



Standard Specification for Cellulosic Fiber Insulating Board¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation C 208; 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 Department of Defense.

1. Scope

1.1 This specification covers the principal cellulosic fiber insulating board types, grades, and sizes. Requirements are specified for composition, construction, physical properties, tolerances, sampling procedures, and test methods.

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

1.3 When the installation or use of thermal insulation materials, accessories, and systems may pose safety or health problems, the manufacturer shall provide the user appropriate current information regarding any known problems associated with the recommended use of the company's products and shall also recommend protective measures to be employed in their safe utilization. The user shall establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory requirements prior to use.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:

- C 168 Terminology Relating to Thermal Insulation²
- C 209 Test Methods for Cellulosic Fiber Insulating Board²
- C 390 Criteria for Sampling and Acceptance of Preformed Thermal Insulation Lots²
- C 846 Practice for Application of Cellulosic Fiber Insulating Board for Wall Sheathing²
- D 1037 Test Methods for Evaluating Properties of Wood-Base Fiber and Particle Panel Materials³
- D 1554 Definitions of Terms Relating to Wood-Base Fiber and Particle Panel Materials³
- D 2164 Methods of Testing Structural Insulating Roof Deck³
- E 72 Methods of Conducting Strength Tests of Panels for Building Construction⁴

2.2 Federal Standard:

- 4900.1 Rev-1 U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Develop-

ment Minimum Property Standards, One and Two Family Dwellings⁵

3. Terminology

3.1 For definitions of terms used in this specification, see Terminology C 168 and Definitions D 1554.

3.2 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.2.1 *cellulosic fiber insulating board*—a fibrous-felted, homogeneous panel made from ligno-cellulosic fibers (usually wood or cane) and having a density of less than 31 lb/ft³ (497 kg/m³) but more than 10 lb/ft³ (160 kg/m³).

3.2.1.1 *Discussion*—Cellulosic fiber insulating board is characterized by an integral bond which is produced by interfelting of the fibers, but which has not been consolidated under heat and pressure as a separate stage in manufacture. Other materials may be added during manufacture to improve certain properties.

4. Classification

4.1 Insulating board covered by this specification consists of six types:

4.1.1 *Type I*—Sound deadening board, for use in wall assemblies to control sound transmissions.

4.1.2 *Type II*—Roof insulation board, for use in various roofing systems.

4.1.2.1 *Grade 1*—Primarily for use under built up roof systems.

4.1.2.2 *Grade 2*—Primarily for use under single-ply roofing systems.

4.1.3 *Type III*—Ceiling tiles and panels.

4.1.3.1 *Grade 1*—Nonacoustical, for use as decorative wall and ceiling coverings.

4.1.3.2 *Grade 2*—Acoustical, for use as decorative, sound absorbing wall and ceiling coverings.

4.1.4 *Type IV*—Wall Sheathing.

4.1.4.1 *Grade 1*—Regular, for use as wall sheathing in frame construction.

4.1.4.2 *Grade 2*—Structural, for use as wall sheathing in frame construction. When installed in accordance with Practice C 846, structural wall sheathing provides adequate racking resistance for use as exterior wall bracing.

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee C-16 on Thermal Insulation and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee C16.22 on Organic and Nonhomogeneous Inorganic Thermal Insulations.

Current edition approved Feb. 15, 1995. Published April 1995. Originally published as C 208 – 46 T. Last previous edition C 208 – 94.

² *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 04.06.

³ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 04.10.

⁴ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 04.11.

⁵ Available from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Construction Standards Division, HUD Building, Washington, DC 20410.

4.1.5 *Type V*—Backer board, for use behind exterior finish in wall assemblies where there are no structural requirements.

4.1.6 *Type VI*—Roof deck, for use as roof decking for flat, pitched, or shed-type, open-beamed, ceiling-roof construction.

4.2 On occasion these products are used for other applications. The manufacturer and the purchaser shall agree upon any special requirements for such end uses.

