufts occur, sometimes called pile retention or pile pull out. It includes two procedures:

1.1.1 *Procedure A*—The “Heavy Duty” procedure describes the test option for fabrics over 240 g/m² (7 oz/yd²) or fabrics which should meet heavy duty end-use conditions of wear.

1.1.2 *Procedure B*—The “Light Duty” procedure describes the test option for fabrics under 240 g/m² (7 oz/yd²) or fabrics which should meet light duty end-use conditions of wear.

1.2 The test method is intended for both regular, ribless woven corduroy or other woven pile fabric constructions.

1.3 The values stated in either SI units or inch-pound units are to be regarded separately as standard. The values stated in each system may not be exact equivalents; therefore, each system shall be used independently of the other. Combining values from the two systems may result in non-conformance with the standard.

1.4 *This standard may involve hazardous materials, operations, and equipment. 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

[D123 Terminology Relating to Textiles](#)

[D1776 Practice for Conditioning and Testing Textiles](#)

[D2724 Test Methods for Bonded, Fused, and Laminated Apparel Fabrics](#)

[D3884 Guide for Abrasion Resistance of Textile Fabrics \(Rotary Platform, Double-Head Method\)](#)

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D13 on Textiles and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D13.59 on Fabric Test Methods, General.

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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.

[D4850 Terminology Relating to Fabrics and Fabric Test Methods](#)

[E177 Practice for Use of the Terms Precision and Bias in ASTM Test Methods](#)

[E691 Practice for Conducting an Interlaboratory Study to Determine the Precision of a Test Method](#)

2.2 *ASTM Adjunct*:³

[Photographic Scale for Pile Retention](#)

2.3 *AATCC Method*:⁴

[TM 135 Dimensional Changes of Fabrics after Home Laundering](#)

3. Terminology

3.1 For all terminology related to D13.59 on Fabric Test Methods, General, see Terminology [D4850](#).

3.2 The following terms are relevant to this standard: abrasion, corduroy, pile fabric, pile retention, velveteen.

3.3 For definitions of all other textile terms see Terminology [D123](#).

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 Test specimens are exposed to a specified number of abrasion cycles on face and back separately and then evaluated by viewing the specimen over a light box and comparing to photographic standards. The method measures only the amount of pile pulled out of the base fabric structure and not the surface pile appearance attributes, such as crushed or flatten ribs.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 This test method is considered satisfactory for quality control testing and commercial shipment acceptance.

5.1.1 In case of a dispute arising from differences in reported test results when using this test method, the purchaser and the supplier should conduct comparative tests to determine if there is a statistical bias between their laboratories. Competent statistical assistance is recommended for the investigation of bias. As a minimum, the two parties should take test

³ A set of six photographic standards for pile retention of corduroy fabrics is available from ASTM International Headquarters. Order Adjunct No. [ADJ4685](#).

⁴ Available from American Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists (AATCC), P.O. Box 12215, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709, <http://www.aatcc.org>.

specimens that are from the lot of material of the type in question. The test specimens should then be randomly assigned in equal numbers to each laboratory for testing. The average results from the two laboratories should be compared using student's t-test for unpaired data and an acceptable probability level chosen by the two parties before the testing is begun. If a bias is found, either its cause must be found and corrected or the purchaser and the supplier must agree to interpret future test results in the light of the known bias.

5.2 Finishes and changes in fabric surfaces may exert a large effect on pile retention of corduroy. Therefore, it may be desirable to test before as well as after laundering or drycleaning, or both.

5.3 The separate testing of specimens on the face and back of the fabric is important in this test method since the pile pull-out may be due to abrasive action on either the face or back. With many pile fabrics, specifically corduroy constructions, pile retention properties are worse when abraded on the back.

6. Apparatus

6.1 *Rotary Platform Abraser*, as described in Test Method **D3884** and consisting of the following:

6.1.1 *Specimen Holder*, rubber pad, clamp plate, and clamp ring.

6.1.2 *Auxillary Weight*, to give a load of 500 g per wheel (exclusive of the mass of the wheel).

6.1.3 *Vacuum Unit*.

6.2 *CS-10 Calibrase Abrading Wheels*⁵.

6.2.1 The wheels shall be a cylindrical shape which includes an axial hole 16.0 ± 0.1 mm (0.625 ± 0.004 in.); sides of the wheel shall be parallel, and each wheel shall be 12.7 ± 0.3 mm (0.50 ± 0.012 in.) thick and have an external diameter of less than 52 mm (2 in.) when new but in no case less than 44.4 mm (1.75 in.).

