



Designation: F3324 – 19 (Reapproved 2023)

Standard Test Method for Measurement of Cut Resistance to Chainsaw in Leg Protective Devices¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation F3324; 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 method² measures cut resistance of garments and devices worn to protect the lower body (legs) when operating a chainsaw.

1.2 This test method may be used to test for compliance to minimum performance requirements in established safety standards.

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

NOTE 1—The values stated in each system may not be exact equivalents; therefore, each system must be used independently of the other, without combining values in any way.

1.4 *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.*

1.5 *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:³

[D123 Terminology Relating to Textiles](#)

[D1056 Specification for Flexible Cellular Materials—Sponge or Expanded Rubber](#)

[D1776/D1776M Practice for Conditioning and Testing Textiles](#)

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 F23.20 on Physical.

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² This standard was developed as a replacement for the archived CAN/BNQ 1923-450.

³ 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.

[F1494 Terminology Relating to Protective Clothing](#)

[2.2 Military Standard:⁴](#)

[MIL-STD-105 Sampling Procedures and Tables for Inspection by Attributes](#)

[2.3 Federal Standard:⁴](#)

[FS 5100-86 Type II, Cloth, Duck, Nylon, Polyurethane Coated](#)

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions:

3.1.1 *chainsaw, n*—a portable, power-operated tool used for cutting wood that has cutters linked in a chain.

3.1.2 *chain speed, n*—the speed of synchronized movement of linked cutters around a guide bar and sprocket.

3.1.3 *chain stop, n*—the resulting action when a material clogs (jams) the drive sprocket or slows the speed sufficiently to prevent advancement of the saw chain.

3.1.4 *cut resistance, n*—in chainsaw testing, the ability of a material, while in contact with the linked cutters, to resist cut-through of the cutters of a moving saw chain independent of either jamming or chain stop.

3.1.5 *cut-through, n*—for chainsaw cut resistance, the action of a running chainsaw after complete breakthrough of either a protective garment or protective device.

3.1.5.1 *Discussion*—When a cut-through (0.64 cm) is effected, speed of the saw chain must be measured.

3.1.6 *jamming, n*—for chainsaw cut resistance, the clogging action manifested by a protective garment or a device that can produce a chain stop.

3.1.7 *lower body, n*—that part of the human body which includes all portions between the waist and feet, not to include the feet.

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 clothing.

⁴ Available from DLA Document Services, Building 4/D, 700 Robbins Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19111-5094, <http://quicksearch.dla.mil>.

3.1.8.1 *Discussion*—For chainsaw cut-resistant protective clothing, the potential hazard is exposure to a running power saw chain.

3.1.9 *saw chain, n*—a closed loop of cutters linked together for use in a portable, power-operated tool.

3.1.10 *threshold stopping speed, n*—chain speed that results in a ¼ in. cut in the bottom layer of the protective pad liner in a chainsaw leg protective device.

3.1.10.1 *Discussion*—This value establishes the relationship between the probability of cutting through the protective clothing (or foot protective device) and the speed of the saw chain. For lower chain speeds, the probability of cut-through approaches zero, while for higher chain speeds, the probability of cut-through approaches one.

3.2 For definitions of other textile terms used in this test method, refer to Terminology **D123**.

3.3 For definitions of other protective clothing terms used in this test method, refer to Terminology **F1494**.

3.4 Pass/fail is a threshold stopping speed value measured in meters per second (feet per minute) of chain travel speed that results in the stated 6 mm (¼ in.) cut in the bottom of the lining of the performance pad of a chainsaw protective device. (See **3.1.10**.)

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 Test specimens are securely mounted on a test apparatus that simulates a human leg.

4.2 A chainsaw of specific characteristic and operating at a designated speed is brought into contact with the test specimen.

4.2.1 The cutting action of the saw chain will achieve one of the following results: (1) complete cut-through with chain stop, (2) complete cut-through without chain stop, (3) no cut-through with a chain stop, or (4) no cut-through without a chain stop.

4.3 Chain speed is measured electronically just prior to contact with test specimen. Chain speed is adjusted and reported based on these measurements.

NOTE 2—Materials may be characterized by repeated testing at different speeds; for quality control, results may be reported as “pass” or “fail” at one pre-selected chain speed.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 The purpose of this test method is to provide a measurable criterion of performance about the level of cut resistance provided by different types of protective garments and protective coverings worn by chainsaw operators.

5.2 This test method is intended to show to what level a protective garment can offer resistance to the cutting action of a chainsaw.

5.3 The protection that can be demonstrated by the garments and coverings tested in accordance with this test method is achieved by: (1) the cut resistance of the material to cutting when put in contact with saw chain; (2) pulling a part of the material or yarns in the material so that they are drawn into the chain and drive mechanism to block the chain movement; (3) the fibers of the materials used to demonstrate both high

resistance to cutting and the capacity to absorb rotational energy, so that chain speed can be slowed down sufficiently to stop the movement of the saw chain; or (4) any combination of these.

5.4 This test method does not purport to evaluate comfort of lower body protective garments.

5.5 In case of a dispute arising from differences in reported test results when using this test method for acceptance testing of commercial shipments, the purchaser and the supplier should perform comparative tests to determine if there is a statistical bias between their laboratories. Competent statistical assistance is recommended for the investigation of bias. As a minimum, the two parties should take a group of test specimens from the same lot of components to be evaluated. The test specimens should then be randomly assigned in equal numbers to each laboratory for testing. If a bias is found, either its cause must be determined and corrected or the purchaser and the supplier must agree to interpret future test results in light of the known bias.

6. Apparatus⁵

6.1 Apparatus consists of three main components:

6.2 *Specimen Holder:*

6.2.1 A stationary wooden cylinder having a diameter of 152 mm (6 in.) and a minimum length of 356 mm (14 in.) (see **Figs. 1 and 2**).

6.2.1.1 The cylinder is covered with a vinyl nitrile foam having a thickness of 18 mm (0.71 in.) (see **Figs. 1 and 2**). This covering shall have a density between 55 and 80 kg/m² and its resistance to a 25 % compression shall be between 10 and 20 kPa, measured in accordance with the testing procedure in Specification **D1056**.

NOTE 3—Ensolite M, a synthetic foam rubber made of PVC and NBR, meets the requirements stipulated in Specification **D1056**.

6.2.1.2 Two specimen attachment plates, each secured by two screws to the wooden cylinder parallel to the axis of that cylinder. Each plate is 75 by 25 mm (3 by 1 in.) (see **Figs. 1 and 2**).

6.2.1.3 The stationary wooden cylinder shall be attached to a swivel mechanism that allows the mandrel to be moved to an angle of either 45° or 90° to the vertical plane of the guide bar. Specimen must be securely attached to mandrel to prevent movement of specimen.

6.3 *Chainsaw and Related Equipment:*^{6,7}

6.3.1 *Saw:*

6.3.1.1 A gas-powered chainsaw, having an idle speed of 2250 ± 250 rpm and a maximum power of 3.3 ± 0.3 kW at 8500 rpm that meets the following specifications: (1) minimum 66.7 cm³ or 4.0 in.³; (2) bore 50 mm; (3) stroke 34 mm; (4)

⁵ See **Appendix X1** to review maintenance checklist.

⁶ Husqvarna Model 570 XP with an eight-tooth drive sprocket, available from Husqvarna, <http://www.husqvarna.com>.

⁷ This is the sole source of supply known to the committee at this time. If you are aware of alternative suppliers, please provide this information to ASTM Headquarters. Your comments will receive careful consideration at a meeting of the responsible technical committee,¹ which you may attend.