5. Materials and Manufacture

5.1 Cellulosic fiber insulating board shall be manufactured from refined or partially refined ligno-cellulosic (wood or cane) fibers, by a felting or molding process, into homogeneous panels. Other ingredients may be added to provide or improve certain properties such as strength and water resistance, in addition to surface finishes for decorative products and special coatings which impart resistance to flame spread. The material is subjected to such drying temperatures as to effect complete destruction of rot producing fungi.

5.2 The finished board may be either single or multiple ply. When multiple-ply boards are supplied, a suitable moisture-resistant adhesive shall be used to join the plies.

6. Physical Properties

6.1 The insulating board shall conform to the physical properties in Table 1.

6.2 Roof products with a thickness of 1½ in., 2½ in., or greater, are post-laminated using thinner board stock whose properties are covered in Table 1.

7. Dimensions, Mass, and Permissible Variations

7.1 The materials covered by this specification are available in the sizes shown in Table 2.

7.2 *Length and Width Tolerances*—Unless otherwise specified, the tolerance for length and width of any size panel shall be +0, - 1/16 in. per ft (+0, - 5.2 mm/m), but the total tolerance in any dimension shall not exceed +0, - 3/8 in. (+0 mm, - 10 mm).

7.3 *Thickness Tolerance*—The thickness tolerances are shown in Table 3.

8. Workmanship, Finish, and Appearance

8.1 *Defects*—The insulating board shall have no defects that will adversely affect its service qualities. The surface shall be

free of cracks, lumps, excessive departure from planeness, or other defects that affect performance or appearance.

8.2 *Surface Finish*—The surface finishes of the board shall be as specified in Table 2.

8.3 *Edge Details*—The edge details of the board shall be as specified in Table 2.

9. Sampling

9.1 Unless otherwise specified in the purchase order or contract, the material shall be sampled in accordance with Criteria C390.

10. Test Methods

10.1 Unless otherwise specified in Table 1, determine the properties enumerated in this specification in accordance with Test Methods C 209.

11. Inspection and Resubmittal

11.1 The following requirements are generally employed for purposes of acceptance sampling of lots or shipments of qualified material:

- 11.1.1 Surface finish,
- 11.1.2 Edge detail,
- 11.1.3 Dimensional tolerances, and
- 11.1.4 Workmanship.

11.2 When agreed upon between the purchaser and the manufacturer or supplier, the inspection of the material shall be made at either the point of shipment or point of delivery.

11.3 In case of rejection, the manufacturer or supplier shall have the right to reinspect the rejected shipment and resubmit the lot after removal of the portion of the shipment not conforming to the specified requirements.

12. Product Marking

12.1 When specified, each panel or unit shall be labeled with the manufacturer's name or trademark, the designation of this specification, and type and grade. The label may also include the mark of a third party certification organization.

13. Keywords

13.1 backer board; ceiling tiles and panels; cellulosic fiber insulating board; decorative insulating board; fiberboard; roof deck; roof insulation board; sound deadening board; thermal insulation; wall sheathing

