



Designation: D1667 – 17

# Standard Specification for Flexible Cellular Materials—Poly (Vinyl Chloride) Foam (Closed-Cell)<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D1667; 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 ( $\epsilon$ ) 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 flexible closed-cell or non-interconnecting cellular products, the elastomer content of which is predominantly poly(vinyl chloride) or copolymers thereof.

1.2 In the case of conflict between the provisions of this specification and those of detailed specifications or methods of test for a particular product, the latter shall take precedence.

1.3 Reference to the methods for testing closed-cell poly(vinyl chloride) contained herein shall specifically state the particular test or tests desired and not refer to these methods of test as a whole.

1.4 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as the standard. The inch-pound units given in parentheses are for information only.

1.5 The following precautionary statement pertains to the test method portions only 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*:<sup>2</sup>  
[D395 Test Methods for Rubber Property—Compression Set](#)

<sup>1</sup> This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D20 on Plastics and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D20.22 on Cellular Materials - Plastics and Elastomers.

Current edition approved March 1, 2017. Published March 2017. Originally approved in 1959. Last previous edition approved in 2011 as D1667 - 05(2011). DOI: 10.1520/D1667-17.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

- [D573 Test Method for Rubber—Deterioration in an Air Oven](#)  
[D1056 Specification for Flexible Cellular Materials—Sponge or Expanded Rubber](#)  
[E691 Practice for Conducting an Interlaboratory Study to Determine the Precision of a Test Method](#)

## 3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

3.1.1 *closed cell*—an expanded structure consisting of a multitude of individual, non-connecting, gas-tight cells.

3.1.2 *flexible cellular material*—a cellular organic polymeric material which will not rupture when a specimen 200 by 25 by 25 mm (8 by 1 by 1 in.) is bent around at 25-mm (1-in.) diameter mandrel at a uniform rate of one lap in 5 s at a temperature between 18 and 29°C (65 and 85°F).

3.1.3 *surface skin*—the smooth surface on the material formed during manufacture by contact with the molds, cover plate, or air.

3.1.4 *V*—the ASTM symbol designating nonrigid vinyl cellular plastics.

3.1.5 *vinyl or PVC*—these terms refer to poly(vinyl chloride) or copolymers thereof.

## 4. Materials and Manufacture

4.1 Closed-cell vinyl is produced in sheet, strip, molded, or simple specific shapes.

## 5. Grades of Closed-Cell Vinyl or PVC-Symbol VE

5.1 Closed-cell vinyl shall be designated by two symbol letters VE, indicating V for vinyl and E for closed cell. The grade shall be designated by two digits, the first of which designates closed cell, and the second of which indicates the degree of firmness, the softer grades being identified with the lower numbers and the firmer grades with the higher numbers.

NOTE 2—*Examples*—VE-41 is a closed cell (expanded) vinyl of soft grade (see [Table 1](#)).

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

**TABLE 1 Physical Requirements of Closed Cell Vinyl Products, Type VE**

Basic Requirements		Requirements Added by Suffix Letters		
Grade Number	kPa (psi)	Suffix B	Suffix L Water Absorption, max	
			kg/m <sup>2</sup> cut surface	lb/ft <sup>2</sup> cut surface
	Compression Deflection, 25 % Deflection	Compression Set, 25 % Deflection, 22 h at Room Temperature, 24 h Recovery, % max		
VE-40	3.5 to 15 (0.5 to 2.17)	20	0.5	0.1
VE-41	15 to 35(2.17 to 5.07)	20	0.5	0.1
VE-42	35 to 65(5.07 to 9.42)	20	0.5	0.1
VE-43	65 to 90(9.42 to 13)	20	0.5	0.1
VE-44	90 to 120(13 to 17.4)	20	0.5	0.1
VE-45	120 to 170(17.4 to 24.6)	20	0.5	0.1

5.2 If suffix tests are required, suffix letters shall be added singly or in combination after any grade number to indicate additional requirements beyond those specified in Table 1 as basic requirements. The significance of the approved suffix letters is as follows:

- B—Compression Set under Constant Deflection
- C—Weather Resistance<sup>A</sup>
- D—Load Deflection<sup>A</sup>
- E—Oil Resistance<sup>A</sup>
- F—Low Temperature—18°C (0°F)
- G—Tear Resistance<sup>A</sup>
- H1—Flex Resistance (Dynamic)<sup>A</sup>
- J—Abrasion Resistance<sup>A</sup>
- K2—Adhesion (Cemented Bond Made After Molding)<sup>A</sup>
- L—Water Absorption Test Required with Values as Specified in Table 1
- M—Flame Resistance<sup>A</sup>
- P—Non-Staining<sup>A</sup>
- R1—Rebound<sup>A</sup>
- R2—Energy Absorption<sup>A</sup>
- S—Volume Change after Heat Aging<sup>A</sup>
- W—Density<sup>A</sup>
- Z—Special Requirements<sup>A</sup>

<sup>A</sup> Test method and values to be arranged between the manufacturer and the purchaser.

## 6. Tolerances on Dimensions

6.1 Tolerances on dimensions of closed-cell vinyl products are given in Table 2.

**TABLE 2 Tolerances on Dimensions of Closed Cell Vinyl Products**

Thickness, mm (in.)	Tolerance, mm (in.)
3 to 15 (0.118 to 0.590)	±2 (0.079)
15 to 40 (0.590 to 1.574)	±2.5 (0.098)
Over 40 (over 1.574)	±3 (0.118)
Length and Width, mm (in.)	Tolerance, mm (in.)
Up to 150 (up to 6)	±6 (0.236)
150 to 300 (6 to 12)	±10 (0.393)
Over 300 (over 12)	±3 %

## 7. Workmanship, Finish, and Appearance

7.1 Closed cell vinyl furnished under this specification shall be manufactured from poly(vinyl chloride) or copolymers thereof, together with the added compounding ingredients of such nature and quality that the finished product complies with the specification requirements. In permitting a choice in use of materials by the manufacturer, it is not intended to imply that the different materials are equivalent in respect to all physical properties. Any special characteristics, other than those prescribed in this specification, which may be desired for specific applications shall be designated in the product specifications as they may influence the choice of the type of poly(vinyl chloride) or other ingredients used. All materials and workmanship shall be in accordance with good commercial practice and the resulting product shall be free of defects affecting serviceability.

7.2 Due to manufacturing conditions, material may have to be altered or repaired. This repaired or altered material will be acceptable under this specification provided the material used in such repairs or alterations shall be of the same composition and quality as the original product and provided such alterations do not affect the serviceability, size, and shape beyond the tolerances provided herein.

## 8. Color

8.1 Unless otherwise specified, the color of the material shall be optional with the manufacturer.

## 9. Sampling

9.1 When possible the completed manufactured product shall be used for the tests specified. Representative samples of the lot being examined shall be selected at random as required.

9.2 When it is necessary or advisable to obtain test specimens from the article, as in those cases where the entire sample is not required or adaptable for testing, the method of cutting and the exact position from which specimens are to be taken shall be specified. The apparent density and the state of fusion could vary in different parts of the finished product, particularly if the article is of complicated shape or of varying thickness. These features affect the physical properties of the specimens. The apparent density is affected by the number of cut surfaces as opposed to the number of skin-covered surfaces on the test specimen.

9.3 When the finished product does not lend itself to testing or to the taking of test specimens because of complicated shape, small size, metal or fabric inserts, adhesion to metal, or other reasons, suitable test slabs shall be prepared as agreed between the supplier and purchaser. When differences arise, due to the difficulty in obtaining suitable test specimens from the finished part, the supplier and the purchaser shall agree on acceptable deviations.

## 10. Physical Properties

10.1 The various grades of closed-cell vinyl shall conform to the requirements as to basic physical properties prescribed in Table 1, together with any additional requirements indicated.

## 11. Test Methods

11.1 Unless specifically stated otherwise, make all tests in accordance with the methods specified in Section 14.

## 12. Inspection and Rejection

12.1 All tests and inspection shall be made at the place of manufacture prior to shipment, unless otherwise specified.

12.2 The purchaser reserves the right to make the tests and inspection for acceptance or rejection of the material at the laboratory of his choice.

12.3 Any material that fails in one or more of the test requirements shall be retested. For this purpose, two additional tests shall be made for the requirement in which failure occurred. Failure of either of the tests shall be cause for final rejection.

