Designation: D1003 – 21

Standard Test Method for Haze and Luminous Transmittance of Transparent Plastics[1]

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D1003; 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.
This test method replaces Method 3022 of Federal Test Method Standard 406.

1. Scope*

1.1 This test method covers the evaluation of specific light-transmitting and wide-angle-light-scattering properties of planar sections of materials such as essentially transparent plastic. Two procedures are provided for the measurement of luminous transmittance and haze. Procedure A uses a hazemeter as described in Section 5 and Procedure B uses a spectrophotometer as described in Section 8. Material having a haze value greater than 30 % is considered diffusing and should be tested in accordance with Practice E2387.

1.2 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as standard.

NOTE 1—For greater discrimination among materials that scatter a high percent of light within a narrow forward angle, such as is the case with abraded transparent plastics, adjust the hazemeter and perform measurements in accordance with Test Method D1044.

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.*

NOTE 2—This test method is not equivalent to ISO 13468-1 and ISO/DIS 14782.

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]

D618 Practice for Conditioning Plastics for Testing

D883 Terminology Relating to Plastics

D1044 Test Method for Resistance of Transparent Plastics to Surface Abrasion by the Taber Abraser

E259 Practice for Preparation of Pressed Powder White Reflectance Factor Transfer Standards for Hemispherical and Bi-Directional Geometries

E284 Terminology of Appearance

E691 Practice for Conducting an Interlaboratory Study to Determine the Precision of a Test Method

E2387 Practice for Goniometric Optical Scatter Measurements

E2935 Practice for Conducting Equivalence Tests for Comparing Testing Processes

2.2 *ISO Standards:*[3]

ISO 13468-1 Plastics—Determination of the Total Luminous Transmittance of Transparent Materials

ISO/DIS 14782 Plastics—Determination of Haze of Transparent Materials

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—Terms applicable to this test method are defined in Terminologies D883 and E284.

3.2 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

3.2.1 *haze, n*—in transmission, the scattering of light by a specimen responsible for the reduction in contrast of objects viewed through it. The percent of transmitted light that is scattered so that its direction deviates more than a specified angle from the direction of the incident beam.

3.2.1.1 *Discussion*—In this test method, the specified angle is 0.044 rad (2.5°).

3.2.2 *luminous, adj*—weighted according to the spectral luminous efficiency function V(λ) of the CIE (1987).

3.2.3 *luminous transmittance, n*—the ratio of the luminous flux transmitted by a body to the flux incident upon it.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 Light that is scattered upon passing through a film or sheet of a material can produce a hazy or smoky field when

[1] This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D20 on Plastics and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D20.40 on Optical Properties.

Current edition approved May 1, 2021. Published June 2021. Originally approved in 1949. Last previous edition approved in 2013 as D1003 - 13. DOI: 10.1520/D1003-21.

[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.

[3] Available from American National Standards Institute (ANSI), 25 W. 43rd St., 4th Floor, New York, NY 10036, http://www.ansi.org.

***A Summary of Changes section appears at the end of this standard**

objects are viewed through the material. Another effect can be veiling glare, as occurs in an automobile windshield when driving into the sun.

4.2 Although haze measurements are made most commonly by the use of a hazemeter, a spectrophotometer may be used, provided that it meets the geometric and spectral requirements of Section 5. The use of a spectrophotometer for haze measurement of plastics can provide valuable diagnostic data on the origin of the haze,[4] and Procedure B is devoted to the use of a spectrophotometer.

4.2.1 Procedure A (hazemeter) test values are normally slightly higher and less variable than Procedure B (spectrophotometer) test values.

4.3 Regular luminous transmittance is obtained by placing a clear specimen at some distance from the entrance port of the integrating sphere. However, when the specimen is hazy, the total hemispherical luminous transmittance must be measured by placing the specimen at the entrance port of the sphere. The measured total hemispherical luminous transmittance will be greater than the regular luminous transmittance, depending on the optical properties of the sample. With this test method, the specimen is necessarily placed at the entrance port of the sphere in order to measure haze and total hemispherical luminous transmittance.