TABLE 1 Physical Property Requirements for Cellulosic Fiber Insulating Board

Physical Requirements	Roof Insulation Board				Ceiling Tiles and Panels (Both Grades) ^A		Wall Sheathing		Backer Board 7/16 in. (11 mm) thick 3/8 in. (9 mm) thick 3 in. (76 mm) thick	Roof Deck 1 1/2 in. (38 mm) 2 in. (51 mm) 3 in. (76 mm) thick
	Grade 1		Grade 2		Regular		Structural			
	7/16 in. (11 mm) thick	1/2 in. (13 mm) thick	1 in. (25 mm) thick	1/2 in. (13 mm) thick	2 in. (51 mm) thick	2 in. (51 mm) thick	1/2 in. (13 mm) thick	2 5/32 in. (20 mm) thick		
Thermal conductivity (k), max.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.40	0.40	0.38	0.40	0.44	0.40	0.40
Btu·in./h·ft ² ·°F (W/m·K) at mean temperature of 75 ± 5°F (24 ± 3°C)	(0.055)	(0.055)	(0.055)	(0.058)	(0.058)	(0.055)	(0.058)	(0.063)	(0.058)	(0.058)
Transverse strength either direction, min, lbf (N)	12 (53.4)	7 (31.1)	7 (31.1)	14 (62.3)	28 (124.6)	28 (124.6)	14 (62.3)	20 (89.0) ^B	25 (111.2)	6 (27)
Tensile strength parallel to surface, min, lbf/in. ² (kPa) ^C	150 (1034)	50 (345)	50 (345)	50 (345)	...	...	150 (1034)	150 (1034)	150 (1034)	150 (1034)
Tensile strength perpendicular to surface, min, lbf/ft ² (kPa)	600 (28.7)	500 (23.9)	500 (23.9)	500 (23.9)	500 (23.9)	500 (23.9)	600 (28.7)	600 (28.7)	600 (28.7)	600 (28.7)
Water absorption by volume, max, %	7	10	10	10	10	10	7	7	7	10
Linear expansion, 50–90 % RH, max, %	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.5
Flame Spread Index, finish surface, max	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Vapor permeance, grains/h·ft ² ·in. Hg pressure differential, (mg/s·m ² ·kPa) min	5 (0.287)	...	...	...	...	...	5 (0.287)	5 (0.287)	5 (0.287)	5 (0.287)
Modulus of rupture, min, lbf/in. ² (kPa)	240 (1655)	140 (965)	80 (552)	40 (276)	275 (1896)	140 (965)	275 (1896)	400 (2758) ^B	200 (1379)	200 (1379)
Deflection at specified min load, max, in. (mm)	0.85 (22)	1.25 (32)	0.62 (16)	0.31 (8)	0.75 (19)	0.42 (11)	0.75 (19)	0.75 (19)	0.56 (14)	1.18 (30)
Modulus of Elasticity, min, lbf/in. ² × 10 ³ (mPa) ^G	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	40 (276)
Deflection Span Ratio, max ^G	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Moisture content by weight, max, %	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10

^A Physical properties listed in this column, except flame spread index, apply to the base material before punching, drilling, perforating, or embossing.
^B The 20-lb (89.0-N) transverse load and the modulus of rupture requirements are not required for wall sheathing applications where the manufacturer certifies proof that his product will meet the specified racking requirements when run in accordance with Methods E 72, in conjunction with Appendix D of the HUD Minimum Property Standards, 4900.1 REV-1. In addition, the product is applied vertically and fastened 6 in. (152 mm) apart to intermediate framing and 3 in. (76 mm) apart around the edges of the sheets. Racking strengths of 5200 lb (23.2 kN) dry and 4000 lb (17.8 kN) wet are required. As an alternative, building code requirements may be specified.
^C Tensile strength requirements shall be applicable only on thicknesses up to and including 1 in. (25 mm).
^D Water absorption for 1/2 in. structural wall sheathing is determined by the 24-h test in accordance with Test Methods D 1037 using 15 % as the maximum. Water absorption for all other products is determined by the 2-h test in accordance with Test Methods C 209.
^E For roof decking products with a vapor retarder, the maximum should be 0.5 (0.029). For roof deck products manufactured without a vapor retarder, there is no requirement for permeance.
^F For roof decking, MOR is determined using Methods D 2164. Matched samples are to be tested before and after accelerated aging. Minimum MOR for unaged samples shall be 225 lbf/in.² (155 kPa). For aged samples, the minimum shall be no less than 50 % of the unaged test result.
^G Using Methods D 2164.

