



Standard Specification for Fire Hose Nozzles¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This specification covers the design, manufacture, and testing of fire hose nozzles intended for use with sea water or fresh water either in straight stream or adjustable spray patterns.

1.2 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as the standard.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:

A 313/A 313M Specification for Stainless Steel Spring Wire²

A 580/A 580M Specification for Stainless Steel Wire²

A 582/A 582M Specification for Free-Machining Stainless Steel Bars²

B 117 Practice for Operating a Salt Spray (Fog) Apparatus³

D 395 Test Methods for Rubber Property—Compression Set⁴

D 412 Test Methods for Vulcanized Rubber and Thermoplastic Rubbers and Thermoplastic Elastomers—Tension⁴

D 572 Test Method for Rubber Deterioration by Heat and Oxygen⁴

D 1193 Specification for Reagent Water⁵

2.2 NFPA Standards:

NFPA 1963 Standards for Screw Threads and Gaskets for Fire Hose Connections⁶

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions:

3.1.1 *ball shut-off*—a spray nozzle configuration that stops the flow of water through the nozzle by rotating the ball through which the water flows so that the passage no longer aligns with the nozzle flow passage.

3.1.2 *break apart*—a feature that allows the nozzle tip to be disconnected from the nozzle body by virtue of a coupling identical to that on the hose end of the nozzle.

3.1.3 *constant flow rate spray nozzle*—an adjustable pattern nozzle in which the flow is delivered at a designed nozzle pressure. At the rated pressure, the nozzle will deliver a constant flow rate from straight stream through a wide angle pattern. This is accomplished by maintaining a constant orifice size during flow pattern adjustment.

3.1.4 *constant pressure (automatic) spray nozzle*—an adjustable pattern nozzle in which the pressure remains constant through a range of flows rates. The constant pressure provides the velocity for an effective stream reach at various flow rates. This is accomplished by means of a pressure-activated, self-adjusting orifice baffle.

3.1.5 *constant/select flow rate feature*—a nozzle feature that allows on-site adjustment of the orifice to change the flow rate to a predetermined value. The flow rate remains constant throughout the range of pattern selection from straight stream to wide angle spray.

3.1.6 *free swivel coupling*—a coupling between the nozzle and hose or between halves of a break-apart nozzle that is capable of being turned readily by hand; that is, a spanner wrench is not required to tighten the coupling to prevent leakage.

3.1.7 *flush*—a feature in a nozzle that allows the orifice to be opened so that small debris that might otherwise be trapped in the nozzle, causing pattern disruptions and flow variation, can pass through. When the flush feature is engaged, the nozzle pressure will drop and the pattern will deteriorate.

3.1.8 *lever-type control*—a control in which the handle operates along the axis of the nozzle.

3.1.9 *pistol grip*—a feature usually available as an attachment that allows a nozzle to be held like a pistol.

3.1.10 *rated pressure*—that pressure for which the nozzle is designed to operate at a specified flow rate(s).

3.1.11 *rotational-type control*—a control that rotates in a plane perpendicular to the axis of the nozzle.

4. Classification

4.1 Marine fire hose nozzles may be classified into four general construction types, as follows:

4.1.1 *Type I*—Pistol grip, lever-type control operated.

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² *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 01.03.

³ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 03.02.

⁴ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 09.01.

⁵ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 11.01.

⁶ NFPA 1963 may be ordered by contacting the National Fire Protection Association, Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02269.

4.1.2 *Type II*—Nonpistol grip, lever-type control operated.

4.1.3 *Type III*—Break apart, pistol grip, lever-type control operated.

4.1.4 *Type IV*—Break apart, nonpistol grip, lever-type control operated.

4.2 Nozzle types may be subdivided into three general classes, as follows:

4.2.1 *Class I*—Constant flow rate.

4.2.2 *Class II*—Constant/select flow rate.

4.2.3 *Class III*—Constant pressure.

4.3 Classes may be subdivided into two general sizes, as follows:

4.3.1 *Size 38 mm*, with free swivel base.

4.3.2 *Size 64 mm*, with free swivel base.

5. Ordering Information

5.1 The following shall be specified when ordering:

5.1.1 Quantity,

5.1.2 Type (see 4.1),

5.1.3 Class (see 4.2),

5.1.4 Size (see 4.3),

5.1.5 Material (see 6.1.2, 9.8.1 and 12)⁷

5.1.6 Thread type⁸

6. Material and Manufacture

6.1 *Materials:*

6.1.1 All nozzle components and parts must be durable and demonstrate satisfactory operation during all performance tests in Section 9.

