



# Standard Practice for Accelerated Weathering Test Conditions and Procedures for Bituminous Materials (Fluorescent UV, Water Spray, and Condensation Method)<sup>1</sup>

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## 1. Scope

1.1 This practice describes test conditions and procedures for fluorescent UV and condensation exposures conducted according to Practices G 151 and G 154 for bituminous roofing and waterproofing materials that have a minimum softening point of approximately 95°C (200°F) as determined by Test Method D 36. (Also see Terminology G 113.)

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

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:

- D 36 Test Method for Softening Point of Bitumen (Ring-and-Ball Apparatus)<sup>2</sup>
- D 1669 Practice for Preparation of Test Panels for Accelerated and Outdoor Weathering of Bituminous Coatings<sup>2</sup>
- D 1670 Test Method for Failure End Point in Accelerated and Outdoor Weathering of Bituminous Materials<sup>2</sup>
- G 113 Terminology Relating to Natural and Artificial Weathering Tests of Nonmetallic Materials<sup>3</sup>
- G 141 Guide for Addressing Variability in Exposure Testing of Nonmetallic Materials<sup>3</sup>
- G 147 Practice for Conditioning and Handling of Nonmetallic Materials for Natural and Artificial Weathering Tests<sup>3</sup>
- G 151 Practice for Exposing Nonmetallic Materials in Accelerated Test Devices that Use Laboratory Light Sources<sup>3</sup>
- G 154 Practice for Operating Fluorescent Light Apparatus for UV Exposure of Nonmetallic Materials<sup>3</sup>

## 3. Summary of Test Method

3.1 Thin films of bitumen are uniformly applied to aluminum panels. Shingles and similar materials are cut to size and exposed to specified cycles of temperature, light, and water. A choice of three test cycles is given along with options for determining the period of exposure and evaluating results.

## 4. Significance and Use

4.1 This weathering apparatus is used for comparing the weathering characteristics of bituminous materials against a reference material in which the outdoor weathering characteristics are known. It is not possible to establish a precise correlation between accelerated and natural weathering because of geographical climatic variations, local weather variation from normal, and local pollutants. Guide G 141 provides guidance regarding this issue.

## 5. Apparatus

5.1 The fluorescent UV and condensation apparatus used shall conform to the requirements defined in Practices G 151 and G 154.

5.2 *Lamps*—Unless otherwise specified, the lamps shall be fluorescent UV-B lamps as described in 6.1.3.3 of Practice G 154.

5.2.1 Other fluorescent UV lamps meeting the size and electrical characteristics in 5.2 may be used if mutually agreed upon and provided that the lamp and spectral energy distribution are reported in conformance with Section 9.

5.3 *Moisture*—It is permitted to expose the test specimens to moisture in the form of water spray, condensation, or high humidity.

5.3.1 *Water Spray*—It is permitted to equip the test chamber with a means to introduce intermittent water spray onto the test specimens under specified conditions. The spray shall be uniformly distributed over the samples. The spray system shall be made from corrosion resistant materials that do not contaminate the water used.

5.3.1.1 *Spray Water Quality*—Spray water shall have a conductivity below 5  $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ , contain less than 1-ppm solids, and leave no observable stains or deposits on the specimens. Very low levels of silica in spray water can cause significant

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<sup>2</sup> *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 04.04.

<sup>3</sup> *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 14.04.

deposits on the surface of test specimens. Care should be taken to keep silica levels below 0.1 ppm. In addition to distillation, a combination of deionization and reverse osmosis can effectively produce water of the required quality. The pH of the water used shall be reported. See Practice G 151 for detailed water quality instructions.

## 6. Test Specimens

6.1 Unless otherwise agreed upon, test specimens shall be approximately 3 by 6 in. (75 by 150 mm). Bituminous materials shall be applied as uniform coatings on aluminum panels in accordance with Practice D 1669. Fabricated materials such as bituminous roofing, shingles, and similar products shall be cut to size and their weather surfaces exposed. If these are too flexible to sustain their own weight in a vertical position, they may be mounted on aluminum panels.

6.1.1 Replicate specimens are desirable to provide a record of degradation at different time intervals. Retention of an unexposed specimen is recommended as it is difficult to mask a specimen to prevent exposure to condensation.

6.1.2 Follow the procedures described in Practice G 147 for identification, conditioning, and handling of specimens of test, control, and reference materials prior to, during, and after exposure.

## 7. Procedure

7.1 Proceed in accordance with Section 9 of Practice G 154.

7.2 Apparatus shall be operated continuously except for intervals for rotation or inspection of samples according to one of the following cycles:

Cycle A— 4 h UV light at 60°C, alternating with 4 h condensation at 50°C.

Cycle B— 20 h UV light at 60°C, alternating with 4 h condensation at 50°C.

Cycle C— 20 h UV light at 80°C, alternating with 4 h condensation at 50°C.

Cycle D— 4 h UV light at 60°C, 15 min water spray, alternating with 4 h condensation at 50°C.

Cycle E— 20 h UV light at 60°C, 15 min water spray, alternating with 4 h condensation at 50°C.

Cycle F— 20 h UV light at 80°C, 15 min water spray, alternating with 4 h condensation at 50°C.

7.3 If inspection of the panels is to be performed at any stage in the cycle, the interruption of the test procedure shall take only sufficient time to allow for such inspection. The time taken for inspection of the samples shall not be counted as part of the exposure.

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NOTE 1—The cycle to be employed shall be specified in the product standard.

## 8. Period of Exposure and Evaluation of Results

8.1 The duration of the exposure under this practice shall be one of the following:

8.1.1 A mutually agreed upon number of hours of exposure,

8.1.2 The number of hours of exposure required to produce a mutually agreed upon minimum amount of change in the test specimen, or

8.1.3 The number of hours required to produce mutually agreed upon minimum acceptable change in either the test specimen or a mutually agreed upon standard sample.

8.2 It is permitted to evaluate changes in the exposed samples visually each day by comparing them with unexposed samples, or in terms of the number of hours exposure required to produce physical or chemical changes as determined by Test Method D 1670.

## 9. Report

9.1 In addition to the items specified in Practice G 151, the report shall include the following:

9.1.1 Test cycle employed (in accordance with 7.2),

9.1.2 Manufacturer and designation of the fluorescent lamp employed, and

9.1.3 Coating thickness employed.

## 10. Precision and Bias

10.1 *Precision*—The repeatability of results obtained in exposures conducted according to this practice will vary with the materials being tested, the material property being measured, and the specific test conditions and cycles that are used. It is essential to determine reproducibility of the exposure/property measurement process when using the results from exposures conducted according to this practice in product specifications.

10.2 *Bias*—Bias cannot be determined because no acceptable standard weathering reference materials are available.

## 11. Keywords

11.1 accelerated weathering; bituminous materials; degradation; exposure; fluorescent UV and condensation; light exposure; roofing; ultraviolet; waterproofing