



Designation: D4801 – 08 (Reapproved 2016)

Standard Specification for Polyethylene Sheeting in Thickness of 0.25 mm (0.010 in.) and Greater¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D4801; 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.

This standard has been approved for use by agencies of the U.S. Department of Defense.

1. Scope

1.1 This specification covers requirements for extruded (cast or blown) and compression-molded sheeting made from low-, medium- and high-density polyethylenes and copolymers in thickness of 0.25 mm (0.010 in.) and greater. Depending on the functional requirements, sheeting conforming to this specification is used in applications such as chemical tank linings, spacers in electrical equipment, thermoforming into such items as trays, pallets, and shipping containers, and as machine-shop stock.

1.2 Polyethylene materials, being thermoplastics, are reprocessible and recyclable (see Guides [D5033](#) and [D7209](#)). This specification allows for the use of those polyethylene plastic materials, provided that any specific requirements as governed by the producer and end user are met.

1.3 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as standard. The values given in parentheses are for information only.

1.4 The following precautionary caveat pertains only to the test methods portion, Section 11, of this specification: *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—There is no known ISO equivalent to this standard.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards*:²

D618 Practice for Conditioning Plastics for Testing

¹ This specification 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.

- [D638 Test Method for Tensile Properties of Plastics](#)
- [D792 Test Methods for Density and Specific Gravity \(Relative Density\) of Plastics by Displacement](#)
- [D883 Terminology Relating to Plastics](#)
- [D1204 Test Method for Linear Dimensional Changes of Nonrigid Thermoplastic Sheeting or Film at Elevated Temperature](#)
- [D1505 Test Method for Density of Plastics by the Density-Gradient Technique](#)
- [D2103 Specification for Polyethylene Film and Sheeting](#)
- [D3892 Practice for Packaging/Packing of Plastics](#)
- [D4976 Specification for Polyethylene Plastics Molding and Extrusion Materials](#)
- [D5033 Guide for Development of ASTM Standards Relating to Recycling and Use of Recycled Plastics \(Withdrawn 2007\)](#)³
- [D5947 Test Methods for Physical Dimensions of Solid Plastics Specimens](#)
- [D7209 Guide for Waste Reduction, Resource Recovery, and Use of Recycled Polymeric Materials and Products \(Withdrawn 2015\)](#)³
- 2.2 *Military Standard*:⁴
 - [MIL-STD-105 Sampling Procedures and Tables for Inspection by Attributes](#)
- 2.3 *Federal Standard*:⁴
 - [Fed. Std. No. 406A Plastics: Methods of Testing \(Method 6051, Warpage\)](#)

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—Unless otherwise indicated, the terminology used in this specification is in accordance with Terminology [D883](#).

4. Classification

4.1 The polyethylene sheeting in accordance with this specification is classified by special types as follows:

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

⁴ Available from Standardization Documents Order Desk, Bldg. 4 Section D, 700 Robbins Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19111-5094, Attn: NPODS.

- 4.1.1 *Type I*—General purpose, natural and colors.
- 4.1.2 *Type II*—Dielectric, natural and colors.
- 4.1.3 *Type III*—Weather-resistant, black.

5. Ordering Information

- 5.1 As appropriate, the following information shall be included in the purchase contract.
 - 5.1.1 Title, number, and date of this specification.
 - 5.1.2 Classification in accordance with the appropriate cell call-out as found in Specification D4976.
 - 5.1.3 Length and width of sheets (see 7.5 and 7.6).
 - 5.1.4 Thickness of sheets (see 7.5).
 - 5.1.5 Color (see 7.7).
 - 5.1.6 Requirements for packaging, packing, and marking (see 13.1).

6. Materials and Manufacture

- 6.1 *Materials*—The sheeting shall be manufactured from polyethylene thermoplastic material of the special grade specified in 5.1.2. The supplier shall furnish, for the material used, data for the classification properties.
- 6.2 *Manufacture*—Sheeting shall be formed by extrusion and roll polishing, or compression.

