



Designation: D4000 – 23

Standard Classification System for Specifying Plastic Materials¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D4000; 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 standard provides a classification system for tabulating the properties of unfilled, filled, and reinforced plastic materials suitable for processing into parts.

NOTE 1—The classification system serves many of the needs of industries using plastic materials. The standard is subject to revision as the need requires; therefore, the latest revision should always be used.

1.2 The classification system and subsequent line call-out (specification) is intended to be a means of identifying plastic materials used in the fabrication of end items or parts. It is not intended for the selection of materials. Material selection should be made by those having expertise in the plastics field after careful consideration of the design and the performance required of the part, the environment to which it will be exposed, the fabrication process to be employed, the inherent properties of the material not covered in this document, and the economic factors.

1.3 This classification system is based on the premise that plastic materials can be arranged into broad generic families using basic properties to arrange the materials into groups, classes, and grades. A system is thus established which, together with values describing additional requirements, permits as complete a description as desired of the selected material.

1.4 In all cases where the provisions of this classification system would conflict with the referenced ASTM specification for a particular material, the latter shall take precedence.

NOTE 2—When using this classification system the two-letter, three-digit suffix system applies.

NOTE 3—When a material is used to fabricate a part where the requirements are too specific for a broad material call-out, it is advisable for the user to consult the supplier to secure a call-out of the properties to suit the actual conditions to which the part is to be subjected.

1.5 *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.

1.6 *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

- D149 Test Method for Dielectric Breakdown Voltage and Dielectric Strength of Solid Electrical Insulating Materials at Commercial Power Frequencies
- D150 Test Methods for AC Loss Characteristics and Permittivity (Dielectric Constant) of Solid Electrical Insulation
- D256 Test Methods for Determining the Izod Pendulum Impact Resistance of Plastics
- D257 Test Methods for DC Resistance or Conductance of Insulating Materials
- D395 Test Methods for Rubber Property—Compression Set
- D412 Test Methods for Vulcanized Rubber and Thermoplastic Elastomers—Tension
- D471 Test Method for Rubber Property—Effect of Liquids
- D495 Test Method for High-Voltage, Low-Current, Dry Arc Resistance of Solid Electrical Insulation
- D569 Method for Measuring the Flow Properties of Thermoplastic Molding Materials (Withdrawn 1995)³
- D570 Test Method for Water Absorption of Plastics
- D573 Test Method for Rubber—Deterioration in an Air Oven
- D575 Test Methods for Rubber Properties in Compression
- D618 Practice for Conditioning Plastics for Testing
- D624 Test Method for Tear Strength of Conventional Vulcanized Rubber and Thermoplastic Elastomers

¹ This classification system is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D20 on Plastics and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D20.15 on Thermoplastic Materials.

Current edition approved March 15, 2023. Published March 2023. Originally approved in 1982. Last previous edition approved in 2020 as D4000 - 20. DOI: 10.1520/D4000-23.

