

**STANDARD TEST METHODS**

**CHEMICAL COATED FABRICS AND FILM**

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Revised 2010

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## FOR BETTER PRODUCTS . . .

**America's leading manufacturers and consumers - use products from Chemical Fabrics and Film members for a myriad of uses.**

<b>AIRCRAFT</b>	Seat backs, upholstery, wall panels and compartments.
<b>ATHLETIC &amp; SPORTING GOODS</b>	Bowling bags, exercise mats, golf bags, gym and workout bags, tennis bags.
<b>AUTOMOTIVE &amp; TRANSPORTATION</b>	Camper topping, convertible topping, door and console coverings, instrument panel coverings, landau tops, security shades, upholstery.
<b>EXTERIOR FILMS &amp; LAMINATES</b>	Awnings and canopies, backlit awnings and signage, banners, outdoor decking, outdoor furniture, pond and pit liners, roofing, swimming pool liners, tents and tarpaulins.
<b>FOOTWEAR &amp; GARMENTS</b>	Belts, jackets, protective clothing, rainwear, shoe uppers, sock linings.
<b>GRAPHIC ARTS &amp; CASE COVERINGS</b>	Bookbinding coverstock, checkbooks, coin purses, etc., hand bags and accessories, luggage and briefcases.
<b>HOME &amp; CONTRACT FURNISHINGS</b>	Ceiling tile facings, commercial seating, commercial wallcoverings, folding doors, laminating films for wood, metal and wallboard, matting, residential upholstery, residential wallcovering, window shades and blinds.
<b>MARINE</b>	Convertible topping, decking, upholstery and bolsters.
<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>	Children safety seats, industrial tapes, juvenile furniture, mattress covers, strip doors, tank lining, toys.

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## FOREWORD

This, the Eighth Edition of the Standard Test Methods (STM) Pamphlet, has been prepared by the Technical Committee of the Chemical Fabrics & Film Association. These test methods are used by the industry and its customers to determine the physical properties of chemical coated fabrics and films, to facilitate quality control and to assure customer satisfaction.

Section I covers test procedures for the coated fabrics; Section II covers test procedures for films. These tests include adhesion of coating, weight, resistance to cold and flame, blocking, aging, abrasion resistance, hydrolytic stability, volatility, tensile, and tearing strength and many more. The purpose of each test is explained in non-technical terms and the tests are referenced to comparable standard test methods of the American Society for Testing and Materials, Federal Test Methods and Specifications, Textile Test Methods, and the American Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists.

Section III includes terminology and customs in the Industry. Also in this section are suggestions on how to remove common stains. Additional information in Section III includes a statement on fitness for use, the chronological history of fabric coating and information about the Chemical Fabrics & Film Association.

Every effort has been made to assure the accuracy of the information in this Pamphlet and the avoidance of excessive risks in the tests. However, the Association and those responsible for the preparation of Association publications make no representation or warranty, or assume or accept any responsibility or liability, with respect thereto.

In test methods where a specific material, apparatus, and/or supplier is listed, please note that such a listing is for the convenience of users of the Standard Test Methods. Any equipment from any supplier which produces comparable results under the testing procedure is acceptable.

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**NOTE:** *Test methods are listed alphabetically. Single and double digit numbers used to reference the test methods contained herein have not been changed from the previous editions. Three-digit numbers indicate test methods added to the Seventh Edition.*

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## SECTION I

### Tests for Chemical Coated Fabrics

## STANDARD CONDITIONS OF TEST

**Reference:** ASTM D751-06 - Standard Test Methods for Coated Fabrics

Physical tests may be made under prevailing atmospheric conditions except in the settlement of disputes. Unless otherwise specified, tests shall then be made upon material in standard conditions, i.e., the condition reached when the material is in moisture equilibrium with an atmosphere having a relative humidity of 65% and temperature of 70°F (21°C). A tolerance of  $\pm 2\%$  is permitted in relative humidity and  $\pm 2^\circ\text{F}$  (1°C) in temperature. Material shall be considered to be in equilibrium when it shows no progressive change in weight after free exposure to moving air.

Because of the labor involved in determining whether equilibrium has been reached, it is customary to condition the material for a minimum period of 15 hours at the temperature and relative humidity previously mentioned.

**NOTE:** *These conditions are standard and will be used unless the test method requires special environmental conditioning.*

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## CFFA - 1 ABRASION RESISTANCE

### a. Wyzenbeek Method

**Purpose:** To determine the abrasion resistance of chemical coated fabrics under service conditions

**Reference:** ASTM D4157-07 - Standard Test Method for Abrasion Resistance of Textile Fabrics (Oscillatory Cylinder Method)

**Apparatus:** Oscillatory Cylinder Type\*

To determine abrasion resistance of chemical coated fabrics, one specimen of each sample approximately 2 x 8 inches (5 x 20 cm) in size shall be cut with the long dimension parallel to the machine direction and tested for resistance to abrasion, using the Wyzenbeek abrasion wear tester, operating under the following conditions:

Pressure on Specimen	2 lbs.
Tension on Specimen (with scale bar in horizontal position)	6 lbs.
Abradant	#8 Cotton Duck, #220 Grit Silicon Carbide Sheet, Stainless Steel Screen (Surface Screen 50 x 70 Mesh, Support Screen 14-18 Mesh) or Abradants as specified
Speed, Double Rubs/Hour	5000
Temperature of Room	70° - 90°F (21° - 32°C)

On stretchable fabrics such as knit, masking tape shall be used to reinforce backing to prevent elongation.

\*Available from Schap Specialty Machine, Inc., 17309 Taft Street, Spring Lake, MI 49456, [www.schapmachine.com](http://www.schapmachine.com) or [www.wyzenbeek.com](http://www.wyzenbeek.com).

## b. Taber Abraser Method

**Purpose:** To determine the abrasion resistance of chemical coated fabrics and films using a rotary platform double head tester

**Reference:** ASTM D3389-05 - Standard Test Method for Testing Coated Fabrics Abrasion Resistance Rotary Platform, Double Head Abrader

**Apparatus:** Rotary Platform Double Head Abraser\*

To determine the abrasion resistance of a chemical coated fabric or film, one specimen of each sample shall be cut in a 4-1/8" circle and mounted on a S-16 Specimen Plate\*. This specimen plate shall then be mounted on the Taber platform. Abrasion resistance is tested by the Taber platform turning on a vertical axis, against the sliding rotation of two rubber-base abrading wheels. Various hardness abrasive wheels, test weights, and test cycles can be used in the Taber test. These are specified depending on the type of material being tested and the expected service requirements of the finished coated fabrics or film.

After exposing the specimen to the required number of test cycles using the specified abrasive wheel and weight, the sample should be examined for signs of visual wear or loss of embossing detail.

\*Available from Taber Industries, 455 Bryant Street, North Tonawanda, NY 14120, [www.taberindustries.com](http://www.taberindustries.com).

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## CFFA - 2 ACCELERATED LIGHT AGING

Plastic materials that are used for both interior and exterior applications are subject to attack typically by ultraviolet light, oxygen and water. No single light exposure apparatus can exactly simulate natural exposure, as climatic conditions will vary with respect to geography and topography.

Listed as commonly used methods with the coated fabrics and film industries. They have been found to be useful tools in predicting the behavior of plastics under exposure conditions, only after a history of their use has been established.

After exposure, the specimens are examined for any signs of stiffness, tack, crazing, color change, or any other deviation. Acceptable degree of change in color can be an agreed upon visual variation or measured by an agreed upon spectrophotometer, values expressed in Delta E units, in CIELAB, or CMC systems.

