



Designation: D695 – 23

Standard Test Method for Compressive Properties of Rigid Plastics¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D695; 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 test method covers the determination of the mechanical properties of unreinforced and reinforced rigid plastics, including high-modulus composites, when loaded in compression at relatively low uniform rates of straining or loading. Test specimens of standard shape are employed. This procedure is applicable for a composite modulus up to and including 41,370 MPa (6,000,000 psi).

1.2 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as the standard. The values in parentheses are for information only.

NOTE 1—For compressive properties of resin-matrix composites reinforced with oriented continuous, discontinuous, or cross-ply reinforcements, tests may be made in accordance with Test Method [D3410/D3410M](#) or [D6641/D6641M](#).

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. A specific precautionary statement is given in [13.1](#).*

NOTE 2—This standard is equivalent to ISO 604.

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](#)
[D638 Test Method for Tensile Properties of Plastics](#)

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee [D20](#) on Plastics and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee [D20.10](#) on Mechanical Properties. Current edition approved Aug. 1, 2023. Published August 2023. Originally approved in 1942. Last previous edition approved in 2015 as D695 - 15. DOI: 10.1520/D0695-23.

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.

[D883 Terminology Relating to Plastics](#)

[D3410/D3410M Test Method for Compressive Properties of Polymer Matrix Composite Materials with Unsupported Gage Section by Shear Loading](#)

[D4000 Classification System for Specifying Plastic Materials](#)

[D5947 Test Methods for Physical Dimensions of Solid Plastics Specimens](#)

[D6641/D6641M Test Method for Compressive Properties of Polymer Matrix Composite Materials Using a Combined Loading Compression \(CLC\) Test Fixture](#)

[E4 Practices for Force Calibration and Verification of Testing Machines](#)

[E83 Practice for Verification and Classification of Extensometer Systems](#)

[E456 Terminology Relating to Quality and Statistics](#)

[E691 Practice for Conducting an Interlaboratory Study to Determine the Precision of a Test Method](#)

2.2 ISO Standard:³

[ISO 604 Plastics—Determination of Compressive Properties](#)

3. Terminology

3.1 Terms used in this standard are defined in accordance with Terminology [D883](#), unless otherwise specified. For terms relating to precision and bias and associated issues, the terms used in this standard are defined in accordance with Terminology [E456](#).

3.2 Definitions:

3.2.1 *compressive deformation*—the decrease in length produced in the gage length of the test specimen by a compressive load. It is expressed in units of length.

3.2.2 *compressive strain*—the ratio of compressive deformation to the gage length of the test specimen, that is, the change in length per unit of original length along the longitudinal axis. It is expressed as a dimensionless ratio.

3.2.3 *compressive strength*—the maximum compressive stress (nominal) carried by a test specimen during a compression test. It may or may not be the compressive stress (nominal) carried by the specimen at the moment of rupture.

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

3.2.4 *compressive strength at failure (nominal)*—the compressive stress (nominal) sustained at the moment of failure of the test specimen if shattering occurs.

3.2.5 *compressive stress (nominal)*—the compressive load per unit area of minimum original cross section within the gage boundaries, carried by the test specimen at any given moment. It is expressed in force per unit area.

3.2.5.1 *Discussion*—The expression of compressive properties in terms of the minimum original cross section is almost universally used. Under some circumstances the compressive properties have been expressed per unit of prevailing cross section. These properties are called “true” compressive properties.

3.2.6 *compressive stress-strain diagram*—a diagram in which values of compressive stress are plotted as ordinates against corresponding values of compressive strain as abscissas.

3.2.7 *compressive yield point*—the first point on the stress-strain diagram at which an increase in strain occurs without an increase in stress.

3.2.8 *compressive yield strength*—normally the stress at the yield point (see also section 3.2.11).

3.2.9 *crushing load*—the maximum compressive force applied to the specimen, under the conditions of testing, that produces a designated degree of failure.

3.2.10 *modulus of elasticity*—the ratio of stress (nominal) to corresponding strain below the proportional limit of a material. It is expressed in force per unit area based on the average initial cross-sectional area.

3.2.11 *offset compressive yield strength*—the stress at which the stress-strain curve departs from linearity by a specified percent of deformation (offset).

3.2.12 *percent compressive strain*—the compressive deformation of a test specimen expressed as a percent of the original gage length.

3.2.13 *proportional limit*—the greatest stress that a material is capable of sustaining without any deviation from proportionality of stress to strain (Hooke’s law). It is expressed in force per unit area.

3.2.14 *slenderness ratio*—the ratio of the length of a column of uniform cross section to its least radius of gyration. For specimens of uniform rectangular cross section, the radius of gyration is 0.289 times the smaller cross-sectional dimension. For specimens of uniform circular cross section, the radius of gyration is 0.250 times the diameter. For specimens of tubular cross section, the radius of gyration is calculated as follows:

$$R_g = \frac{\sqrt{D^2 + d^2}}{4} \quad (1)$$

where:

R_g = radius of gyration,
 D = outside diameter, and
 d = inside diameter.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 Compression tests provide information about the compressive properties of plastics when employed under conditions approximating those under which the tests are made.

4.2 Compressive properties include modulus of elasticity, yield stress, deformation beyond yield point, and compressive strength (unless the material merely flattens but does not fracture). Materials possessing a low order of ductility may not exhibit a yield point. In the case of a material that fails in compression by a shattering fracture, the compressive strength has a very definite value. In the case of a material that does not fail in compression by a shattering fracture, the compressive strength is an arbitrary one depending upon the degree of distortion that is regarded as indicating complete failure of the material. Many plastic materials will continue to deform in compression until a flat disk is produced, the compressive stress (nominal) rising steadily in the process, without any well-defined fracture occurring. Compressive strength can have no real meaning in such cases.

4.3 Compression tests provide a standard method of obtaining data for research and development, quality control, acceptance or rejection under specifications, and special purposes. The tests cannot be considered significant for engineering design in applications differing widely from the load-time scale of the standard test. Such applications require additional tests such as impact, creep, and fatigue.

4.4 Before proceeding with this test method, reference should be made to the ASTM specification for the material being tested. Any test specimen preparation, conditioning, dimensions, and testing parameters covered in the materials specification shall take precedence over those mentioned in this test method. If there is no material specification, then the default conditions apply. Table 1 in Classification D4000 lists the ASTM materials standards that currently exist.

5. Apparatus

5.1 *Testing Machine*—Any suitable testing machine capable of control of constant-rate-of-crosshead movement and comprising essentially the following:

5.1.1 *Drive Mechanism*—A drive mechanism for imparting to the movable cross-head member, a uniform, controlled velocity with respect to the base (fixed member), with this velocity to be regulated as specified in Section 9.

5.1.2 *Load Indicator*—A load-indicating mechanism capable of showing the total compressive load carried by the test specimen. The mechanism shall be essentially free from inertia-lag at the specified rate of testing and shall indicate the load with an accuracy of $\pm 1\%$ of the maximum indicated value of the test (load). The accuracy of the testing machine shall be verified at least once a year in accordance with Practices E4.

5.2 *Compressometer*—A suitable instrument for determining the distance between two fixed points on the test specimen at any time during the test. It is desirable that this instrument automatically record this distance (or any change in it) as a function of the load on the test specimen. The instrument shall be essentially free of inertia-lag at the specified rate of loading