



Designation: F2894 – 21

Standard Test Method for Evaluation of Materials, Protective Clothing, and Equipment for Heat Resistance Using a Hot Air Circulating Oven¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation F2894; 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 quantitative measurements and subjective observations that characterize the performance for evaluating the heat resistance of materials, protective clothing, and equipment when exposed in a hot air circulating oven.

1.2 This test method is intended to evaluate physical changes in materials, protective clothing, and equipment at a specified heat exposure.

1.2.1 The specified heat exposure in the hot air circulating oven is a combination of convective heat and radiant heat.

1.3 Materials, protective clothing, and equipment are evaluated for visible changes or subjected to a material property measurement following a specified heat exposure.

1.3.1 This test method is not to be used for the evaluation of sticking. An acceptable method for evaluating sticking of fabrics is described in NFPA 1975, Sections 7.2.1 and 8.3. The NFPA 1975 test method evaluates the thermal stability of specimens by assessing the blocking of folded specimens placed between glass plates, under a specified weight, inside an oven meeting the same characteristics of the oven used in this test method.

1.4 This test method enables the quantitative measurement of dimensional change that occurs as a result of a specified heat exposure in a hot air circulating oven.

1.5 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as standard. The values given in parentheses are mathematical conversions to other units that are commonly used for thermal testing.

1.6 *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 1—Flame-resistant and heat-resistant materials are described in a

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F23 on Personal Protective Clothing and Equipment and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F23.80 on Flame and Thermal.

Current edition approved July 15, 2021. Published August 2021. Originally approved in 2011. Last previous edition approved in 2019 as F2894 – 19. DOI:10.1520/F2894-21.

range of different standards and meet a range of different requirements. For materials tested in accordance with this test method, the applicable standard shall be used to establish preconditioning, conditioning, and testing conditions and requirements.

1.7 *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

D123 Terminology Relating to Textiles

D1776/D1776M Practice for Conditioning and Testing Textiles

D7571 Specification for Retained Sewn Seam Strength After Exposures to Hot Air and Open Flame

E145 Specification for Gravity-Convection and Forced-Ventilation Ovens

E177 Practice for Use of the Terms Precision and Bias in ASTM Test Methods

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

F1494 Terminology Relating to Protective Clothing

2.2 AATCC Standard:³

Test Method 135 Dimensional Changes in Automatic Home Laundering of Woven and Knit Fabrics

2.3 NFPA Standard:⁴

NFPA 1975 Standard on Station/Work Uniforms for Fire and Emergency Services

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions:

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 Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists (AATCC), P.O. Box 12215, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709, <http://www.aatcc.org>.

⁴ Available from National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169-7471, <http://www.nfpa.org>.

3.1.1 For definitions of terms used in this test method, use the following documents: if the terms are related to textiles, refer to Terminology **D123**; if the terms are related to protective clothing, refer to Terminology **F1494**.

3.1.2 *convective heat*, *n*—heat transferred by the motion of a fluid.

3.1.3 *degradation*, *n*—a deleterious change in one or more properties of a material.

3.1.3.1 *Discussion*—In thermal testing of materials, protective clothing, and equipment, degradation is a material response evidenced by a change in either or both the visual properties and the performance properties of the test specimen.

3.1.3.2 *Discussion*—Degradation generally is associated with a chemical composition change that can result in a change in a visual property, for example, color, or it can result in a change in a performance property including but not limited to strength, hand, flammability, penetration resistance, water repellency, and air permeability. A test specimen that changes in one property does not necessarily change in other properties. Evidence of degradation in performance properties usually requires additional measurements related to properties of specific interest. Discoloration is a visible material response related to degradation. When discoloration is observed, it shall be reported.

3.1.4 *dimensional change*, *n*—a generic term for change in length or width of a specimen subjected to specified conditions.

3.1.4.1 *Discussion*—Dimensional change is usually expressed as a percentage of the original dimension. Positive values for dimensional change indicate growth, while negative values for dimensional change indicate shrinkage.

3.1.5 *distortion*, *n*—in thermal testing of equipment, a specimen response evidenced by a change in its original shape.

3.1.5.1 *Discussion*—This type of observation is generally applied to equipment items such as protective helmets, and is based on the placement of the item on a specific holding device placed in the oven, such as a head form, and the measurement of the specimen relative to the holding device.

3.1.6 *functionality*, *n*—in thermal testing of protective clothing and equipment, the continued utility of the test item as determined by an assessment of its capability to function after the heat exposure in the same manner as before its exposure to heat.

3.1.6.1 *Discussion*—This type of assessment is generally applied to items of hardware or to portions of or complete protective clothing and equipment items.

3.1.7 *ignition*, *n*—the initiation of combustion.

3.1.8 *protective clothing*, *n*—an item of clothing that is specifically designed and constructed for the intended purpose of isolating all or part of the body from a potential hazard; or, isolating the external environment from contamination by the wearer of the clothing.

3.1.9 *protective equipment*, *n*—a non-clothing item of equipment that is specifically designed and constructed for the intended purpose of isolating all or part of the body from a potential hazard; or, isolating the external environment from contamination by the user of the equipment.

3.1.10 *radiant heat*, *n*—heat communicated by energy propagated through space and transmitted by electromagnetic waves.

3.2 Definitions of Terms Related to Thermal Testing of Materials, Protective Clothing, and Equipment:

3.2.1 *deformation*, *n*—in thermal testing of materials, protective clothing, and equipment, a material response evidenced by a change in shape of the test specimen that is irreversible at room temperature.

3.2.1.1 *Discussion*—A change in shape caused by the specified heat exposure such as distortion of woven or non-woven fabrics or curling of knit fabrics shall not be identified as deformation as long as these changes are reversible at room temperature.

3.2.2 *delamination*, *n*—in thermal testing of materials, protective clothing, and equipment, a material response evidenced by the separation of two or more layers of the test specimen in whole or in part.

3.2.3 *dripping*, *n*—in thermal testing of materials, protective clothing, and equipment, a response evidenced by flowing of the polymer and by the formation of droplets from the flowing material.

3.2.4 *flaking*, *n*—in thermal testing of materials, protective clothing, and equipment, a material response evidenced by the unassisted loss of visible particles of material from the test specimen when the test specimen is removed from the oven for inspection.

3.2.4.1 *Discussion*—The specimen shall not be abraded, flexed, or impacted to generate flaking.

3.2.5 *hole formation*, *n*—in thermal testing of materials, protective clothing, and equipment, the appearance of a visible aperture during the test exposure.

3.2.5.1 *Discussion*—The specimen is considered to exhibit hole formation when a visible hole is produced as a result of the thermal exposure that is approximately 3 mm (0.12 in.) in diameter or greater, or if the hole is rectangular in shape approximately 3 mm (0.12 in.) in width and length or greater. Single threads across the hole do not reduce the size of the hole for the purposes of this test method.

3.2.6 *melting*, *n*—in thermal testing of materials, protective clothing, and equipment, the liquefaction of material under the influence of heat.

3.2.6.1 *Discussion*—Melting is determined visually by a change in the material physical appearance such as fusing of fibers or the evidence of material flowing.

3.2.7 *separation*, *n*—in thermal testing of materials, protective clothing, and equipment, a material response evidenced by splitting or delaminating.

3.2.8 *splitting*, *n*—in thermal testing of materials, protective clothing, and equipment, a material response evidenced by the test specimen breaking into two or more pieces in whole or in part.

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 The test method evaluates the heat resistance of materials, protective clothing, and equipment using a hot air circulating oven.