### a. Fadeometer

#### 1. Xenon Arc

**References:** ASTM G155-05a - Standard Practice for Operating Xenon Arc Light Apparatus for Exposure of Nonmetallic Materials

AATCC Test Method 16-2004 - Colorfastness to Light

**Apparatus:** Xenon Weathering Unit\*  
Continuous light cycle

Using the apparatus, two specimens from each sample are exposed under the following conditions:

For ASTM G155-05a, Black Panel Temperature shall be adjusted to 145° +/- 6°F (63° +/- 3°C).  
Relative Humidity set to 86% +/- 5%. Typical irradiance is 1.5 W/m<sup>2</sup>/nm.

For AATCC Test Method 16-2004, Black Temperature shall be adjusted to 158° +/- 2°F (70° +/- 1°C). Relative Humidity set to 30% +/- 5%. Typical irradiance is 1.1 W/m<sup>2</sup>/nm.

## 2. Carbon Arc

**References:** ASTM G153-04 - Standard Practice for Operating Enclosed Carbon Arc Light Apparatus for Exposure of Nonmetallic Materials

AATCC Test Method 16-2004 - Colorfastness to Light

**Apparatus:** Carbon Arc Fadeometer\*  
Continuous light cycle

Using the apparatus, two specimens from each sample are exposed under the following conditions:

For ASTM G153-04, Black Panel Temperature shall be adjusted to 145° +/- 6°F (63° +/- 3°C). Relative Humidity set to 86% +/- 5%.

For AATCC Test Method 16-2004, Black Panel Temperature shall be adjusted to 145° +/- 6°F (63°F +/- 3°C). Relative Humidity set to 30% +/- 5%.

## b. Weatherometer

### 1. Xenon Arc

**Reference:** ASTM G155-05a - Standard Practice for Operating Xenon Arc Light Apparatus for Exposure of Nonmetallic Materials

**Apparatus:** Xenon Weathering Unit\*

Using the apparatus, two specimens from each sample are exposed under the following conditions:

The test cycle shall consist of 102 minutes of light followed by 18 minutes of light plus water spray. Black Panel Temperature shall be adjusted to 145° +/- 6°F (63°F +/- 3°C) attained during the light only portion of the cycle.

Water shall be demineralized and delivered in a fine spray, with a water temperature that shall be 77° +/- 4°F (25° +/- 2°C).

## 2. Carbon Arc

**Reference:** ASTM G153-04 - Standard Practice for Operating Enclosed Carbon Arc Light Apparatus for Exposure of Nonmetallic Materials

**Apparatus:** Carbon Arc Weatherometer\*

Using the apparatus, two specimens from each sample are exposed under the following conditions:

The test cycle shall consist of 102 minutes of light followed by 18 minutes of light plus water spray. Black Panel Temperature shall be adjusted to 145° +/- 6°F (63° +/- 3°C).

Water shall be demineralized and delivered in a fine spray, with a water temperature that shall be 77° +/- 4°F (25° +/- 2°C).

## c. QUV Accelerated Weathering

### 1. Fluorescent UV with Irradiance Monitor

**Reference:** ASTM D4329-05 - Standard Practice for Fluorescent UV Exposure of Plastics

**Apparatus:** Fluorescent UV/Condensation Device equipped with irradiance monitoring and control (preferred).\*\*

Employs the use of an irradiance controlled UV/Condensation Device in order to set the tester's irradiance to a level equal to 1.75 x greater than older style UV/Condensation Devices, thus accelerating results. Irradiance controlled devices also reduce variability caused by fluctuating light intensities by fixing the irradiance level.

Exposure Cycle: 8 Hours of UV at 140°F (60° +/- 3°C)  
4 Hours of condensing humidity at 122°F (50° +/- 3°C)

Lamp Type: UVA-340 with a peak emission of 340 nm.

Irradiance Setpoint: 1.35 W/m<sup>2</sup> as measured at 340 nm.

Lamp Rotation: None required.

### 2. Fluorescent UV Without Irradiance Monitor

**Reference:** ASTM D4329-05 - Standard Practice for Fluorescent UV Exposure of Plastics

**Apparatus:** Fluorescent UV/Condensation Device without irradiance monitoring and control\*\*.

Employs a Fluorescent UV/Condensation Device without irradiance monitoring and control. At any given time, the light intensity will fall within a certain range of irradiance, depending on the lamp age, the laboratory temperature, and the UV exposure temperature.

Exposure Cycle:	8 Hours of UV at 140°F (60° +/- 3°C) 4 Hours of condensing humidity at 122°F (50° +/- 3°C)
Lamp Type:	UVA-340 with a peak emission of 340 nm.
Irradiance Level:	Not controlled. 0.77 W/m <sup>2</sup> +/- 10% Irradiance can be measured by using the method outlined in Appendix B of SAE J2020.
Lamp Rotation:	Every 400 hours

**NOTE:** An earlier light source, the UVB-313bulb, used in the QUV is not recommended, as it generates UV radiation that does not normally exist in natural sunlight and, therefore, is not properly indicative of conditions relative to outdoor exposure.

\*Available from Atlas Electric Devices Co., 4114 North Ravenswood Ave., Chicago, IL 60613.

\*\*Available from The Q-Panel Company, 26200 First Street, Cleveland, OH 44145.

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### **CFFA - 3 ADHESION OF COATING TO FABRIC**

**Purpose:** To determine the force or pull necessary to separate chemical coating from its fabric backing.

**Reference:** ASTM D751-06 - Standard Test Methods for Coated Fabrics

**Apparatus:** Testing machine consisting of straining mechanism, holding clamps, and load recording mechanism.

Specimens 2 inches (5 cm) in width and 8 inches (20 cm) in length shall be cut from the coated fabric. Two sets of two specimens each will be required, one set for adhesion in the machine direction having the longer dimension parallel to the machine direction of the fabric, and the other set for adhesion in the cross machine direction having the longer dimension parallel to the cross machine direction of the fabric. The specimens shall be prepared for test as follows:

- a. When the strength of the coating film exceeds the adhesive bond to the fabric, as with thick films, the specimen shall be prepared for test by carefully cutting the coating through to the fabric on two parallel cuts A and B, 1 inch (2.5 cm) apart running lengthwise of the specimen with one cut 1 inch (2.5 cm) longer than the other as shown in the drawing.

The ends of cuts A and B shall be joined together with a diagonal cut C which shall also be carefully cut through the coating to the fabric. The edge of a knife shall be worked under the strip separated from the backing for a distance of 2 inches (5 cm) from that point.

- b. With thin films or in cases where the coating is not sufficiently strong to be stripped from the fabric as described in Paragraph (a), two specimens of the coated fabric shall be cemented together face to face with an adhesive suitable for adhering the type of coating being evaluated. Care should be taken not to alter the coating/fabric adhesion. The cuts shown in the above drawing shall then be made from one side being careful to penetrate only through one layer of fabric and not to injure the other fabric layer. The fabric from one side shall then be stripped down for a distance of 2 inches (5 cm). This will allow the backing fabric to be inserted in one jaw of the machine. The force required to separate the coating and the backing fabric can then be measured.

**NOTE:** In case the fabric is too weak to be tested in a 1 inch (2.5 cm) width, the specimen may be cut 3 inches (7.5 cm) in width and the strip for evaluation cut 2 inches (5 cm) in width. The results shall then be recorded as pounds pull per 2 inch (5 cm) strip.

Clamp the separated portion of the 1 inch (2.5 cm) strip in the moveable jaw of the testing machine and end D of the specimen in the fixed jaw so that the movement of the moveable jaw will separate the coating from the backing. The rate of travel of the moveable jaw shall be either 2 inches (5 cm) per min. or 12 inches (30 cm) per min., as specified. The distance of the separation of the coating or plies shall be a minimum of 3 inches (7.5 cm).

