



Designation: C582 – 23

Standard Specification for Contact-Molded Reinforced Thermosetting Plastic (RTP) Laminates for Corrosion-Resistant Equipment¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation C582; 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 U.S. Department of Defense.

1. Scope

1.1 This specification covers composition, thickness, fabricating procedures, and physical property requirements for glass fiber reinforced thermoset polyester, vinyl ester, or other qualified thermosetting resin laminates comprising the materials of construction for RTP corrosion-resistant tanks, piping, and equipment. This specification is limited to fabrication by contact molding.

NOTE 1—The laminates covered by this specification are manufactured during fabrication of contact-molded RTP tanks, piping, and other equipment.

NOTE 2—There is no known ISO equivalent to this standard.

1.2 The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as standard. The SI values given in parentheses are conversions from inch-pound units and are for information only.

1.3 The following safety hazards caveat pertains only to the test method portion, Section 8, of this specification: *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

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D20 on Plastics and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D20.23 on Reinforced Thermosetting Resin Piping Systems and Chemical Equipment.

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

C581 Practice for Determining Chemical Resistance of Thermosetting Resins Used in Glass-Fiber-Reinforced Structures Intended for Liquid Service

D638 Test Method for Tensile Properties of Plastics

D695 Test Method for Compressive Properties of Rigid Plastics

D790 Test Methods for Flexural Properties of Unreinforced and Reinforced Plastics and Electrical Insulating Materials

D883 Terminology Relating to Plastics

D2583 Test Method for Indentation Hardness of Rigid Plastics by Means of a Barcol Impressor (Withdrawn 2022)³

D2584 Test Method for Ignition Loss of Cured Reinforced Resins

D3681 Test Method for Chemical Resistance of “Fiberglass” (Glass-Fiber-Reinforced Thermosetting-Resin) Pipe in a Deflected Condition

E84 Test Method for Surface Burning Characteristics of Building Materials

3. Definitions

3.1 Definitions used in this specification are in accordance with Terminology D883 unless otherwise indicated. The abbreviation for reinforced thermoset plastic is RTP.

3.2 *polyester*—resins produced by the polycondensation of dihydroxyderivatives and dibasic organic acids or anhydrides, wherein at least one component contributes ethylenic unsaturation yielding resins that can be compounded with styryl monomers and reacted to give highly crosslinked thermoset copolymers.

3.3 *vinyl ester*—resins characterized by reactive unsaturation located predominately in terminal positions that can be compounded with styryl monomers and reacted to give highly crosslinked thermoset copolymers.

NOTE 3—These resins are handled in the same way as polyesters in fabrication of RTP components.

³ The last approved version of this historical standard is referenced on www.astm.org.

3.4 *contact molding*—a method of fabrication wherein the glass-fiber reinforcement is applied to the mold, in the form of chopped strand mat or woven roving, by hand or from a reel, or in the form of chopped strands of continuous-filament glass from a chopper-spray gun. The resin matrix is applied by various methods, including brush, roller, or spray gun. Consolidation of the composite laminate is by rolling.

4. Classification

4.1 Laminates shall be classified according to type, class, and grade.

4.1.1 *Type*—In Roman numerals, shall designate the reinforcement structure comprised of specific plies of glass fiber in specific sequences.

4.1.1.1 *Type I*—A standard all-mat or chopped-roving construction, or both, as shown in [Table 1](#).

4.1.1.2 *Type II*—A standard mat or chopped-roving and woven-roving construction, or combination thereof, as shown in [Table 2](#).

4.1.1.3 Other types, such as standard mat or chopped roving with alternating layers of nonwoven biaxial or unidirectional reinforcement in the structured plies, may be qualified in accordance with [Appendix X2](#).

4.1.2 *Class*—In capital letters, shall designate the generic resin: “P” for polyester and “V” for vinyl ester. The letters “FS” followed by parenthesis, “FS(),” shall designate fire retardancy, if specified, with maximum flame spread in the parentheses in accordance with Test Method [E84](#).

