



Designation: D 2859 – 01

## Standard Test Method for Ignition Characteristics of Finished Textile Floor Covering Materials<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D 2859; 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.

### 1. Scope

1.1 This fire-test-response standard describes a test method for the determination of the flammability of finished textile floor covering materials when exposed to an ignition source under controlled laboratory conditions. It is applicable to all types of textile floor coverings regardless of the method of fabrication or whether they are made from natural or man-made fibers. Although this test method may be applied to unfinished material, such a test is not considered satisfactory for the evaluation of a textile floor covering material for ultimate consumer use.

1.2 *This standard is used to measure and describe the response of materials, products, or assemblies to heat and flame under controlled conditions, but does not by itself incorporate all factors required for fire hazard or fire risk assessment of the materials, products, or assemblies under actual fire conditions.*

NOTE 1—For other standards on flammability of textiles, refer to: Test Methods D 1230 and D 3411. For methods of measuring other properties of floor coverings and components thereof, refer to: Test Methods D 418, D 1116, D 1335, D 2401, and D 2406.

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.*

1.4 Fire testing of products and materials is inherently hazardous, and adequate safeguards for personnel and property shall be employed in conducting these tests

1.5 The text of this standard references notes and footnotes which provide explanatory material. These notes and footnotes (excluding those in tables and figures) shall not be considered as requirements of the standard.

### 2. Referenced Documents

#### 2.1 ASTM Standards:

D 123 Terminology Relating to Textiles Materials<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee E05 on Fire Standards and is direct responsibility of Subcommittee E05.22 on Surface Burning. Current edition approved Dec. 10, 2001. Published March 2002. Originally published as D 2859 – 70 T. Last previous edition D 2859 – 96.

<sup>2</sup> *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 07.01.

D 418 Methods of Testing Pile Yarn Floor Covering Construction<sup>2</sup>

D 1116 Test Method for Resistance of Pile Floor Coverings to Attack by Black Carpet Beetle Larvae<sup>3</sup>

D 1230 Test Method for Flammability of Apparel Textiles<sup>2</sup>

D 1335 Test Method for Tuft Bind of Pile Floor Coverings<sup>4</sup>

D 1776 Practice for Conditioning Textiles for Testing<sup>2</sup>

D 2401 Test Method for Service Change of Appearance of Pile Floor Coverings<sup>5</sup>

D 2646 Test Methods for Backing Fabrics<sup>2</sup>

D 3411 Test Method for Flammability of Textile Materials<sup>6</sup>

#### 2.2 AATCC Standard:

Method 138-1972, Shampooing: Washing of Textile Floor Coverings<sup>7</sup>

### 3. Terminology

#### 3.1 Definitions:

3.1.1 *finished*, *adj*—in textile floor covering materials, the completion of all manufacturing operations.

3.1.2 *flame retardant*, *n*—a chemical used to impart flame resistance.

3.1.3 *flame-retardant treatment*, *n*—a process for incorporating or adding flame retardant(s) to a material or product.

3.1.3.1 *Discussion*—The term “flame-retardant treatment” does not apply to textiles that are inherently-flame-resistant due to the intrinsic properties of the material or the fiber-forming polymer.

3.1.4 *flame resistance*, *n*—the property of a material whereby flaming combustion is prevented, terminated, or inhibited following application of a flaming or nonflaming source of ignition, with or without subsequent removal of the ignition source.

3.1.4.1 *Discussion*—Flame resistance can be an inherent property of the basic material or product, or it may be imparted by specific treatment. The degree of flame resistance exhibited by a specific material during testing may vary with different test conditions.

<sup>3</sup> Discontinued, see 1979 *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Part 22.

<sup>4</sup> Discontinued, see 1994 *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 07.01.

<sup>5</sup> Discontinued, see 1991 *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 07.01.

<sup>6</sup> Discontinued, see 1980 *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Part 32.

<sup>7</sup> Technical Manual of the American Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists, P. O. Box 12215, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709.

3.2 For definitions of other textile terms used in this method, refer to Terminology D 123.

#### 4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 This test method involves the exposure of conditioned and oven-dried specimens to a standard source of ignition in a draft-protected environment and the measurement of the resulting char length.

#### 5. Significance and Use

5.1 This test method provides a procedure for identification of those finished textile floor covering materials that can be rated as flame-resistant under specific controlled laboratory conditions.

5.2 This test method does not specify the use of an underlay material. If desired, the method may be used to assess the effect of a specific underlay in combination with a specific floor covering, but such a variation in procedure must be noted in the report.

5.3 Results observed with the specimens in a horizontal plane, as specified, may not be characteristic of the same material when used in any other plane, particularly in a vertical plane.

5.4 Test Method D 2859 for testing finished textile floor covering materials for flammability is considered satisfactory for acceptance testing of commercial shipments since the method has been used extensively in the trade for acceptance testing. In cases of disagreement arising from differences in values reported by the purchaser and the seller when using this method for acceptance testing, the statistical bias, if any, between the laboratory of the purchaser and the laboratory of the seller should be determined with each comparison being based on testing specimens randomly drawn from one sample of material of the type being evaluated.

#### 6. Apparatus and Reagent

6.1 *Test Chamber*—A box with inside dimensions of 12 by 12 by 12 in. (305 by 305 by 305 mm) made from asbestos-cement material,<sup>8</sup> not less than 0.25 in. (6.4 mm) thick, open at the top, and having a flat removable floor made of the same material.