The report shall include the following:

1. Type of testing machine and the rate of travel of the moveable jaw, and
2. The average test value for at least two specimens cut in the longitudinal direction and two specimens cut in the transverse direction. The averages of the five high peaks shall be used to determine the pull in pounds for reporting the adhesion of the coating or plies.

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## **CFFA - 300 BACTERIAL RESISTANCE**

**Purpose:** To determine the degree of bacteriostatic activity of chemical coated fabrics and films.

**Reference:** AATCC\* Test Method 147-2004

**Principle:** Specimens of the test material are placed in contact with the AATCC Bacteriostasis agar\*\* which has been streaked with:

<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	American Type Culture Collection No. 6538***
<i>Klebsiella pneumoniae</i>	American Type Culture Collection No. 4352***
<i>Salmonella choleraesuis</i>	American Type Culture Collection No. 10708***
<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>	American Type Culture Collection No. 13388***

After incubation at 99°F (37°C) for 18 to 24 hours, the incubated plates are examined for interruption of growth along the streaks of inoculum beneath the fabric and for a clear zone of inhibition beyond the specimen edge. Reports of results will include an observation of zones of inhibition and growth under the specimen if present. The customer (or supplier) will establish the final criteria for a pass or fail judgment based on observations of the results.

\*Available from American Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists, P. O. Box 12215, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709, 919-549-8141.

\*\*Available from Difco Laboratories, 920 Henry Street, Detroit, MI 48201.

\*\*\*Available from American Type Culture Collection, P. O. Box 1549, 10801 University Boulevard, Manassas, VA 20110-2209, 703-365-2700.

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## CFFA - 4 BLOCKING

**Purpose:** To determine the development of surface tack at an elevated temperature

**Apparatus:** Forced Air Laboratory Oven

Three specimens 2 x 2 inches (5 x 5 cm) shall be placed face to face between two glass plates 2-1/2 x 2-1/2 inches (6.4 x 6.4 cm), weighted with a one pound (454 gms) weight and exposed to  $180^{\circ} \pm 2^{\circ}\text{F}$  ( $82^{\circ} \pm 1^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) for a period of thirty minutes. Specimens shall be removed from the oven, taken from between the glass plates, and allowed to condition (at room temperature) for at least fifteen minutes before making observations.

Specimen shall be rated according to the following scale:

- No. 1---No blocking; No adhesion.
- No. 2---No blocking; Slight adhesion.
- No. 3---Slight blocking; coating must be peeled to be separated.
- No. 4---Blocking; coating cannot be separated intact.

Where specified, both sides of double coated material shall be tested.

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## CFFA - 6 COLD CRACK RESISTANCE

**Purpose:** To determine the temperature at which cracks may appear if chemical coated fabrics are left in the cold and then folded sharply

**Apparatus:** Low Temperature Apparatus

### a. Roller Method

Four 2 x 6 inch (5 x 15 cm) specimens are cut, two in the machine direction and two in the cross machine direction, one set each to be tested on both sides.

The two narrow ends of each specimen are brought together and stapled to a card so as to form a smooth loop at the unstapled end. The specimens shall be exposed for 2 hours at the specified temperature.

A 5 pound (2.2 Kg.) roller shall be used on light materials (up to 15 oz/yd<sup>2</sup> or 500 g./m<sup>2</sup>) and a 10 pound (4.5 Kg.) roller on heavier materials. The roller shall be rolled lengthwise from the stapled end toward the loop with no pressure exerted other than the weight of the roller on the specimen. The specimen shall be evaluated in one of two ways:

1. Serious cracking will be visible to the naked eye.
2. Fine cracking may be detected by examination under a magnifying glass.

**NOTE:** *Cracks caused by obvious defects in the fabric are to be discarded and the test re-run.*

## b. Mandrel Method

Four specimens 2 x 8 inches (5 x 20 cm) are cut, two in the machine direction and two in the cross machine direction, one set each to be tested on both sides. A ½ inch (12 mm) mandrel shall be conditioned at the specified temperature for a minimum of 30 minutes before testing. After conditioning and without removal from the test conditions, the specimen shall be bent quickly 180 degrees around the mandrel and the specimen shall meet at not more than 1/4 inch (6 mm) behind the mandrel. The specimen is then evaluated visually for cracks.

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## CFFA - 7 CROCKING RESISTANCE

**Purpose:** To determine the resistance to transfer of color from chemical coating to another surface by rubbing action

**References:** AATCC Test Method 8-2007

**Apparatus:** Crockmeter\*

### a. Dry

The specimen to be tested shall be rubbed with an unstarched, 96 x 100 (80 x 80) cotton print cloth with a Crockmeter or similar device. The essential features are that the white cloth be firmly held over the flat end of a cylindrical "finger" 5/8 inch (1.5 cm) in diameter which presses with a weight of 32 ounces/force upon the coated surface to be tested. The finger shall be moved across the specimen twenty times at the approximate rate of 1/2 second per stroke, four inches (10 cm) long. The test is made with dry cloth and test piece.

### b. Wet

The wet crocking test is conducted in the same manner as dry crocking except the crock cloth is saturated with distilled or deionized water and squeezed or wrung to removed excess water to a moisture pickup of  $65 \pm 5\%$  based on the weight of dry crock cloth. The crocking test shall be performed immediately thereafter .

### Evaluating Scale:

Using a sample of the original material compared with the material tested when white crock cloth is required.

Excellent:	No perceptible staining of the white crock cloth.
Good:	Slight staining of the white crock cloth.
Fair:	Appreciable, but not objectionable, staining of the white crock cloth.
Poor:	Objectionable staining of white crock.

\*Available from SDL Atlas LLC, 1813A Associates Lane, Charlotte, NC 28217, 704-329-0911, Fax: 704-329-0914, www.sdlatlas.com.

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## CFFA - 700 DIMENSIONS OF COATED FABRIC

**Purpose:** To determine the dimensions of a chemical coated fabric

**Reference:** ASTM D751-06 - Standard Test Methods for Coated Fabrics

### a. Width

Measure the width of the chemical coated fabric laid out smooth on a horizontal surface without tension in either direction. Report the average of at least five different measurements uniformly distributed along the full length of the roll or piece as the average and minimum width of the roll or piece.

### b. Length

Lay the chemical coated fabric out smooth, without tension, on a horizontal surface and measure the length parallel to the selvage; or, measure successive portions, each at least 4.5 yards (5 m) in length, under the same conditions.

### c. Thickness

**Apparatus:** The gauge used for the measurement of thickness shall be of the deadweight type equipped with a dial graduated to read directly to 0.001 in. (0.025 mm). The presser foot shall be circular with a diameter of  $0.375 \pm 0.001$  inches ( $9.52 \pm 0.03$  mm). The presser foot and moving parts connected therewith shall be weighted so as to apply a total force of  $6 \pm 0.1$  oz. ( $1.7 \pm 0.1$  N) equivalent to a pressure of  $23.5 \pm 0.5$  kPa (3.4 psi) to the specimen. The presser foot and anvil surfaces shall be plane to within 0.0001 inches (0.0025 mm) and parallel to each other within 0.0001 inches (0.0025 mm). The gage shall be calibrated for the actual load exerted by the presser foot by means of any device so arranged as to measure the total vertical force exerted by the presser foot at the several gage readings or presser foot levels selected for calibration. The presser foot shall be brought to each calibration level from a higher one.