NOTE 4—Fire retardancy by Test Method [E84](#) is determined for a nominal 0.13-in. (3-mm) thick, flat laminates with all-mat glass content of 25 to 30 %.

NOTE 5—Maximum flame spread designation by Test Method [E84](#) relates to measurement and description of the properties of materials, products, or systems in response to heat and flame under controlled laboratory conditions and should not be considered or used for the description or appraisal of the fire hazard of materials, products, or systems under actual fire conditions. However, results of this test may be

used as elements of a fire risk assessment that takes into account all the factors that are pertinent to an assessment of the fire hazard or a particular end use.

4.1.3 *Grade*—In Arabic numerals, shall designate the minimum physical property levels of a laminate at $73 \pm 4^\circ\text{F}$ ($23 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$).

NOTE 6—The five Arabic grade numbers designate minimum physical property levels of a laminate obtained from tests of representative production process samples. They are not arbitrarily selected values.

4.1.4 *Thickness*—Nominal, shall be designated by Arabic number to nearest 0.01 in. or 0.1 mm. (See [Table 1](#) and [Table 2](#) for standard thicknesses.)

NOTE 7—[Table 1](#) and [Table 2](#) are for reference purposes and do not preclude other laminate-type constructions, such as nonwoven biaxial or unidirectional fabric, which may be agreed upon between the buyer and the seller, or may be added to this specification if they have been fully identified and characterized, as shown in [Appendix X2](#).

4.1.5 *Classification Requirements for Different Laminates*—Laminate designation from [Table 3](#) shall consist of the abbreviation RTP followed by (1) type in Roman numerals; (2) class in capital letters followed by FS() if required; (3) grade consisting of five Arabic numbers to designate minimum levels of physical properties and (4) thickness designated by Arabic number in decimal inches (or ALL, if properties apply to all thicknesses).

4.1.5.1 Examples:

(1) RTP I 1 ALL, designates Type I polyester laminate, non-fire-retardant Grade 13211, having the following minimum physical property levels (see [Table 3](#)):

Tensile strength, ultimate—9,000 psi (62.1 MPa).

Tensile modulus—1,050,000 psi (7.24 GPa).

Flexural strength, ultimate—18,000 psi (124 MPa).

Flexural modulus—700,000 psi (4.83 GPa).

Glass content—25 %.

Thickness—“ALL” thicknesses.

TABLE 1 Standard Laminate Composition Type I^A

Calculated Thickness ^{BC}		Corrosion Barrier ^D		Structural Plies ^E Number and Sequence of Plies																Drafting Symbols
in.	(mm)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
0.18	(4.6)	V	M	M	M	M														V, 4M
0.23	(5.8)	V	M	M	M	M	M													V, 5M
0.27	(6.9)	V	M	M	M	M	M	M												V, 6M
0.31	(7.9)	V	M	M	M	M	M	M	M											V, 7M
0.35	(8.9)	V	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M										V, 8M
0.40	(10.2)	V	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M									V, 9M
0.44	(11.2)	V	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M								V, 10M
0.48	(12.2)	V	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M							V, 11M
0.53	(13.5)	V	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M						V, 12M
0.57	(14.5)	V	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M					V, 13M
0.61	(15.5)	V	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M				V, 14M
0.66	(16.8)	V	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M			V, 15M
0.70	(17.8)	V	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M		V, 16M
0.74	(18.8)	V	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	V, 17M

^A Glass content, weight, % = 25 to 30, all thickness.

^B Calculated thickness for design purposes is determined as follows:

V = Surfacing mat – 0.010 in./ply (0.25 mm/ply) when saturated with resin.

M = 1 ½ oz/ft² (450 g/m²) mat – 0.043 in./ply (1.1 mm/ply) nominal values when saturated with resin.

^C The thickness shall be not less than 90 % of the calculated thickness shown.

^D Corrosion barrier (Plies 1, 2, and 3) shall gel before structural plies are added.

^E Structural lay-up may be interrupted at intervals long enough to exotherm if required by the laminate manufacturing procedure and 6.3.1.