6.1.2 The nozzle body and any metal used in the construction of any part of the nozzle shall be corrosion resistant. Copper alloys containing more than 15 % zinc are prohibited in all parts that are in contact with the fluid flow. No aluminum alloys may be used except for nozzles being operated exclusively with fresh water. No ferrous material may be used except for the Type 300 series stainless steel for wire and springs in accordance with Specifications A 313/A 313M or A 580/A 580M and for screws and pins in accordance with Specification A 582/A 582M.

6.1.3 All nonmetallic materials or synthetic elastomers used to form a seal or gasket shall have the following properties:

6.1.3.1 uniform dimensions,

6.1.3.2 be of such size, shape, and resiliency as to withstand ordinary usage and foreign matter carried by water, including petrochemical solvents and high alkaline solutions such as those used for cleaning nozzles (see 6.2), and

6.1.3.3 be able to withstand ozone and ultraviolet light exposure if used on the external portion of the nozzle.

6.1.4 All materials shall have tensile set of not more than 5 mm as determined in accordance with 6.2.1, and compression set not more than 15 % as determined in accordance with 6.2.2.

6.2 *Specific Requirements for Rubber Sealing Materials:*

6.2.1 *Tensile Strength, Ultimate Elongation, and Tensile Set Tests:*

6.2.1.1 Tensile strength, ultimate elongation, and tensile set shall be determined in accordance with Test Methods D 412, Method A, except that, for tensile set determinations, the elongation shall be maintained for only 3 min, and the tensile set shall be measured 3 min after release of the specimen. The elongation of a specimen for a tensile set determination is to be such that the bench marks 25 mm apart become separated to a distance of 76 mm.

6.2.1.2 If a specimen breaks outside the bench marks, or if either the measured tensile strength or ultimate elongation of the specimen is less than the required value, an additional specimen shall be tested, and those results shall be considered final. Results of tests for specimens that break in the curved portion just outside the bench marks may be accepted if the measured strength and elongation values are within the minimum requirements.

6.2.2 *Compression Set Test:*

6.2.2.1 Type I specimens of the material shall be prepared and the test conducted in accordance with Test Methods D 395, Method B. The specimens shall be exposed for 22 h at 22°C.

6.2.3 *Accelerated Aging Test:*

6.2.3.1 Specimens shall be prepared in the same manner as for tensile strength and ultimate elongation and ultimate elongation tests, except for the bench marks 25 mm apart that shall be stamped on the specimen after the test exposure. The exposure shall be conducted in accordance with Test Method D 572.

6.2.3.2 All materials must retain not less than 70 % of the as-received tensile strength and ultimate elongation after the accelerated aging test.

6.2.4 Silicone rubber (rubber having polyorganosiloxane as its characteristic constituent) shall have a tensile strength of not less than 3.5 MPa and at least 100 % ultimate elongation as determined in accordance with 9.3.2.

6.2.5 Sealing material other than silicone rubber shall have a tensile strength of not less than 10 MPa and at least 200 % ultimate elongation as determined in accordance with 6.2.1.

7. Configuration

7.1 All nozzles shall consist of the following components and design:

7.1.1 Nozzle body,

7.1.2 Free swivel coupling,

7.1.3 Shutoffs,

7.1.4 Shutoff seats,

7.1.5 Shutoff handle,

7.1.6 Bumper guard,

7.1.7 Seals,

7.1.8 Flushing feature,

7.1.9 Pistol grip (optional), and

7.1.10 Break apart feature (optional).

7.2 Nozzles shall be provided with a lever-type control shutoff handle which shall be in the closed position when the handle is closest to the discharge end of the nozzle. Lever-type control of the flow rate must also be by means of the shutoff handle.

7.2.1 The inside clearances of the shutoff handle shall be a minimum of 75 mm wide by 25 mm high.

⁷ Nozzle material should be galvanically compatible with the intended fire hose couplings.

⁸ Threads should conform to a recognized industry standard such as NFPA 1963.

7.2.2 The shutoff handle shall be of such a size that the operator's hand in a fireman's glove and closed on the handle does not interfere with the operation of the shutoff handle in any position.

7.3 Spray pattern adjustment shall be by means of rotational controls. Rotational controls shall traverse from a wide angle spray pattern to narrow angle, to straight stream in a clockwise manner when viewed from the hose coupling end of the nozzle. The wide and narrow angle spray patterns shall be enhanced with an impinging action by means of a minimum of one and a maximum of two rows of fixed or rotating teeth concentric to the discharge orifice.

7.4 Nozzles shall have a capability of clearing or flushing debris from the nozzle without shutting down the hose line. This may be accomplished either through the full open nozzle position or through a flush feature of the nozzle.