Place the coated fabric upon the anvil of the gage smooth, but without tension. Lower the presser foot upon the material gradually (without impact), allow it to rest upon it 10 seconds, and then observe the reading of the dial. Make similar measurements at no less than five different places uniformly distributed over the surface of the coated fabrics exclusive of the area adjacent to either selvage and within one tenth the width of the fabric or within 100 inches (2.5 m) of either end of a roll of piece. Report the average of the five or more measurements as the average thickness.

### d. Mass

**Method Applicable to a Piece, Cut, or Roll** - Weigh the full piece, cut, or roll on a calibrated scale accurate to 0.25%, measure the length and width of the coated fabric, and calculate the mass, reporting it in grams per square meter (ounces per square yard) to the nearest 2 g (0.1 oz).

**Method Applicable to a Sample** - Cut a specimen having an area of at least  $125 \text{ cm}^2$  ( $20 \text{ in.}^2$ ), or a number of specimens not less than 50 mm (2 in.) square and having a total area of at least  $125 \text{ cm}^2$  ( $20 \text{ in.}^2$ ) from the coated fabric, weigh on a calibrated scale accurate to 0.25%, and calculate the mass, reporting it in grams per square meter (ounces per square yard). Unless the specimen is the full width of the fabric, take no specimen nearer the selvage than one-tenth the width of the fabric.

**NOTE 3:** *This test method is intended for use when a small sample of coated fabric is sent to the laboratory for test. The result is considered to be applicable to the sample, but not to the piece or lot of goods from which the sample was taken unless the number of samples and method of sampling are specified and agreed upon by those concerned. If this is done, each sample should be tested in accordance with 8.2 and the results averaged to obtain the average mass in grams per square meter (or ounces per square yard).*

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## **CFFA - 8 DRY CLEANABILITY**

**Purpose:** To determine the resistance of chemical coated fabrics to dry cleaning

**Reference:** International Fabricare Institute, 14700 Sweitzer Lane, Laurel, MD 20707, 301-622-1900.

**History:** In the past, the CFFA recommended laboratory testing of chemical coated fabrics for resistance to dry cleaning. Because there have been many changes in the typical dry cleaning process in recent years, it is now recommended that the dry cleanability of a product be tested outside at the International Fabricare Institute.

**Principle:** Actual samples of the chemical coated fabric are dry cleaned in perchloroethylene and then tumbled dry at 140°F (60°C). The criteria for a pass is to retain an acceptable hand or ability to pass a specified cold crack specification after either three (3) five minute or ten minute dry cleaning cycles.

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## **CFFA - 9 FLAME AND SMOKE RESISTANCE**

There are a number of flame and/or smoke generation test methods for chemical coated fabrics depending on end use of the product. The degree of flammability or smoke generation shall be determined by local code requirements or as agreed upon between the producer and the user.

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## **CFFA - 10 FLEX RESISTANCE**

**Purpose:** To determine resistance of a coated fabric to repeated flexing under specific conditions

**Reference:** ASTM D2097-03 (2005) - Standard Test Method for Flex Testing of Finish on Upholstery Leather

**Apparatus:** Flex-O-Test\* (formerly known as the Newark Flex Tester)

The minimum distance between the pistons shall be 15 times the thickness of the specimen.

Two specimens, 3 x 4-1/2 inches (7.5 x 11 cm) are required for each test, one for the machine directions, the other for the cross machine direction test. The Flex Tester shall be turned by hand until the pistons reach top dead center. One 4-1/2 inch (11 cm) end of the specimen shall be clamped, coated side out, into the stationary grip. The other 4-1/2 inch (11 cm) end shall be clamped into the movable grip. The machine shall be run 500 cycles per minute for a specific time. The specimens shall be removed and examined visually for evidence of cracking, whitening, crazing, or separation of coating from fabric backing.

\*Available from Aim Tool & Die, 14324 172nd St., Grand Haven, MI 49417, (616) 842-1503, Fax (616) 842-8232.

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## **CFFA - 11 HYDROLYTIC STABILITY**

**Purpose:** To determine the resistance of a chemical coated substrate to degradation from exposure to a wet environment

**Reference:** ASTM D1239-07 - Standard Test Method of Test for Resistance of Plastic Films to Extraction by Chemicals

**Apparatus:** Forced Air Laboratory Oven.

Four specimens, 3-1/2 x 4-1/2 inches (9 x 11 cm), two with the long dimension in the machine direction, the other two with the long dimension in the cross machine direction shall be cut from the specimen to be tested. Two of these specimens, one in each direction, shall be exposed to distilled water 158°F (70°C) for 14 days in accordance with ASTM D 1239-98. All four specimens shall then be subjected to the flexing test in accordance with CFFA-10.

All four specimens shall be examined for cracks, peeling and delamination of the coating. The difference between the control and material subjected to water shall indicate the degree of hydrolysis.

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## **CFFA - 12 LACQUER OR VARNISH LIFTING**

**Purpose:** To determine the ability of chemical coated fabrics to remain in contact with a lacquered or varnished surface without damaging either material.

**Reference:** ASTM D2199-03 (2007) - Standard Test Method for Measurement of Plasticizer Migration From Vinyl Fabrics to Lacquers

**Apparatus:**

1. Draw down blade capable of giving a 1-4 mil dry thickness, which is 2 inches (5 cm) wide.
2. Plate glass panels 3 x 3 inches (8 x 8 cm) or greater double strength.
3. Window glass 2 x 2 inches (5 x 5 cm) double strength.
4. Weights, flat bottom sufficient to place a total weight of .25 psi on the 2 x 2 inch (5 x 5 cm) glass plate (1 lb.).
5. Forced convection oven, thermostatically controlled to 4°F ( $\pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ ).
6. Roller sufficient to insure intimate contact of the vinyl and coating.
7. Aluminum foil.

Draw down a 2.5 x 2 inch (6.3 x 5 cm) or longer 1-4 mil dry thickness of the agreed upon coating on a 3 x 3 inch (8 x 8 cm) or larger plate glass panel and dry according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Place a 3 x 2 inch (8 x 5 cm) section of chemical coated fabric perpendicular to the length of the coating on the panel and roll with a roller to ensure intimate contact of the coated side of the fabric with the coating in a 2 x 2 inch (5 x 5 cm) section. Place a smooth 2 x 2 inch (5 x 5 cm) foil over this section followed by a 2 x 2 inch (5 x 5 cm) glass plate and a 1 lb. weight.

Put the assembly into a forced convection oven preheated to 120°F (50°C) and examine the interface between the coating and the chemical coated fabric at 24, 72, and 168 hours.

Report any resistance to removal. Examine the surfaces and report any liquid buildup, surface change, or softening. Use a scale of no change, faint imprint, severe imprint, or marring.

\*Available from DuPont Industries, Paint Division, Wilmington, DE 19810-2542.

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## **CFFA - 120 MILDEW RESISTANCE**

**Reference:** ASTM G21-09 - Standard Practice for Determining Resistance of Synthetic Polymeric Materials to Fungi

To determine degree of fungal growth on coated side only of chemical coated fabric, samples are placed on (non-nutrient) mineral salts agar and inoculated with a mixed fungal spore suspension of:

*Aspergillus niger* American Type Culture Collection No. 9642\*

*Penicillium funiculosum* American Type Culture Collection No. 11797\*

*Chaetomium globosum* American Type Culture Collection No. 6205\*

*Aureobasidium pullulans* American Type Culture Collection No. 9348\*

*Trichoderma virens* American Type Culture Collection No. 9645\*

After a minimum of 28 days incubation at 82°F (28°C), antifungal activity is evaluated by visually rating the degree of fungal growth on the samples.