6.2 *Frame*—A steel plate, 9 by 9 in. (230 by 230 mm), 0.25 in. (6.4 mm) thick, with an 8.0-in. (205-mm) diameter hole cut in the center of the plate.

6.3 *Desiccating Cabinet*, with an efficient desiccant, and shelves large enough to hold 9 by 9-in. (230 by 230-mm) specimens spaced separately in a horizontal position.

6.4 *Circulating Air Oven*, ventilated, forced-draft and thermostatically controlled in the atmosphere range of  $105 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$  throughout the enclosure.

6.5 *Glove*, disposable, of polyethylene or rubber.

6.6 *Steel Rule*, graduated in  $\frac{1}{64}$ -in. (0.4-mm) increments.

6.7 *Vacuum Cleaner*, of which all surfaces contacting the specimens are flat and smooth.

6.8 *Laboratory Fume Hood*, capable of being closed and having its draft turned off during each test. The front or sides

of the hood should be transparent to permit observation of the test in progress.

6.9 *Methenamine Tablet*.<sup>9</sup>

NOTE 2—Storage of the tablets in a desiccator will reduce cracking upon ignition.

NOTE 3—The normal variation in the weight of different tablets will not affect the test result.

#### 7. Sampling, Selection, and Number of Test Specimens

7.1 Take a lot sample as directed by the applicable material specification. In the absence of an applicable material specification or other agreement between the purchaser and the seller, select a sample comprised of a roll or piece believed to be representative of the lot to be tested. Each roll or piece must be large enough to permit cutting eight specimens each 9 in. (230 mm) square, free of creases, fold marks, or any delamination.

7.2 If the textile floor covering material has had a fire-retardant treatment (as defined in 3.2), wash the specimens as directed in the washing procedure described in AATCC Method 138-1972.

7.3 Cut eight specimens, each  $9.0 \pm 0.1$  in. ( $230 \pm 3$  mm) square, from each sample.

#### 8. Conditioning

8.1 Condition the specimens as directed in Practice D 1776.

#### 9. Procedure

9.1 Clean each specimen with the vacuum cleaner until it is free of all loose ends and of any material that may have been worked into the pile during handling.

9.2 Place the eight conditioned specimens in an oven in a manner that will permit free circulation of the air at  $105 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$  for 2 h.

NOTE 4—Conditioning prior to the drying operation is specified because storage conditions may cause some material to be moist, thus requiring considerably more than 2 h drying time.

NOTE 5—Multiple test samples can be dried concurrently.

9.3 Remove the eight specimens from the oven with a gloved hand and immediately place them in a desiccator for 1 h, or until they reach room temperature, whichever is longer, making sure that the specimens are in a horizontal plane with the pile side up, and that they are not resting on one another.

NOTE 6—Specimens taken from some carpet types may become distorted after drying, such that they curl at the edges. Such distortion can be corrected by rolling the affected edges in a direction opposite to the curl prior to placing in the desiccator.

9.4 Place the test chamber in the laboratory fume hood with all exhaust turned off.

9.5 Remove a test specimen from the desiccator and with a gloved hand brush the pile into an upright position as nearly vertical as possible. Place the specimen on the floor of the test chamber with the pile side up, exercising care that the specimen is in a horizontal plane, then place the steel frame on top of the specimen, and line up the outside edges of the specimen and the frame.

<sup>8</sup> Transite has been found to be a suitable material.

<sup>9</sup> Methenamine Reagent Tablet #1588 (0.149-g weight), Eli Lilly Inc., 307 East McCarty St., Indianapolis, IN 46206, has been found satisfactory.



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9.6 Place a methenamine tablet flat, and in the center of the specimen, and ignite the tablet by touching a lighted match carefully to the top of the tablet. Do not contact the surface of the specimen with the lighted match. If more than 2 min elapses between removal of the specimen from the desiccator and ignition of the tablet, repeat the oven drying procedure as directed in 9.2 and 9.3. Close the hood door. To assure an adequate oxygen supply, hoods should be louvered or the hood door may be left open not in excess of 6 in. (152 mm).

NOTE 7—If the tablet cracks upon ignition, discard the specimen.

9.7 Allow the ignition flame and any propagated flame to burn out or burn until the flame or glowing reaches any point along the edge of the hole in the steel frame. Terminate the test on each specimen when either of the above conditions is reached.

9.8 After each specimen has been tested, remove the floor from the chamber and free it of any residue that would prevent the next specimen from lying in a horizontal plane. Allow sufficient time between tests for the chamber to cool to room temperature. Test the remaining seven specimens in the same way.

NOTE 8—Testing can be expedited by providing several interchangeable floor pieces.

### 10. Interpretation of Results

10.1 A single specimen has passed the test if the charred

portion of the tested specimen shall not extend to within 1.0 in. (25.4 mm) of the edge of the hole in the steel frame at any point.

10.2 The mandatory Flammable Fabrics Act Regulations<sup>8</sup> (see 5.5) each requires that at least seven of the eight individual specimens pass for the carpet or rug to meet the acceptance criterion.

### 11. Report

11.1 State that the specimens were tested as directed in Test Method D 2859. Describe the material or product sampled and the method of sampling used.

11.2 Report the number of specimens out of the eight tested that passed the test.

### 12. Precision and Bias

12.1 *Precision*—The precision of Test Method D 2859 for the flammability of finished textile floor covering materials is being established.

12.2 *Bias*—No justifiable statement on bias of Test Method D 2859 for the flammability of finished textile floor covering materials can be made, since the true value cannot be established by an accepted referee method.

### 13. Keywords

13.1 carpet; pile floor coverings; ignition

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