



Designation: C1263 – 95 (Reapproved 2026)

Standard Test Method for Thermal Integrity of Flexible Water Vapor Retarders¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation C1263; 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.

1. Scope

1.1 This test method covers the visual determination of the thermal integrity of flexible water vapor retarders for those materials classified under Specification C1136, including plastic, foil, or paper and composites of two or more of these materials to temperatures listed in the specification or purchase contract. The vapor retarders are intended for use at temperatures of -20 to 150°F (-29 to 66°C). This test method does not cover mastics or barrier coatings applied in liquid form or materials intended for use as weather barriers.

1.2 The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as standard. The values given in parentheses are mathematical conversions to SI units that are provided for information only and are not considered standard.

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, health, and environmental practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

1.4 *This international standard was developed in accordance with internationally recognized principles on standardization established in the Decision on Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations issued by the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*²

C168 Terminology Relating to Thermal Insulation

C1136 Specification for Flexible, Low Permeance Vapor Retarders for Thermal Insulation

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—Definitions of terms used in this test method will be found in Terminology C168.

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee C16 on Thermal Insulation and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee C16.33

Current edition approved March 1, 2026. Published March 2026. Originally approved in 1994. Last previous edition approved in 2021 as C1263 – 95 (2021). DOI: 10.1520/C1263-95R26.

² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at www.astm.org/contact. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 In many applications, the vapor retarders used on a thermal insulation will be exposed to the temperatures listed in 7.2. Cracking or delamination of the retarder under these conditions would, in most cases, cause it to lose its effectiveness as a vapor retarder material.

5. Apparatus

5.1 *1 in. (25 mm) Outside Diameter Solid, Mild Steel Mandrel.*

5.2 *Laboratory Oven*, capable of maintaining $\pm 3^{\circ}\text{F}$ (2°C) up to a temperature of 150°F (66°C).

5.3 *Laboratory Freezer*, capable of maintaining $\pm 3^{\circ}\text{F}$ (2°C) down to a temperature of -20°F (-29°C).

5.4 *Room or Cabinet*, capable of maintaining $73.4 \pm 3^{\circ}\text{F}$ ($23 \pm 2^{\circ}\text{C}$) and $50 \pm 2\%$ relative humidity.

5.5 *Insulated Gloves.*

6. Test Specimen

6.1 From each sampled vapor retarder, test three 1 ft (305 mm) square specimens for each temperature extreme specified.

7. Procedure

7.1 Condition test specimen at a temperature of $73.4 \pm 3^{\circ}\text{F}$ ($23 \pm 2^{\circ}\text{C}$) and a relative humidity of $50 \pm 2\%$ for a period of 24 h.

7.2 Expose the specimen and the mandrel to the test temperatures of -20 and 150°F (-29 and 66°C) for a period of 4 h.

7.3 At the end of the exposure period, with specimen and mandrel at test temperatures, bend each specimen around the mandrel once through an angle of 180° in 3 ± 2 s so that the opposing sides are parallel. If the two surfaces of the test specimen are materially different, six specimens shall be tested with three specimens of each surface tested on the outside of the bend.

NOTE 1—When test conditions specify both low temperature and high temperature exposure conditions on the same vapor retarder, it is satisfactory to use the same specimen or to select separate specimens for each of the exposed temperatures, unless the specification or contract explicitly states that exposure tests must be conducted on the same specimen. If the latter is so, the test specimen must be reconditioned before submitting it