**NOTE:** *There is no standard sample size. However, a 1" (25 mm) square is a typical size used.*

Surface growth is rated by the following scale:

No Growth	(NG)
Trace of Growth (less than 10% coverage)	(TG)
Light Growth (10 to 30% coverage)	(LG)
Moderate Growth (30 to 60% coverage)	(MG)
Heavy Growth (60% to full coverage)	(HG)

\*Available from American Type Culture Collection, 10801 University Boulevard, Manassas, VA 20110-2209.

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## CFFA - 13 OIL RESISTANCE

**Purpose:** To measure suitability of chemical coated fabric designed for use where it may be exposed to oil

**Reference:** Federal Specification CID A-A-59517

**Apparatus:** Wood Frame as specified

An 8 x 8 inch (20 x 20 cm) specimen shall be placed on a wood frame. The inside dimension of the wood frame shall be 6 x 6 x 1 inch (15 x 15 x 2.5 cm). The coated cloth shall be inserted with the coated side up. The specimen shall be forced into the frame by a wooden block 5-3/4 x 5-3/4 x 3/4 inches (14.6 x 14.6 x 1.9 cm) with rounded corners to form a basin of uniform depth. The edges of the specimen shall be tacked to the frame and the block removed. Oil conforming to Type IV of TT-S-735 (Federal Specification for Hydrocarbon Standard Test Fluids) shall be poured into the basin to a depth of 1/2 inch (1.3 cm). After the oil has been in the basin for four hours, the outside bottom of the specimen forming the basin shall feel dry and there shall be no indication that the oil permeated the coated cloth.

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## CFFA - 130 SCRUBBABILITY

**Purpose:** To determine the ability of wallcovering to be scrubbed without damage to the surface

**Reference:** ASTM F793-07 - Standard Classification of Wallcovering by Use Characteristics

**Apparatus:** Gardner Washability Machine, Model M-105-A, equipped with a WG-2000NMA Nylon Bristle Brush\*

Cut a sample of wallcovering 6-1/2 x 17 inches (165.1 x 431.8 mm) with the longer dimension in the cross direction. Choose an area with as many different printed colors as possible. If the wallcovering is a type that cannot be scrubbed the requisite number of rubs without wrinkling or tearing, the sample should be hung or mounted on a smooth finish board and allowed to dry for 24 hours at room temperature with good air circulation prior to testing.

Distribute 1 tablespoon (14.709 ml) of detergent solution over the area to be scrubbed. Install the Nylon Brush (which has been soaking in detergent solution for at least 15 minutes) onto the machine. Set the counter at zero and turn the machine on. At the end of the requisite number of cycles, stop the machine. Remove the sample, rinse it under running water and set it aside for examination after drying. If the sample tears or wrinkles excessively during the washing cycle, terminate the test and repeat. After drying, the sample shall show no evidence of appreciable damage to the printed or base surface. Areas of localized wear clearly related to wrinkles may be ignored.

### Detergent Solution

Demineralized Water	160 ml
Anhydrous Trisodium Phosphate	4 gm
**Rohm & Haas Triton X100	8 gm
**Rohm & Haas ASE60	12 gm mixed with 40 ml demineralized water
Glacial Acetic Acid	Trace (If necessary to adjust pH to 9.0 to 9.5)

\*Available from BYK Gardner, 2435 Linden Lane, Silver Springs, MD 20910

\*\*Available from Rohm & Haas, 1991 Crocker Road, Cleveland, OH 44145

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## CFFA - 14 SEAM STRENGTH

- Purpose:** To stimulate resistance to seam tearing
- Reference:** ASTM D751-06 - Standard Test Methods for Coated Fabrics - Section 50-54 - Tack-Tear Resistance, modified as follows:
- Apparatus:** (a) Tack-Tear Tester per ASTM D 751- 06 but using needles of 0.048 diameter, 5/8 inch (1.5 cm) length, with 3/16 inch (0.47 cm) taper\* instead of phonograph needles.  
 (b) Testing machine consisting of straining mechanism, holding clamps and load recording mechanism. Machine speed shall be set at 12 inches/minute.

Two sets of five specimens, each 2 inches (5 cm) in width and 6 inches (15 cm) in length shall be used. One set is used for machine direction tack-tear strength having the longer dimension parallel to the cross machine direction. The other set is used for cross machine direction tack-tear strength having the longer dimension parallel to the machine direction. The specimens shall be mounted in the testing machine so that the distance from the top of the lower clamp to the bottom of the needles shall be 3 inches (7.5 cm). If the machine is the pendulum type, disengage the pawls on the pendulum from the ratchet. The maximum load necessary to tear the fabric shall be recorded. The seam strength of the specimen shall be reported as the average of all individual results in N/25mm (lbf/1in.) to the nearest 0.4N/25mm (0.1 lbf/1 in.).

\*Available from Robert A. Main & Sons, Inc., Wyckoff, NJ 07481, (201-447-3700). (Only supplied in English units).

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## CFFA - 140 SHRINKAGE

- Purpose:** To determine the ability of chemical coated fabrics to resist shrinkage
- Reference:** ASTM D751-06 - Standard Test Methods for Coated Fabrics

Three specimens 10 x 10 inch (250 x 250 mm) shall be accurately measured in each direction to the nearest 1/32 in. (0.5 mm). The specimens shall be soaked for 30 minutes in distilled water at room temperature, removed and dried at 200°F (87°C) for 30 minutes. The specimens shall then be conditioned at the standard conditions as provided in ASTM Specification D-751 for a minimum of 8 hours prior to remeasuring. The percent shrinkage in each direction shall be calculated using the following formula:

$$\% \text{ Shrinkage} = \frac{A - B}{A} \times 100$$

Where A = Length before test.  
 B = Length after test.

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## CFFA - 141 STAIN RESISTANCE

### a. Method I

**Purpose:** To determine the resistance of the surface of coated fabrics to staining by common household chemicals and/or different staining compounds

**Reference:** ASTM D1308-02 (2007) - Standard Test Method for Effect of Household Chemicals on Clear and Pigmented Organic Finishes

**Apparatus:** Template with an opening of 7 x 0.2 x 0.3 inches (17.5 x 0.5 x 0.75 cm). See diagram.

**Reagents:** Use and by agreement between the buyer and the seller (including brand, type and concentration).

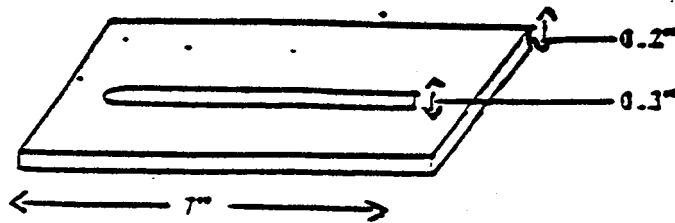
Cut a piece of the coated material to be tested, above 8.5 x 11 inch. Using the Template, apply stain materials through the opening, in a continuous line across the width. It could be necessary to use a cotton swab to apply the stain materials and distribute along the opening. When cleaning, to eliminate cross contamination, a space between stains is recommended. Follow specific sample preparations under the CFFA Standard Test Conditions for 2 and 24 hours. Allow staining agents to set at Atmospheric Conditions. Remove the excess of the staining material. Clean the stains using a dry, clean cotton swab or whatever material or article was agreed to, between the buyer and seller, to treat all the samples to be tested under the same conditions. Upon agreement of the material to use for cleaning and the cleaning agents, try to clean for ten (10) cycles, or as agreed to by buyer and seller. Each stain to be consistent. Use one cotton swab per cleaner to avoid contamination.

The ratings for stain resistance are based on the following scale:

- 4 = Excellent cleanability, no stain mark in the material.
- 3 = Good cleanability, slight stain.
- 2 = Poor cleanability, stain is almost intact.
- 1 = Non cleanable, no stain removed.