7.4.1 If used, the flush feature shall have a separate control, incorporate a detent, or shall require increased force to operate, to indicate to the firefighter when the flush feature is being engaged.

7.5 All features and controls shall be operable by one hand of the operator while the other hand is holding the nozzle.

7.6 A bumper shall be provided at the discharge end of the nozzle for protection against physical damage. The nozzle stem shall not extend past the bumper in any of the flow positions including flush.

7.7 The pistol grip, if one is provided, shall have four finger notches on the tip side and the minimum span and width shall be suitable for use with a hand wearing a typical fireman's glove.

7.8 Couplings shall be of a free swivel type.

7.9 Each nozzle shall be provided with a resilient gasket fitted in the nozzle coupling recess. The gasket shall have dimensions in accordance with NFPA 1963. Type III and IV nozzles shall incorporate an additional gasket to accommodate the break-apart feature.

7.10 Nozzles for use with 38-mm hoses shall weigh not more than 4.53 kg. Nozzles for use with 64-mm hoses shall weigh not more than 5.9 kg.

7.11 Shutoff seats shall be self-adjusting or shall be adjustable without disassembly of the nozzle.

7.12 All features which incorporate a stop, detent, separate control, or increased force to engage shall be clearly labeled, including the open and shutoff positions, pattern selection, and flow rate selection.

8. Workmanship, Finish and Appearance

8.1 All parts and assemblies of the nozzle including castings, forgings, molded parts, stampings, bearings, machined surfaces and welded parts shall be clean and free from sand, dirt, fins, pits, spurs, scale, flux, and other foreign material. All exposed edges shall be rounded or chamfered.

9. Design Qualification Tests

9.1 Four first production run specimens shall be randomly selected and subjected to the tests described in 9.3 through 9.13 in sequential order.

9.2 The specimens shall exhibit no permanent deformation that interferes with their proper operation during any test.

9.3 Nonmetallic components shall be subjected to the following specific testing:

9.3.1 Aging Exposure:

9.3.1.1 Aging tests shall be performed before all other tests identified in this standard.

9.3.1.2 The specimens shall be subjected to air-oven aging for 180 days at 70°C and then allowed to cool at least 24 h in air at 25°C and 50 % relative humidity.

9.3.1.3 At the conclusion of the test, the specimens shall be inspected and all functions shall be operated to ensure they operate properly. Cracking, crazing, or any other condition that interferes with the proper operation of any specimen shall constitute failure of this test.

9.3.2 Ultraviolet Light-Water Exposure:

9.3.2.1 Nozzle designs with exposed nonmetallic parts shall be subjected to ultraviolet light and water for 720 h.

9.3.2.2 The ultraviolet light shall be obtained from two stationary enclosed carbon-arc lamps. The arc of each lamp is to be formed between two vertical carbon electrodes, 13 mm in diameter, located at the center of a revolvable vertical cylinder, 787 mm in diameter and 450 mm in height. Each arc is to be enclosed with a number PX Pyrex-glass globe.

9.3.2.3 The water shall conform to Type IV water in Specification D 1193.

9.3.2.4 The specimens are to be mounted vertically on the inside of the revolvable cylinder, arcing the lamps, and the cylinder continuously revolved around the stationary lamps at 1 revolution per minute. A system is to be provided so that each specimen in turn is sprayed with water as the cylinder revolves. During the operating cycle, each specimen is to be exposed to the light and water spray for 3 min and the light only for 17 min (total 20 min). The air temperature within the revolving cylinder of the apparatus during operations is to be maintained at 65°C.

9.3.2.5 At the conclusion of the test, the specimens shall be inspected and all functions shall be operated to ensure they operate properly. Cracking, crazing, or any other condition which interferes with the proper operation of any specimen shall constitute failure of this test.

9.4 Discharge Calibration Test:

9.4.1 Constant flow rate specimens shall flow the rated discharge, plus 10 %, minus 0 %, measured at rated pressure, through the entire range of pattern setting from straight stream to wide angle spray.

9.4.2 Constant/select flow rate specimens shall flow the rated discharge, plus 10 %, minus 0 %, measured at rated pressure, for each flow rate selection through the entire range of pattern setting from straight stream to wide angle spray.

9.4.3 Constant flow rate specimens and select flow rate specimens are to be installed on a piezometer fitting of the same size as the nominal inlet thread size, attached to a calibrated laboratory quality flow meter, and supplied with a source of pressurized water. The water flow rate in liters per minute is to be recorded through the full range of pattern selection.

9.4.4 Constant pressure specimens shall be tested beginning with the minimum rated flow. The pressure at this flow shall be recorded. The flow rate and nozzle pressure shall be monitored