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Standard Guide for Selecting Jacketing Materials for Thermal Insulation¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This guide covers criteria for selecting thermal insulation jacketing materials and is not intended for use as a performance or product specification.

1.2 This guide applies to jacketing materials applied over thermal insulation for piping, ducts, and equipment.

1.3 This guide includes jacketing materials used over thermal insulation whether the insulation is in the form of pipe, board, or blanket, or field applied materials that are self-supporting, including insulating cements.

1.4 This guide does not include covers or other retaining walls that contain loose fill, other nonsupporting insulation materials, or conduits or containers for buried insulation systems.

1.5 This guide does not include mastics and coatings and their reinforcements.

1.6 The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as standard. The values given in parentheses are mathematical conversions to SI units that are provided for information only and are not considered standard.

1.7 *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

- [A240/A240M Specification for Chromium and Chromium-Nickel Stainless Steel Plate, Sheet, and Strip for Pressure Vessels and for General Applications](#)
- [A366/A366M Specification for Commercial Steel \(CS\)](#)

¹ This guide is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee C16 on Thermal Insulation and is direct responsibility of Subcommittee C16.40 on Insulation Systems.

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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.

[Sheet, Carbon, \(0.15 Maximum Percent\) Cold-Rolled \(Withdrawn 2000\)³](#)

[A1008/A1008M Specification for Steel, Sheet, Cold-Rolled, Carbon, Structural, High-Strength Low-Alloy, High-Strength Low-Alloy with Improved Formability, Solution Hardened, and Bake Hardenable](#)

[B209 Specification for Aluminum and Aluminum-Alloy Sheet and Plate](#)

[C168 Terminology Relating to Thermal Insulation](#)

[C488 Test Method for Conducting Exterior Exposure Tests of Finishes for Thermal Insulation](#)

[C835 Test Method for Total Hemispherical Emittance of Surfaces up to 1400°C](#)

[C921 Practice for Determining the Properties of Jacketing Materials for Thermal Insulation](#)

[C1057 Practice for Determination of Skin Contact Temperature from Heated Surfaces Using a Mathematical Model and Thermesthesiometer](#)

[C1136 Specification for Flexible, Low Permeance Vapor Retarders for Thermal Insulation](#)

[C1258 Test Method for Elevated Temperature and Humidity Resistance of Vapor Retarders for Insulation](#)

[C1263 Test Method for Thermal Integrity of Flexible Water Vapor Retarders](#)

[C1338 Test Method for Determining Fungi Resistance of Insulation Materials and Facings](#)

[C1371 Test Method for Determination of Emittance of Materials Near Room Temperature Using Portable Emisometers](#)

[C1729 Specification for Aluminum Jacketing for Insulation](#)

[C1767 Specification for Stainless Steel Jacketing for Insulation](#)

[C1775 Specification for Laminate Protective Jacket and Tape for Use over Thermal Insulation for Outdoor Applications](#)

[C1785 Test Method for Concentration of Pinhole Detections in Moisture Barriers on Metal Jacketing](#)

[D774/D774M Test Method for Bursting Strength of Paper \(Withdrawn 2010\)³](#)

³ The last approved version of this historical standard is referenced on www.astm.org.

- D828** Test Method for Tensile Properties of Paper and Paperboard Using Constant-Rate-of-Elongation Apparatus (Withdrawn 2009)³
- D882** Test Method for Tensile Properties of Thin Plastic Sheeting
- D1000** Test Methods for Pressure-Sensitive Adhesive-Coated Tapes Used for Electrical and Electronic Applications
- D1204** Test Method for Linear Dimensional Changes of Nonrigid Thermoplastic Sheeting or Film at Elevated Temperature
- D3330/D3330M** Test Method for Peel Adhesion of Pressure-Sensitive Tape
- D3363** Test Method for Film Hardness by Pencil Test
- D3759/D3759M** Test Method for Breaking Strength and Elongation of Pressure-Sensitive Tape
- E84** Test Method for Surface Burning Characteristics of Building Materials
- E96/E96M** Test Methods for Water Vapor Transmission of Materials
- E119** Test Methods for Fire Tests of Building Construction and Materials
- E596** Test Method for Laboratory Measurement of Noise Reduction of Sound-Isolating Enclosures
- F1249** Test Method for Water Vapor Transmission Rate Through Plastic Film and Sheeting Using a Modulated Infrared Sensor
- G154** Practice for Operating Fluorescent Ultraviolet (UV) Lamp Apparatus for Exposure of Nonmetallic Materials
- 2.2 *TAPPI Standards*:⁴
- T461** Flame Resistance of Treated Paper and Paperboard
- 2.3 *ANSI Standards*:
- H35.2.H35.2(M)** Dimensional Tolerances for Aluminum Mill Products

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—Terminology **C168** apply to the terms used in this practice. The following terms are also used in this standard.

