



Designation: C501 – 84 (Reapproved 2015)

Standard Test Method for Relative Resistance to Wear of Unglazed Ceramic Tile by the Taber Abraser¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation C501; 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 (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

1. Scope

1.1 This test method² covers the establishment of an abrasive wear index by determination of the loss of weight resulting from abrasion of unglazed ceramic tile. It is applicable to tile described in Definitions C242. c

1.2 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.

1.3 *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:*³

C242 Terminology of Ceramic Whitewares and Related Products

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee C21 on Ceramic Whitewares and Related Products and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee C21.06 on Ceramic Tile.

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² This test method is basically the same as the abrasion test given in Federal Specification SS-T-308b, except two minor changes have been made:

(1) The number of specimens required by the test is changed from three to four, so that the condition of the abrasive wheels used can be specified as new and once dressed. The diameters of wheels redressed more than once vary greatly and nonuniformly, introducing an unnecessary variation in test results.

(2) The bulk specific gravity of the tile tested has been eliminated from calculation of the wear index. The probable resulting maximum error of 2½% in the wear-index value, when an average is assumed, does not justify the cumbersome determinations of bulk specific gravity of the specimen. Measurements of bulk specific gravities of twenty different unglazed tile from eight different manufacturers, including quarry tile, porcelain tile, natural clay tile and conductive tile showed a range of bulk specific gravity from 2.34 to 2.47, except for that of conductive tile which was as high as 2.98. The average of 2.40 was selected as a constant to be substituted for *G* in the SS-T-308b formula to obtain the formula in this test method. Therefore, to obtain the value 88, the constant of 36.75 in the SS-T-308b test has been multiplied by 2.40 to keep the wear indexes of both tests on the same numerical scale.

³ 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.

2.2 *Federal Specification:*

SS-T-308b Tile, Floor, Wall, and Trim Units, Ceramic⁴

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions:*

3.1.1 For definitions of terms used in this test method, see Terminology C242.

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 This test method consists of mounting the tile specimens in suitable holders, attaching the mounted holders to the spindle of the Taber Abraser, and subjecting the specimens to a prescribed number of revolutions under abrasive wheels of specified coarseness and under a definite applied load. From the loss of weight due to abrasion, the abrasive wear index is calculated by a given formula.

5. Apparatus

5.1 *Taber Abrading Machine*,⁵ equipped with replaceable hard abrasive H-22 Calibrade wheels, which can be loaded by weights.

5.2 *Vacuum Pick-Up*, to remove the abraded material while the machine is in operation.

5.3 *Revolution Counter*.

5.4 *Wheel Refacer*.⁵

5.5 *Balance*, having a sensitivity of 0.05 g.

6. Sampling

6.1 Four tile specimens 4 in. (102 mm) square or larger, or if ceramic mosaic tile, sufficient tile for four specimen assemblies 4 in. square shall constitute a sample and shall be chosen

⁴ Available from Standardization Documents Order Desk, DODSSP, Bldg. 4, Section D, 700 Robbins Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19111-5098, <http://www.dodssp.daps.mil>.

⁵ The sole source of supply of the Taber Abraser and the Model 200 wheel refacer known to the committee at this time is Teledyne Taber Instrument Corp., 17 Goundry St., North Tonawanda, NY 14150. 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,¹ which you may attend.