12.4 Rejected material shall be disposed of as directed by the manufacturer.

## 13. Packaging and Package Marking

13.1 The material shall be properly and adequately packaged. Each package or container shall be legibly marked with the name of the material, name or trademark of the manufacturer, and any required purchaser's designations.

## 14. General Test Methods

14.1 The following tests shall be applicable in the physical testing of closed cell poly(vinyl chloride) or copolymers thereof:

14.1.1 *Compression Deflection*—Test method described in Sections 16 – 20.

14.1.2 *Compression Set Under Constant Deflection*—Test method described in Sections 21 – 25.

14.1.3 *Water Absorption*—Test method described in Sections 26 – 30.

NOTE 3—Additional test methods are listed in the appendix.

## 15. Measurement of Test Specimens

15.1 The length and width shall be measured with a steel scale or tape. Care shall be taken not to distort the material.

15.2 Thicknesses up to and including 25 mm (1 in.) shall be measured using a dial-type gauge having a maximum stem and foot mass of 25 g and a foot 32 mm (1.25 in.) in diameter, taking care not to compress the specimen. Thicknesses over 25 mm (1 in.) shall be measured using a sliding caliper gage or as specified in 15.1. When a sliding caliper gage is employed the gage setting shall be made with the gage out of contact with the closed cell vinyl. The specimen shall be passed through the previously set gage, and the proper setting shall be the one when the measured faces of the gage contact the surfaces of the article without compressing it.

15.3 The steel scale or tape used to measure length or width shall be graduated in divisions not over 1 mm (0.031 in.). The dial gage for measuring thickness shall be graduated in divisions not over 0.02 mm (0.001 in.). The calipers used for measuring thickness shall be graduated in divisions not over 0.1 mm (0.005 in.).

15.4 Results reported shall be the average of a minimum of three measurements.

## COMPRESSION DEFLECTION TEST METHOD

### 16. Scope

16.1 This test consists of measuring the force necessary to produce a 25 % deflection on a 645.16-mm<sup>2</sup> (1-in.<sup>2</sup>) test specimen.

### 17. Apparatus

17.1 The apparatus used for this test shall have a flat indenter foot, larger than the specimen being tested, connected to a force-measuring device, and mounted in such a manner that the specimen shall be deflected at a rate between 0.2 and 0.8 mm/s (0.5 and 2.0 in./min). The apparatus shall be arranged to support the specimen on a level, horizontal plate.

### 18. Test Specimens

18.1 The specimens shall be cylinders 28.67 ± 0.50 mm in diameter, which yields 645.16 ± 0.20 mm<sup>2</sup> (1 in.<sup>2</sup>) in area with parallel top and bottom surfaces. They shall be cut so that opposite edges are parallel, either from the finished product in a manner agreed upon between the manufacturer and the purchaser, or from standard test slabs, or from commercial flat sheets. The thickness of the test specimens shall be measured and stated in the report. Maximum thickness shall be 25.4 mm (1.0 in.). The specimens shall be cut with either a revolving die or oscillating cutter. Use a soap solution if a lubricant is needed. If a lubricant is used, the specimen shall be thoroughly dried before proceeding with the testing. In some cases, it may be necessary to freeze the cellular vinyl to obtain parallel cut edges.

NOTE 4—Other specimen sizes can be used as agreed upon between user and supplier.

### 19. Procedure

19.1 Test closed-cell vinyl (grades VE-40 to VE-45) samples less than 6.0 mm (0.236 in.) in thickness by plying up to obtain a thickness as near 12.7 mm (½ in.) as possible. Deflect the specimen 25 % of its original height. Maintain the deflection at 25 % with automatic or manual control and record the force in newtons or pounds force 60 ± 1 s after the 25 % deflection is reached. The result obtained in this test is influenced by temperature, and tests that are to be compared shall be conducted under substantially the same temperature. In all cases, report the actual temperature during the test.

19.2 In case of dispute perform the test at a temperature of 23 ± 2°C (73.4 ± 3.6°F). Condition the specimen undeflected and undistorted at this temperature for at least 12 h before testing. Ordinarily only one test shall be made, but in case of dispute express the result as the average of three tests on three different specimens.

NOTE 5—Humidity does not affect the results.

### 20. Report

20.1 Report the unit force required, expressed in kPa or psi.