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

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

- D635** Test Method for Rate of Burning and/or Extent and Time of Burning of Plastics in a Horizontal Position
- D638** Test Method for Tensile Properties of Plastics
- D648** Test Method for Deflection Temperature of Plastics Under Flexural Load in the Edgewise Position
- D695** Test Method for Compressive Properties of Rigid Plastics
- D706** Classification System and Basis for Specifications for Cellulose Acetate Molding and Extrusion Compounds (CA)
- D707** Classification System and Basis for Specification for Cellulose Acetate Butyrate Molding and Extrusion Compounds (CAB)
- D747** Test Method for Apparent Bending Modulus of Plastics by Means of a Cantilever Beam (Withdrawn 2019)³
- D785** Test Method for Rockwell Hardness of Plastics and Electrical Insulating Materials
- D787** Specification for Ethyl Cellulose Molding and Extrusion Compounds
- D788** Classification System for Poly(Methyl Methacrylate) (PMMA) Molding and Extrusion Compounds
- D789** Test Method for Determination of Relative Viscosity of Concentrated Polyamide (PA) Solutions
- D790** Test Methods for Flexural Properties of Unreinforced and Reinforced Plastics and Electrical Insulating Materials
- D792** Test Methods for Density and Specific Gravity (Relative Density) of Plastics by Displacement
- D883** Terminology Relating to Plastics
- D955** Test Method of Measuring Shrinkage from Mold Dimensions of Thermoplastics
- D1003** Test Method for Haze and Luminous Transmittance of Transparent Plastics
- D1149** Test Methods for Rubber Deterioration—Cracking in an Ozone Controlled Environment
- D1203** Test Methods for Volatile Loss from Plastics Using Activated Carbon Methods
- D1238** Test Method for Melt Flow Rates of Thermoplastics by Extrusion Plastometer
- D1248** Specification for Polyethylene Plastics Extrusion Materials for Wire and Cable
- D1430** Classification System for Polychlorotrifluoroethylene (PCTFE) Plastics
- D1434** Test Method for Determining Gas Permeability Characteristics of Plastic Film and Sheet
- D1435** Practice for Outdoor Weathering of Plastics
- D1499** Practice for Filtered Open-Flame Carbon-Arc Exposures of Plastics
- D1505** Test Method for Density of Plastics by the Density-Gradient Technique
- D1525** Test Method for Vicat Softening Temperature of Plastics
- D1562** Classification System and Basis for Specification for Cellulose Acetate Propionate Molding and Extrusion Compounds (CAP)
- D1600** Terminology for Abbreviated Terms Relating to Plastics
- D1693** Test Method for Environmental Stress-Cracking of Ethylene Plastics
- D1784** Classification System and Basis for Specification for Rigid Poly(Vinyl Chloride) (PVC) Compounds and Chlorinated Poly(Vinyl Chloride) (CPVC) Compounds
- D1822** Test Method for Determining the Tensile-Impact Resistance of Plastics
- D1929** Test Method for Determining Ignition Temperature of Plastics
- D2116** Specification for FEP Resin Molding and Extrusion Materials
- D2137** Test Methods for Rubber Property—Brittleness Point of Flexible Polymers and Coated Fabrics
- D2240** Test Method for Rubber Property—Durometer Hardness
- D2287** Classification System and Basis for Specification for Nonrigid Vinyl Chloride Polymer and Copolymer Molding and Extrusion Compounds
- D2288** Test Method for Weight Loss of Plasticizers on Heating (Withdrawn 2010)³
- D2565** Practice for Xenon-Arc Exposure of Plastics Intended for Outdoor Applications
- 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
- D2632** Test Method for Rubber Property—Resilience by Vertical Rebound
- D2843** Test Method for Density of Smoke from the Burning or Decomposition of Plastics
- D2863** Test Method for Measuring the Minimum Oxygen Concentration to Support Candle-Like Combustion of Plastics (Oxygen Index)
- D2951** Test Method for Resistance of Types III and IV Polyethylene Plastics to Thermal Stress-Cracking (Withdrawn 2006)³
- D3012** Test Method for Thermal-Oxidative Stability of Polypropylene Using a Specimen Rotator Within an Oven
- D3159** Specification for Modified ETFE Fluoropolymer Molding and Extrusion Materials
- D3222** Specification for Unmodified Poly(Vinylidene Fluoride) (PVDF) Molding Extrusion and Coating Materials
- D3275** Classification System for E-CTFE-Fluoroplastic Molding, Extrusion, and Coating Materials
- D3307** Specification for Perfluoroalkoxy (PFA) Resin Molding and Extrusion Materials
- D3350** Specification for Polyethylene Plastics Pipe and Fittings Materials
- D3418** Test Method for Transition Temperatures and Enthalpies of Fusion and Crystallization of Polymers by Differential Scanning Calorimetry
- D3638** Test Method for Comparative Tracking Index of Electrical Insulating Materials
- D3713** Test Method for Measuring Response of Solid Plastics to Ignition by a Small Flame (Withdrawn 2000)³
- D3763** Test Method for High Speed Puncture Properties of Plastics Using Load and Displacement Sensors