### Report:

- Applications and/or coating use.
- Stain reagents.
- Cleaning reagents.
- Procedure used.
- Evaluation (rating for cleaning the stains).

**Template Diagram:****b. Method II**

**Purpose:** To determine the resistance of the surface of vinyl wallcoverings to staining by common household chemicals and/or different staining compounds

**Reference:** ASTM D1308-02 (2007) - Effect of Household Chemicals on Clear and Pigmented Organic Finishes.

**Reagents:** Use and by agreement between the buyer and the seller (including brand, type and concentration).

Cut samples of wallcovering 6-1/2 x 17 inches (165.1 x 431.8 mm) with the longer dimension in the cross direction. Choose an area with as many different printed colors as possible. Lay the samples horizontally with the decorative surface upward. Pipet onto the wallcovering surface 1 ml of each of the reagents. Immediately cover each puddle of reagent with a watch glass and allow to stand for a period of 24 hours. After 24 hours, remove the watch glass and clean the reagent from the sample using a cleaning agent agreed upon.

**Evaluation:**

Same as Method I.

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**CFFA - 15 STRETCH AND SET**

**Purpose:** To determine the stretch resistance and recovery of chemical coated fabrics

**Reference:** Society of Automotive Engineers Method J855-2009

**Apparatus:** Clamps and Weights as specified

Test specimens 3 x 9 inches (7.6 x 22.9 cm) shall be cut in both the machine and cross machine directions. No specimen is taken closer to either selvage than 1/10 of the width. For machine direction stretch, the long dimension of the specimen shall be parallel to the machine direction; for the cross machine direction, the long dimension shall be parallel to the cross machine direction. A 3 inch (7.6 cm) section shall be marked across the center of each specimen.

The specimen shall be held by two pairs of jaws, so that the long dimension of the specimen is parallel to the direction of the application of the load. The jaws shall be placed 1 inch (2.5 cm) from the end of the specimen and perpendicular to the long direction. Both faces of each pair of jaws must be a minimum of 3 inches (7.6 cm) wide. The specimen is suspended vertically with the load for a period of five minutes. At the end of this period, and while the specimen is still under tension, the increased length of the marked section shall be measured. The percent stretch shall be calculated in the following manner:

$$\% \text{ Stretch} = \frac{\text{Increased Length Under Tension} \times 100}{\text{Original Length}}$$

The weight shall be removed and the specimen placed in a horizontal position. The original 3 inch (7.6 cm) section shall be measured after the specimen has remained in this position for five minutes. The percent set shall be calculated in the following manner:

$$\% \text{ Set} = \frac{\text{Increased Length After Tension Removed} \times 100}{\text{Original Length}}$$

A total load of 27 pounds (12.2 Kg) which includes the weight of the lower jaw shall be applied to the specimen.

**NOTE:** *If the stretch produced by the 27 pound (12.2 Kg) weight exceeds the elastic limit of the test specimen, the test shall be repeated with a 10 pound (4.5 Kg) weight.*

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## CFFA - 16 TEARING STRENGTH

**Purpose:** To determine the resistance to further tearing after the material has been cut

### a. Elmendorf Method

**Reference:** ASTM D1424-09 - Standard Test Method for Tearing Strength of Fabrics by Falling-Pendulum Type (Elmendorf) Apparatus

**Apparatus:** Elmendorf Tester

The tearing strength of a coated fabric may be determined by the falling pendulum method. The average force required to propagate tearing from a pre-cut specimen is measured using a precisely calibrated pendulum device known as the Elmendorf Tester. Acting by gravity, the pendulum swings through an arc, tearing the specimen from a pre-cut slit. The specimen is held on one side of the slit by the pendulum and on the other side by a stationary member. The loss in energy of the pendulum is indicated by a pointer reading on a scale and is a function of the force required to tear the specimen.

Specimens should be taken so as to obtain two sets of five test specimens, 4 inches (10 cm) wide and 2.5 inches (6.3 cm) long. One set shall have the long dimension parallel to the machine direction and the other set shall have the long dimension parallel to the cross-machine direction. Either before or after mounting in the test apparatus a slit of 0.8 inches (2.0 cm) long is made at the center line of the wide edge and in the direction of the specimen length. This leaves 1.7 inches (4.3 cm) of tearing length between the end of the slit and the opposite edge of the specimen.

The test apparatus shall be checked for friction loss and calibrated as described in the referenced ASTM method.

With the pendulum in its raised position, the specimen is placed midway in the clamps so that its upper edge is parallel to the top of the clamps and the initial slit is at right angles to the top of the clamps. When the specimen is torn, the reading shall be between 20 and 80 percent of full scale reading. If over 90%, auxiliary weights shall be employed to double or quadruple the capacity of the machine. The isolated very high or very low result, when a consistent average has been obtained without the abnormal reading, shall be discarded and a duplicate specimen tested. If the tear deviates more than 3/8 inches (10 mm) from the line of the initial slit, the specimen should also be rejected and a duplicate specimen tested.

Results shall be calculated as follows:

Grams to tear specimen: Directly or by calculating from scale reading. If auxiliary weights are needed, the appropriate multiplier must be used. The average, maximum and minimum results for both the machine and cross machine directions shall be reported.

## **b. Tongue Method**

**Reference:** ASTM D2261-07a - Standard Test Method for Tearing Strength by the Tongue (Single Rip) Procedure

**Apparatus:** Testing machine consisting of straining mechanism, holding clamps and load recording mechanism.

The tearing strength may be determined by the tongue method. The width of the jaws of the apparatus shall be 2 inches (5 cm) or more. The rate of separation of the jaws shall be  $12 \pm 0.5$  inches ( $30 \pm 1$  cm) per minute. Testing speed can range from  $2 \pm .1$  inches per minute to as high as  $12 \pm 0.5$  inches per minute.

Specimens 8 inches (20.0 cm) long by 3 inches (7.5 cm) wide are taken for the test. Two sets of five specimens each are required, one set having the longer dimension parallel to the machine direction, and the other set having the longer dimension parallel to the cross-machine direction. A longitudinal cut 3 inches (7.5 cm) in length shall be made lengthwise of the specimen starting in the center of one of the short edges.

The specimen shall be placed squarely in the machine with one of the tongues in each clamp. The load necessary to continue the tear after it has been started fluctuates and is recorded by means of a suitable autographic recording device on the testing machine.

The tearing strength of the specimen shall be the average of the five highest peak loads of resistance registered after .25 inches (6 mm) of separation of the tear.

Machine capacity should be chosen so that neither the lower 15% nor the upper 15% of the dial reading is used.

## **c. Trapezoid Method**

**Reference:** ASTM D751-06 - Standard Test Method for Tearing Strength of Nonwoven Fabrics by the Trapezoid Procedure

**Apparatus:** Testing machine consisting of straining mechanism, holding clamps and load recording mechanism.

The tearing strength also may be determined by the trapezoid method. The width of the jaws of the apparatus shall be 3 inches (7.5 cm) or more. The rate of separation of the jaws shall have a speed up to 12 inches (30 cm) per minute. Distance between clamps at the start of the test shall measure 1 inch.

Rectangular specimens 6 inches (15 cm) long by 3 inches (7.5 cm) wide are taken for the test. Two sets of five specimens each are required, one set having the longer dimension parallel to the machine direction, and the other set having the longer dimension parallel to the cross-machine direction.

An isosceles trapezoid having an altitude of 3 inches (7.5 cm) and a base of 4 inches (10 cm) in length. A cut approximately  $\frac{3}{8}$  inches (1 cm) in length ( $\frac{5}{8}$  inches (1.5 cm) for knit back construction) shall then be made in the center of and perpendicular to a 4 inch (10 cm) edge.