6.3 *Resurfacing Discs (S-11)*, used to resurface the CS-10 abrading wheels.

6.3.1 The resurfacing disc shall be 150 grit silicon carbide coated abrasive paper, approximately 102 mm (4 in.) diameter with a 7 mm ($\frac{1}{4}$ in.) center hole.

6.4 *Round Template*, or die approximately 135 mm ($5\frac{1}{4}$ in.) in diameter for cutting out specimens.

6.5 *Photographic Rating Standards*.³

6.6 *Lighted Viewing Box*, for evaluation (see **Fig. 1**).

6.6.1 The box is approximately 215 mm ($8\frac{3}{8}$ in.) in height, 150 mm ($5\frac{7}{8}$ in.) wide, 150 mm ($5\frac{7}{8}$ in.) in depth, with a 90 mm ($3\frac{3}{4}$ in.) diameter opening in the top. The opening is covered with a clear glass plate which has a black 25 mm (1 in.) circular tape glued to the center of the opening to prevent light from passing through the center hole of the specimen while grading.

⁵ The sole source of supply of the apparatus known to the committee at this time is Taber Industries, North Tonawanda, NY. If you are aware of alternative suppliers, please provide this information to ASTM International Headquarters. Your comments will receive careful consideration at a meeting of the responsible technical committee,⁵ which you may attend.

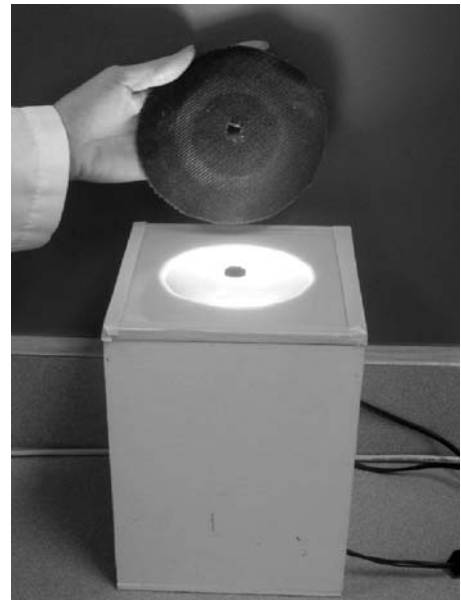


FIG. 1 Pile Retention Viewing Box

6.6.2 The box contains a 75 W reflector flood light⁶ the top of which is 38 mm ($1\frac{1}{2}$ in.) below the glass surface of the box and the specimen. The lamp size and spacing is critical.

7. Sampling

7.1 *Lot Sample*—As a lot sample for acceptance testing, take at random the number of rolls of fabric directed in an applicable material specification or other agreement between the purchaser and the supplier. Consider rolls of fabric to be the primary sampling units.

7.2 *Laboratory Sample*—As a laboratory sample, take from each roll of fabric in the lot sample a full width swatch at least 500 mm (20 in.) long after removing at least 1 m (1 yd) of fabric from the outside of the roll. If the fabric is also to be evaluated after laundering or drycleaning, take a second full width swatch 500 mm (20 in.) long from each roll of fabric in the lot sample.

7.3 *Test Specimens*—Cut four specimens from each swatch in the laboratory sample as directed in **8.1**.

8. Specimens and Preparation

8.1 Using the template or die specified in **6.4**, cut four specimens approximately 135 mm ($5\frac{1}{4}$ in.) in diameter from each laboratory sample. If a sample is to be evaluated after laundering or drycleaning, four additional specimens will be taken. (See Section 9).

8.2 Cut the specimens from each laboratory sample so that each specimen contains different warp and filling yarns. Two specimens are to be used to test the face of the sample and two specimens to test the back of the fabric.

⁶ A 75-watt reflector flood light manufactured by General Electric Co. (75R 30/FL) has been found suitable for this purpose.



8.3 Prepare specimen by folding the round specimen twice and cutting off the pointed tip to produce a 6-mm (¼-in.) hole in the center of the specimen to accommodate the clamping screw.

8.4 Determine the fabric mass or identify the anticipated end-use of the sample, or both, for proper selection of the testing option.

8.5 Prior to testing, ensure the expiration date of the abrasion wheels has not passed for the CS-10 wheels. Follow the manufacturer's recommended procedure for breaking in new, or resurfacing and cleaning wheel sets.