3.1.1 *abuse resistance*—ability of a material to be exposed for prolonged periods of time to normal physical abuse without significant deformation or punctures.

3.1.2 *ambient temperature*—the dry bulb temperature of surrounding air when shielded from any sources of incident radiation.

3.1.3 *cleanability*—ability of a material to be washed or otherwise cleaned to maintain its appearance.

3.1.4 *corrosion resistance*—ability of a material to be exposed for prolonged periods of time to a corrosive environment without significant onset of corrosion and the consequential loss of mechanical properties.

3.1.5 *fire resistance*—ability of a material, product, or assembly to withstand fire or give protection from it for a period of time.

3.1.6 *fungal growth resistance*—ability of a material to be exposed continuously to damp conditions without the growth of mildew or mold.

3.1.7 *temperature resistance*—ability of a material to perform its intended function after being subjected to high and low temperatures which the material might be expected to encounter during normal use.

3.1.8 *weather resistance*—ability of a material to be exposed for prolonged periods of time to the outdoors without significant loss of mechanical properties.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 This standard is intended to be used by engineers and designers as a guide to assist them in selecting appropriate thermal insulation jacketing materials. As a guide, it can be used to identify performance characteristics that might be necessary for a particular insulation jacketing system. This guide is not a specification and therefore should not be used as such. It might, however, be useful in writing a specification. Specification **C921** can also be used to determine properties of jacketing materials for thermal insulation.

5. Materials and Manufacture

5.1 Jacketing materials may be composed of a single material or a lamination of several components. The material may be in the form of rolls or sheets or preformed to fit the surface to which they are to be applied. The materials may be applied in the field or may be a factory-applied composite with the insulation.

5.2 *Metallic*:

5.2.1 Metallic jacketing materials are those whose primary material (usually the component of greatest thickness) is metal, such as, aluminum, coated steel, and stainless steel. The metal may be smooth, corrugated, or embossed. The dimensions of corrugations (pitch and depth) may be specified by the purchaser for interchangeability, constant rigidity, and control of sizes. The inner surface of metallic jacketing materials may be coated or covered with a moisture resistant film to retard possible galvanic and/or chemical corrosion of the jacketing.

5.2.1.1 Aluminum jacketing should be manufactured in compliance with Specification **C1729** which incorporates by reference the chemical composition and physical properties of Specification **B209**. Where ambient conditions are particularly corrosive or when a higher surface emissivity is desired, the outer surface of the aluminum may be coated with paint or plastic film.

5.2.1.2 Coated steel jacketing materials can be manufactured in compliance with several Specifications including **A366/A366M** and **A1008/A1008M** using alloys 1010, 1015, or 1020 steel. The outer surface is typically protected by aluminizing, galvanizing, or coating with another type of corrosion resistant metal alloy. Metal thicknesses generally available are from 0.010 to 0.019 in. (0.25 to 0.46 mm).

5.2.1.3 Stainless steel jacketing should be manufactured in compliance with Specification **C1767** which incorporates by reference the chemical composition and physical properties of Specification **A240/A240M**.

⁴ Available from Technical Association of the Pulp and Paper Industry (TAPPI), 15 Technology Parkway South, Norcross, GA 30092, <http://www.tappi.org>.

5.3 *Nonmetallic and Laminated Jacketing:*

5.3.1 Laminated jacketing materials are typically manufactured from combinations of plastic films, plastic composites, metallic foils, reinforcing fabrics, papers, or felts selected to obtain the required performance characteristics. Laminated jacketing for outdoor applications should be manufactured in compliance with Specification **C1775**.

5.3.1.1 One common type of laminated jacketing is flexible low permeance vapor retarders, which should be manufactured in compliance with Specification **C1136**.

5.3.2 Textile or cloth jacketing materials are woven or knitted of textile yarns. Commonly available forms are 4, 6, or 8 oz/yd² (0.14, 0.20, or 0.27 kg/m²) cotton canvas, various weaves of glass fiber yarns, presized glass cloth, knit, or woven plastic fibers.