4.4 Haze data representative of the material may be obtained by avoiding heterogeneous surface or internal defects not characteristic of the material.

4.5 Haze and luminous-transmittance data are especially useful for quality control and specification purposes.

4.6 Before proceeding with this test method, reference should be made to the specification of the material being tested. Any test specimen preparation, conditioning, dimensions, or testing parameters, or combination thereof, covered in the materials specification shall take precedence over those mentioned in this test method. If there are no material specifications, then the default conditions apply.

5. Test Specimens

5.1 Sampling shall be statistically adequate to ensure that the specimens were obtained and produced by a process in statistical control. Obtain specimens that are free of defects not characteristic of the material unless such defects constitute variables under study.

5.2 Cut each test specimen to a size large enough to cover the entrance port of the sphere. A disk 50 mm (2 in.) in diameter, or a square with sides of the same dimensions, is suggested. The specimen shall have substantially plane-parallel surfaces free of dust, grease, scratches, and blemishes, and it shall be free of visibly distinct internal voids and particles, unless it is specifically desired to measure the contribution to haze due to these imperfections.

5.3 Prepare three specimens to test each sample of a given material unless specified otherwise in the applicable material specification.

NOTE 3—Specimen type and preparation can influence the actual haze of the materials being tested.

6. Conditioning

6.1 *Conditioning*—Unless otherwise required in the appropriate materials specification or agreed between customer/supplier, condition the test specimens at 23 ± 2°C (73.4 ± 3.6°F) and 50 ± 10 % relative humidity for not less than 40 h prior to test, in accordance with Procedure A of Practice D618. In case of disagreements, the tolerances shall be ±1°C (1.8°F) and ±5 % relative humidity.

6.2 *Test Conditions*—Set up the test apparatus in an atmosphere maintained at 23 ± 2°C (73.4 ± 3.6°F) and 50 ± 10 % relative humidity.

7. Procedure A—Hazemeter

7.1 *Apparatus:*

7.1.1 The instrument used for measurement shall meet the geometric and spectral requirements of this section.[5,6]

7.1.2 A light source and a photodetector shall be supplied, and the combination shall be filtered to provide an output corresponding to the luminosity response of the 1931 CIE Standard Colorimetric Observer with CIE Standard Illuminant C or, alternatively, Illuminant A. The output shall be proportional to within 1 % to the incident flux over the range of flux used. The photometric stability for source and detector must be constant throughout the test of each specimen.

7.1.3 Use an integrating sphere to collect transmitted flux; the sphere may be of any diameter as long as the total port areas do not exceed 4.0 % of the internal reflecting area of the sphere. The entrance and exit ports shall be centered on the same great circle of the sphere, and there shall be at least 2.97 rad (170°) of arc between centers. The exit port shall subtend an angle of 0.14 rad (8°) at the center of the entrance port. With the light trap in position, without the specimen, the axis of the irradiating beam shall pass through the centers of the entrance and exit ports. For a hazemeter, position the photocell or photocells on the sphere 1.57 ± 0.17 rad (90 ± 10°) from the entrance port and baffle it from direct exposure to the entrance port. In the pivotable modification where the interior wall adjacent to the exit port is used as the reflectance reference, the angle of rotation of the sphere shall be 0.140 ± 0.008 rad (8.0 ± 0.5°).

7.1.4 Illuminate the specimen by a substantially unidirectional beam; the maximum angle that any ray of this beam may make with the beam axis shall not exceed 0.05 rad (3°). This beam shall not be vignetted at either port of the sphere.

7.1.5 When the specimen is placed against the entrance port of the integrating sphere, the angle between the perpendicular

[4] Billmeyer, F. W., Jr., and Chen, Y., "On the Measurement of Haze," *Color Research and Application*, Vol 10, 1985, pp. 219–224.

[5] The sole source of supply of the hazemeter known to the committee at this time is BYK-Gardner USA 9104 Guilford Road Columbia, MD 21046.

[6] If you are aware of alternative suppliers, please provide this information to ASTM International Headquarters. Your comments will receive careful consideration at a meeting of the responsible technical committee,[1] which you may attend.