NOTE 1—See detailed instructions on preconditioning and other operations in the instrument manual or those in Test Method D3884.

9. Laundering and Drycleaning

9.1 *Laundering*—If the fabric is to be evaluated after laundering, launder the appropriate laboratory samples for three cycles using AATCC TM 135, unless the purchaser and supplier agree to use an alternate procedure.

9.2 *Drycleaning*—If the fabric is to be evaluated after drycleaning, dryclean the appropriate laboratory samples for three cycles as directed in Method D2724, unless an alternative procedure is agreed upon by the purchaser and supplier.

10. Conditioning

10.1 Bring the specimens to moisture equilibrium without preconditioning, as directed in Practice D1776.

11. Standardization

11.1 To ensure that the abrading function of the wheels is maintained at a constant level, prepare the abrading wheels prior to each test.

11.2 Mount the resurfacing disc on the specimen holder and secure in place with the clamp plate, nut and clamping ring. Use the same load that will be used for testing (see 12.6.1 or 12.6.2). Lower the abrading heads carefully until the wheels rest squarely on the abrasive disc. Set the vacuum suction force to 100. Place the vacuum pick-up nozzle in position and adjust it to approximately 6.35 mm (¼ in.) above the resurfacing disc.

11.3 Resurface the wheels by running them 25 cycles against the resurfacing medium. Each S-11 resurfacing disk is good for one resurfacing operation, after which it shall be discarded.

12. Procedure

12.1 Test the conditioned specimens in the standard atmosphere for testing textiles. See Practice D1776.

12.2 Mount the specimen on the holder and attach the clamp plate and nut.

12.2.1 Position the clamp ring to a tight fit over the specimen and holder and draw the specimen taut by pressing the hold down ring uniformly over the edge of the holder. When the desired tension is obtained, tighten the clamp ring screw. Avoid excessive tightening of the clamp ring screw so as to prevent specimen wrinkling. (Fabrics with stretch yarns are difficult to mount uniformly.)

12.2.2 If the specimen holder is removed to mount or analyze specimens, ensure the holder is properly replaced on the drive shaft of the tester.

12.3 Lower the abrading heads carefully onto the surface of the specimen.

12.4 Lower the vacuum suction nozzle and adjust it to approximately 6.35 mm (¼ in.) above the specimen. Failure to adjust the nozzle to the fabric thickness can cause excess abrasion if the nozzle is positioned too low.

12.5 Adjust the vacuum suction control between 60 and 100, or to a setting high enough to remove abraded particles.

12.6 Select the desired number of test cycles and wheel loading as listed in the procedures below:

12.6.1 *Option A Heavy Duty Procedure*—Test two specimens on the fabric face for 300 cycles and two specimens on the back for 100 cycles. Use CS-10 wheels with a loading mass of 500 g/wheel.

12.6.2 *Option B Light Duty Procedure*—Test two specimens on the fabric face for 300 cycles and two specimens on the back for 50 cycles. Use CS-10 wheels with a loading mass of 250 g/wheel. (Each arm minus the auxiliary weights equals 250 g/wheel.)

12.7 After testing, raise wheels and vacuum nozzle then remove the specimen for grading. If desired, the holder may be removed from the tester by lifting straight up. This will permit a closer inspection of the specimen prior to removal from the holder.

NOTE 2—For special studies when a transparent platform to the specimen holder is used, pile loss may be observed over the viewing box with the specimen still attached to the transparent holder.

13. Evaluation

13.1 The operator is to rate all abraded specimens by placing them, face up, over the lighted viewing box for comparison with the Photographic Scale for Pile Retention. A viewing angle that is perpendicular to the specimen is to be used. See Fig. 2. In the case of dispute or referee, three raters should be used.

13.2 The ASTM photographic scale for rating resistance to pile retention has six levels of pile retention. They are as follows:

- 5.0—Excellent
- 4.0—Good
- 3.5—Fair to good
- 3.0—Fair
- 2.0—Poor
- 1.0—Very poor

13.3 If interpolations are needed in the above list of photographic standards, only half steps may be used. Therefore, ratings are: 1.0, 1.5, 2.0, 2.5, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, and 5.0.

13.4 Sometimes the photographic rating levels do not compare with the wear pattern, the exact type, size and arrangement of pile pull-out in the specimen, but the grade levels can be used as a general rating guide for the population of pile loss.

13.5 Color changes, overall abrasion, matting down and fold-over of high pile, and openness of weave should not be a