The specimen shall be clamped in the machine along the non-parallel sides of the trapezoid so that these sides lie along the lower edge of the upper clamp and the upper edge of the lower clamp with the cut half-way between the clamps. The short trapezoid base shall be held taut and the long trapezoid base shall lie in the folds.

The load necessary to continue the tear after it has been started fluctuates and is recorded by means of a suitable autographic recording device on the testing machine. Tearing strength of each individual test shall be the average of the five highest peaks. The average of the results of the five individual tests on the machine direction shall be reported as the machine tear strength of the specimen, and the average of the five individual tests in the cross machine direction shall be reported as the cross machine tear strength of the specimen.

Machine capacity should be chosen so that neither the lower 15% nor the upper 15% of the dial reading is used.

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## **CFFA - 17 TENSILE STRENGTH AND ELONGATION** (also referred to as **BREAKING STRENGTH**)

### **Grab Method**

**Purpose:** To determine the pulling force required to rupture chemical coated fabrics

**Reference:** ASTM D751-06 - Standard Test Methods for Coated Fabrics

**Apparatus:** Testing machine consisting of straining mechanism, holding clamps and load recording mechanism

Specimens 4 inches (10 cm) wide and not less than 6 inches (15 cm) long are taken for the test. Two sets of five specimens each are required, one set for the machine direction tensile strength having the long dimension parallel to the machine direction, and the other set for cross-machine direction tensile strength having the long dimension parallel to the cross machine.

Unless otherwise specified, no specimen is taken nearer the selvage than  $\frac{1}{10}$ th the width of the material.

The distance between the two pairs of jaws on the apparatus is 3 inches (7.5 cm) at the start of the test. The rate of separation of the jaws shall be  $12 \pm 0.5$  inches ( $30 \pm 1$  cm) per minute. The jaws have smooth flat faces with edges slightly rounded to prevent cutting. The face of one jaw of each pair measures 1 x 1 inch (2.5 x 2.5 cm); that of the other jaw of each pair measures 1 x 2 or more inches (2.5 x 5 or more cm), the long dimension being perpendicular to the application of the load.

The specimen is placed symmetrically in the jaws of the machine with the long dimension parallel to and the short dimension at right angle to the direction of application of the load. If woven backings apply, care should be taken to grip the same yarns in the fabric backing by both pairs of jaws.

Tensile specimen at break is the numerical average of the results obtained by breaking five specimens separately and is expressed as force/unit width (e.g., lbs/in.).

If a specimen slips in the clamps, breaks in the clamps, breaks at the edge of the clamps, or for any reason attributable to faulty operation causes the results of a single specimen to fall markedly below the average for the set, the result is discarded, another specimen taken and the result of the break included in the average. No two specimens for machine direction breakage shall contain the same yarns, or for the cross machine breaking strength.

Machine capacity should be chosen so that neither the lower 15% nor the upper 15% of the dial reading is used.

Unless otherwise specified, obtain Elongation at any stated force while the breaking strength is determined. Elongation at break shall be calculated as follows:

$$\text{Percent Elongation} = \frac{x^1 - x}{x} \times 100$$

Where  $x^1$  = Distance between jaws at moment of rupture  
 $x$  = Distance between jaws at start of test

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## CFFA - 18 VOLATILITY

### Activated Carbon Volatility

**Purpose:** To determine the rate at which materials volatilize from a chemical coated fabric at a given temperature.

**Reference:** ASTM D1203-94 (2003) - Standard Test Methods for Volatile Loss From Plastics Using Activated Carbon Methods

**Apparatus:** Forced air laboratory oven or a bath capable of maintaining the temperature to within  $\pm 2^\circ\text{F}$  ( $\pm 1^\circ\text{C}$ ) between temperatures of  $122^\circ - 194^\circ$  ( $50^\circ - 90^\circ\text{C}$ ), analytical balance capable of measuring weight to nearest 0.001 g, 1 pint ( $500 \text{ cm}^3$ ) containers, 6/14 mesh activated carbon and a micrometer capable of measuring to the nearest 0.0001 in. (0.0025 mm).

Specimens shall be conditioned at the standard laboratory atmosphere of  $73^\circ \pm 2^\circ\text{F}$  ( $23^\circ\text{C}$ ) and  $50 \pm 5\%$  relative humidity a minimum of five hours at the start and end of the test.

A minimum of two specimens and a maximum of three specimens 2 inches (5 cm) in diameter shall be weighed from each sample. Record this weight as W. The thickness of the specimen shall be recorded. Volatility measurements should not be compared directly if thickness measurements vary more than 10% from a nominal thickness.  $120 \text{ cm}^3$  of activated carbon is placed in the bottom of the container. A specimen is placed on top of

the activated carbon and covered with 120 cm<sup>3</sup> of carbon. Each successive specimen is placed on top of the first and also covered with 120 cm<sup>3</sup> of carbon.

The lid shall be placed on the container, in such a way that the container is vented. Assure the carbon is not packed down by pressure other than under its own weight and the weight of the samples. The container shall be placed upright in the heating unit at 158°F (70°C) for 24 hours. The container shall be removed and allowed to cool for 15 minutes. Open the container, remove the specimens to brush off excess carbon, and recondition as specified above. After reconditioning, reweigh the specimens. Record this weight as W<sub>1</sub>.

The loss of weight is then calculated and the specimens compared with the original specimen. The loss of weight shall not exceed an amount agreed upon by the principals.

Calculate % of weight loss as follows:

$$\text{Weight loss, \%} = (W - W_1 / W) \times 100$$

Where W = Initial weight of test specimen

W<sub>1</sub> = Final weight of test specimen

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## **CFFA - 180 WASHABILITY**

**Purpose:** To determine the ability of wallcovering to be washed without damage to the surface

**Reference:** ASTM F793-07 - Standard Classification of Wallcovering by Use Characteristics

**Apparatus:** Paul Gardner Washability Machine, Model D10 or Model D10V, equipped with WG-2000C Cellulose Sponge, mounted on a plated brass holder (weight 1 pound or 0.455 kg)\*

Cut a sample of wallcovering 6-1/2 x 17 inches (165.1 x 431.8 mm) with the longer dimension in the cross direction. Choose an area with as many different printed colors as possible. If the wallcovering is a type that cannot be washed the requisite number of rubs without wrinkling or tearing, the sample should be hung or mounted on a smooth finish board and allowed to dry for 24 hours at room temperature with good air circulation prior to testing.

Evenly distribute 1 tablespoon (14.79 ml) of detergent solution over the area to be washed. Install the Cellulose Sponge Holder (which has been soaking in detergent solution for at least 15 minutes) onto the machine. Set the counter at zero and turn the machine on. At the end of the requisite number of cycles, stop the machine. Remove the sample, rinse it under running water and set it aside for examination after drying. If the sample tears or wrinkles excessively during the washing cycle, terminate the test and repeat. After drying, the sample shall show no evidence of appreciable damage to the printed or base surface. Areas of localized wear clearly related to wrinkles may be ignored.

## Detergent Solution

Demineralized Water	160 ml
Anhydrous Trisodium Phosphate	4 gm
**Dow Chemical Triton X100	8 gm
**Rohm & Haas ASE60	12 gm mixed with 40 ml demineralized water
Glacial Acetic Acid	Trace (If necessary to adjust pH to 9.0 to 9.5)

\*Available from Paul Gardner, 316 N.E. First Street, Pompano Beach, FL 33060.