TABLE 2 Nominal Dimensions of Cellulosic Fiber Insulating Board

	Nominal Dimensions			Surface Finish	Edge Details
	Width in. (mm)	Length in. (mm)	Thickness in. (mm)		
Sound Deadening Board	48 (1219)	96 (2438)	1/2 (13)	natural ^A	square
	48 (1219)	108 (2743)	1/2 (13)		
Roof Insulation	23 (584)	47 (1194)	1/2 (13), 1 (25), 1 1/2 (38) 2 (51), 2 1/2 (64), 3 (76)	natural ^A or factory surface ^B	square, offset, or shiplapped
Grade 1 and Grade 2	24 (610)	48 (1219)	1/2 (13), 1 (25), 1 1/2 (38) 2 (51), 2 1/2 (64), 3 (76)		
	48 (1219)	48 (1219)	7/16 (11), 1/2 (13), 1 (25), 1 1/2 (38), 2 (51), 2 1/2 (64), 3 (76)		
	48 (1219)	96 (2438)	7/16 (11), 1/2 (13), 1 (25), 1 1/2 (38), 2 (51), 2 1/2 (64), 3 (76)		
Ceiling Tiles and Panels—Non Acoustical	12 (305)	12 (305)	1/2 (13), 9/16 (14), 5/8 (16)	exposed face and bevels factory surface (smooth or textured)	all edges fabricated ^C
	12 (305)	24 (610)	1/2 (13), 9/16 (14), 5/8 (16)		
	16 (406)	16 (406)	1/2 (13), 9/16 (14), 5/8 (16)		
	16 (406)	32 (813)	1/2 (13), 9/16 (14), 5/8 (16)		
Ceiling Tiles and Panels— Acoustical	12 (305)	12 (305)	1/2 (13), 9/16 (14), 5/8 (16)		
	12 (305)	24 (610)	1/2 (13), 9/16 (14), 5/8 (16)		
Wall Sheathing—Regular	48 (1219)	96 (2438)	1/2 (13)		
	48 (1219)	108 (2743)	1/2 (13)		
Wall Sheathing—Structural	48 (1219)	96 (2438)	1/2 (13), 25/32 (20)		
	48 (1219)	108 (2743)	1/2 (13), 25/32 (20)		
Backer Board	48 (1219)	96 (2438)	3/8 (10), 7/16 (11)		
	48 (1219)	108 (2743)	3/8 (10), 7/16 (11)		
Roof Deck	24 (610)	96 (2438)	1 1/2 (38)	exposed face and bevels factory surface (smooth or textured)	long edges fabricated, ends square or fabricated
			2 (51)		
			3 (76)		

^A The term *natural* in connection with surface finishes refers to the surface as produced by the basic manufacturing process of felting or forming, without the inclusion of special ingredients intended to enhance the surface appearance or of any subsequent processing or retouching of the surfaces.

^B The term *factory surface* refers to a special processing or additional steps in the manufacturing process, which is intended to provide one surface of the board with special features of appearance, texture, or functional performance, which would not be provided by the *natural* surface.

^C The term *edge fabricated* refers to any type of edge treatment, other than square edges without reinforcement.

TABLE 3 Thickness Tolerances

Nominal Thickness in. (mm)	Tolerance ± %
3/8 (10)	12
7/16 (11)	12
1/2 (13)	10
9/16 (14)	10
5/8 (16)	10
25/32 (20)	8
1 (25)	7
1 1/2 (38)	6
2 (51)	5
2 1/2 (64)	5
3 (76)	5

The American Society for Testing and Materials takes no position respecting the validity of any patent rights asserted in connection with any item mentioned in this standard. Users of this standard are expressly advised that determination of the validity of any such patent rights, and the risk of infringement of such rights, are entirely their own responsibility.

This standard is subject to revision at any time by the responsible technical committee and must be reviewed every five years and if not revised, either reapproved or withdrawn. Your comments are invited either for revision of this standard or for additional standards and should be addressed to ASTM Headquarters. Your comments will receive careful consideration at a meeting of the responsible technical committee, which you may attend. If you feel that your comments have not received a fair hearing you should make your views known to the ASTM Committee on Standards, at the address shown below.

This standard is copyrighted by ASTM, 100 Barr Harbor Drive, PO Box C700, West Conshohocken, PA 19428-2959, United States. Individual reprints (single or multiple copies) of this standard may be obtained by contacting ASTM at the above address or at 610-832-9585 (phone), 610-832-9555 (fax), or service@astm.org (e-mail); or through the ASTM website (www.astm.org).