5.3.3 Plastic jacketing materials are manufactured in various forms and types. Thicknesses generally available are from 0.003 to 0.035 in. (0.08 to 0.89 mm). Various materials can be used such as poly-vital chloride (PVC), CPVS, fiberglass reinforced plastic (FRP), and others.

5.3.4 Saturated felt or cloth jacketing materials are manufactured from various base felts or cloths that have been impregnated with bitumen or resinous materials. Examples: Glass fiber, polyester fiber, polyolefin fiber. This definition does not include tar paper, asphalt paper, or other paperboard materials or other products, such as rag felt, that are made out of waste and they do not represent a continuous and resistant base for a jacketing.

5.3.5 Rubber containing membranes are manufactured from combinations of layers of various rubber containing materials such as butyl rubber or rubberized bitumen with layers of other materials such as plastic films, metallic foils, reinforcing fabrics, or a combination thereof.

5.4 *Classifications used in jacketing specifications*—Each of the various ASTM specifications for jacketing contains a different classification system appropriate for that material. While each individual ASTM specification should be consulted for the details, the general outlines for each of these systems are shown below.

5.4.1 Specification **C1136** Flexible Low Permeance Vapor Retarders,

5.4.1.1 Classified into seven Types based on physical properties and structural requirements,

5.4.2 Specification **C1729** Aluminum Jacketing for Insulation,

5.4.2.1 Classified into four Types based on outer surface treatment and emittance,

5.4.2.2 Classified into six Grades based on aluminum alloy and temper,

5.4.2.3 Classified into four Classes based on type of moisture retarder,

5.4.3 Specification **C1767** Stainless Steel Jacketing for Insulation:

5.4.3.1 Classified into one Type based on outer surface treatment and emittance,

5.4.3.2 Classified into two Grades based on stainless steel alloy and temper, and

5.4.3.3 Classified into three Classes based on type of moisture retarder.

5.4.4 Specification **C1775** Laminate Protective Jacket and Tape for Use over Thermal Insulation for Outdoor Applications:

5.4.4.1 Classified into three Types based on several strength properties and peel adhesion, and

5.4.4.2 Classified into three Grades based on emittance.

6. Physical and Chemical Performance Considerations

6.1 This section includes a number of performance issues that should be considered when using this guide to select a jacketing material for thermal insulation. Some may not be applicable to the particular application. However, to be certain none are overlooked, the user should consider all materials initially and then eliminate those that are not applicable.

6.2 *Abuse Resistance*—Consideration should be given to the ability of a jacketing material to withstand a variety of physical conditions in excess of required functional design criteria. Prior to selection, consideration should be given to the expected intensity and types of abuse as well as the length of time the jacketing material is expected to withstand a given level of abuse.

6.2.1 *Abuse May Include the Following Factors:*

6.2.1.1 *Foot traffic*—Will people or equipment be applying loads directly on the jacketing material such as when piping is used like a ladder?

6.2.1.2 *Impact Resistance*—Is the jacketing material located where there is a probability of it being routinely struck by falling tools or other objects or being hit by traffic moving by?

6.2.1.3 *System Maintenance*—Does the system that the jacketing material is on require maintenance at regular intervals that would require the removal and reinstallation of the jacketing material?

6.2.1.4 *Puncture Resistance*—Is the jacketing material easily punctured? See **9.2.2**.

6.3 *Weather Resistance*—Consideration should be given to the ability of a jacketing system to be exposed outdoors without a significant loss of properties. Factors to consider in selection of the jacketing materials, that comprise the jacketing system, are the following.

6.3.1 Possible effects of precipitation, including rain, snow, sleet, hail, frost, and dew as appropriate for the use area.

6.3.2 Possible effect of ultra violet radiation from sunlight.

6.3.3 Maximum wind velocity.

6.3.4 Possibility of abrasion caused by blowing sand or salt.

6.3.5 Possible effect of high humidity or fog.

6.4 *Water Vapor Transmission (Vapor Retarding Capability)*—Consideration should be given to the ability of a jacketing material to inhibit transport of water vapor through it. Some factors to consider are the following:

6.4.1 Water vapor tends to travel from areas of high vapor pressure to areas of low vapor pressure. See **9.2.1**.

6.4.2 Water in insulation tends to reduce its efficiency. Therefore, if the system constantly runs above ambient it may be appropriate that the jacketing material or system will allow water vapor transmission. If the system constantly runs below