7. Detail Requirements

- 7.1 *Form*—The sheeting shall be furnished flat or in rolls in the dimensions specified.
- 7.2 *Tensile Stress at Yield and Nominal Strain at Break*—Sheeting shall conform to the values shown for the appropriate cell classification as found in Specification D4976.
- 7.3 *Shrinkage*—The sheeting, when tested as specified in 11.3, shall conform to the requirements as determined between the user and the supplier.
- 7.4 *Warpage and Twist*—The sheeting, when tested as specified in 11.4, shall conform to the requirements as determined between the user and the supplier.

7.5 *Dimensions*—Sheeting shall be supplied in the width, length (or weight), and thickness as specified between the user and the supplier, except that is permissible for a maximum of 4 % of the sheet in a shipment to be trimmed 55-mm (2-in.) undersize or half-size. Such trimmed sheet shall be packed separately from full-sized sheet. The thickness shall be tested in accordance with 11.5. Thickness tolerances are shown in Table 1.

7.6 *Length or Weight and Diameter of Rolls*—Sheeting in rolls shall be supplied with either the length or weight specified, except that one roll in a shipment shall be permitted to have the lesser length or weight required to make the total length or weight of the shipment equal to the quantity ordered. Specify the diameter of the roll.

TABLE 1 Thickness Tolerances

Nominal Thickness, mm (in.)	Thickness Tolerance, Percent of Nominal
0.254 to 1.78 (0.010 to 0.070), incl	±10
Greater than 1.78 (0.070)	±5

7.7 *Color*—The sheeting shall be of the color specified by the user.

7.8 *Grade*—The sheeting shall be of the grade specified by the user.

7.9 *Workmanship*—The sheeting shall have a smooth finish and shall be free of cracks, blisters, bubbles, discolorations, craze, surface scratches that form definite indentations, and other defects that could affect appearance or serviceability.

7.9.1 *Dimensional Defects*—The sheeting shall show none of the defects described in Table 2.

7.9.2 *Defects in Color, Appearance, and Workmanship*—The sheeting shall show none of the defects described in Table 3.

8. Sampling

8.1 The materials shall be sampled in accordance with the sampling procedure prescribed in Practice D1898. Adequate statistical sampling shall be considered an acceptable alternative. A lot of material shall be considered as a unit of manufacture as prepared for shipment, and shall be permitted to consist of a blend of two or more production runs or batches.

9. Testing

9.1 Test the sheeting for the applicable characteristics listed in 7.2, 7.3, and 7.4 and Table 1 and Table 2 in accordance with the test methods specified herein, for each lot submitted for inspection.

10. Conditioning

10.1 Condition the test specimens at 23 ± 2°C (73.4 ± 3.6°F) for not less than 40 h prior to test in accordance with Specification D4976 or as otherwise specified by agreement. In cases of disagreement, the tolerances shall be ±1°C (±1.8°F).

10.2 In addition, for films containing hydrophilic fillers, co-monomers, pigments or other modifiers, conditioning and testing shall be done at 50 ± 10 % relative humidity. In cases of disagreement, the tolerance shall be ±5 % relative humidity.

TABLE 2 Examination of the Sheeting for Defects in Dimensions

Examine	Defects
Length and width (sheet)	not of the length and width specified varies by more than +3.2, -0 mm (+1/8, -0 in.) varies by more than ±13 mm (±1/2 in.) from true rectangles
Width (sheeting)	not of the width specified varies by more than +13, -0 mm (+1/2, -0 in.)
Length or weight of rolls (sheeting)	not of the length or weight specified varies by more than +3, -1 %
Diameter of rolls (sheeting)	not of the diameter specified
Cores (sheeting)	not having lengths equal to the nominal width of the sheeting, +13, -0 mm (+1/2, -0 in.) not having inside diameters as specified varies by more than +3.2, -0 mm (+1/8, -0 in.) for a 76-mm (3-in.) diameter hole unless otherwise specified