\*\*Available from The Dow Chemical Company, P. O. Box 1206, Midland, MI 48674.

\*\*\*Available from Rohm and Haas Company, Attention: Architectural and Functional Coatings, 100 Independence Mall West, Philadelphia, PA 19106-2399.

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## CFFA - 19 WATER VAPOR TRANSMISSION

**Purpose:** Determination of Water Vapor Transmission (WVT) of Materials

**Reference:** ASTM E96M-05 - Standard Test Methods for Water Vapor Transmission of Materials

**Apparatus:** Test Dish - Any container non-corroding and impermeable to water or water vapor.

Test Chamber - A humidity and temperature controlled room or cabinet where test dishes are placed.

Balance and Weights - Sensitive to changes smaller than 1% of the total weight change during the test.

**Materials:** Desiccant or distilled water. Desiccant can be anhydrous  $\text{CaCl}_2$  or Silica gel. Sealant - 3 recommended - 1) asphalt 180-200°F (82-93°C) softening point), 2) beeswax/rosin mixture (50/50) or 3) microcrystalline wax/refined paraffin wax mixture (60/40).

**Procedure:** Either of two procedures may be employed. 1) The Desiccant Method or 2) the Water Method.

Desiccant Method - Desiccant is added to the test dish, the sample is sealed to the test dish and placed in the test chamber. The weight gained by the desiccant over time is used to calculate the permeability of the sample.

Water Method - Water is added to the test dish, the sample is sealed to the test dish and placed in the test chamber. The weight lost through the sample over time is used to calculate the permeability of the sample.

Temperature and humidity should be chosen to closely approximate the end use conditions. The Water Method is better suited when temperature can be controlled but humidity control is not easily achieved. Useful standard test conditions are described below.

Water (Procedure B) and Desiccant (Procedure A) Methods at 73.4°F (23°C). Inverted Water Method at 73.4°F (23°C) (Procedure BW). Water and Desiccant Methods at 90°F (32.2°C) (Procedures C & D). Desiccant Method at 100°F (37.8°C) (Procedure E).

### Test Conditions

Procedure	Temperature	Relative Humidity on the Two Sides of Sheet	
		In Dish, Outside Dish, Percent	Percent
A	73.4°F (23.0°C)	0	50
B	73.4°F (23.0°C)	100	50
BW	73.4°F (23.0°C)	100	50
C	90°F (32.2°C)	0	50
D	90°F (32.2°C)	100	50
E	100°F (37.8°C)	0	90

- a. Procedures A, C and E are Desiccant Methods; Procedures B, BW and D are water methods.

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## CFFA - 20 WEIGHT OF COATING AND FABRIC

**Purpose:** To determine the average weight of chemical coating and fabric separately

**Reference:** ASTM D751-06 - Standard Test Methods for Coated Fabrics

**Apparatus:** Laboratory Scales

The weight of the chemical coated fabric shall be determined under Standard Conditions of Test (see page 6), by taking the average weight of five specimens taken from across the width of the fabric in a line at right angles to the selvage. No specimen is taken closer to either selvage than 1/10 of the width.

Specimens are to be not less than 4 square inches (6 cm<sup>2</sup>) in area.

The weight of the chemical coating shall be determined by removing the coating with suitable solvents, drying the cloth, and deducting the weight of the cloth from the weight of the finished material.

To insure removal of all solvent, the fabric shall be dried by heating in an oven for sufficient time. Care should be taken to select time, temperature and solvent to insure that there is no deterioration of fabric.

To determine weight of fabric itself after the determinations for weight of coating have been made, the sample fabric must be brought to standard humidity conditions.

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## SECTION II

### TESTS FOR CHEMICAL FILMS

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#### CFFA - 200 ABRASION RESISTANCE

##### a. Wyzenbeek Method

**Reference:** ASTM D4157-07 - Standard Test Method for Abrasion Resistance of Textile Fabrics (Oscillatory Cylinder Method)

##### b. Taber Abraser Method

**Reference:** ASTM D3389-05 - Standard Test Method for Coated Fabrics Abrasion Resistance (Rotary Platform, Double-Head Abrader)

The abrasion resistance of a plastic film may be determined by the Wyzenbeek and Taber Abraser Methods described in CFFA Standard Test Method 1.

\*Available from Schap Specialty Machine, Inc., 17309 Taft Street, Spring Lake, MI 49456, 616-846-6530, Fax: 616-846-6675, [www.schapmachine.com](http://www.schapmachine.com) or [www.wyzenbeek.com](http://www.wyzenbeek.com).

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#### CFFA - 201 BLOCKING - FILM

The blocking of plastic film may be determined by the Elevated Temperature Method described in CFFA Standard Test Method 4, except the cooling period should be at least one hour after removal from the oven.

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#### CFFA - 21 DENSITY

##### Displacement Method

**Purpose:** To determine the density of chemical films by displacement of water and determination of change in weight

**Reference:** ASTM D792-08 - Standard Test Methods for Density and Specific Gravity (Relative Density) of Plastics by Displacement.

**Apparatus:** Analytical Balance capable of reading to 5 decimal places, sample holder, breaker, thermometer, beaker stand (if necessary).

Density may be determined using an analytical balance equipped with a stationary support for the immersion vessel above the balance pan and a corrosion-resistant sample holder for suspending the specimen into a beaker or other wide mouth vessel containing distilled, air-free water. (See balance manufacturer for a density kit.) Test must be conducted in the standard laboratory atmosphere of  $73 \pm 2^\circ\text{F}$  ( $23^\circ\text{C}$ ) and  $50 \pm 5\%$  relative humidity.

The test specimen shall be a single piece of material weighing at least 0.5 grams and its surfaces and edges shall be made smooth and free from foreign matter. The specimen is weighed in air to the nearest 0.1 mg. A sample holder, sufficiently long to reach from the hook above the pan to the support for the immersion vessel, is attached to the balance. The test specimen is then attached to the wire so that it is suspended about 1 inch (2.5 cm) above the vessel support. If the specimen might float (less dense than water), add a weight to the wire to help hold the specimen down in the water. Then the immersion vessel is mounted on the support, and the suspended specimen is immersed into the water at a temperature of  $73 \pm 2^\circ\text{F}$  ( $23^\circ\text{C}$ ) taking care to prevent the sample from touching the vessel and to remove any air bubbles adhering to the specimen. The apparent weight of the specimen is determined to 0.1 mg. Remove the specimen and weigh the wire in water immersed to the same depth as it was when weighing the specimen in the water. If a weight was used to hold down the specimen, be sure to include the weight as part of the wire.

The density shall be calculated as follows:

$$D_{23} = \frac{0.997a}{a+w-b}$$

Where:

$$D(\text{density}) = \text{g/cm}^3$$

a = Weight of specimen in air without wire.

b = Apparent weight of specimen completely immersed and wire partially immersed.

w = Apparent weight of partially immersed holder.

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## **CFFA - 22 DIMENSIONAL CHANGES AT ELEVATED TEMPERATURES**

**Purpose:** To determine the linear shrinkage or expansion of chemical films when exposed to heat

**Reference:** ASTM D1204-08 - Standard Test Method for Linear Dimensional Changes of Non-Rigid Thermoplastic Sheeting or Film at Elevated Temperatures

**Apparatus:** Forced Air Laboratory Oven

Two specimens, 10 x 10 inches (25 x 25 cm) shall be cut by means of a template, one from either of the two machine direction edges and one from the center of the sheet.

Each specimen shall be placed on heavy paper, previously dusted with finely ground talc to prevent sticking or interference with shrinkage. Each specimen shall be covered with a second piece of dusted paper. The paper/plastic sandwiches shall then be placed in an air circulating oven operating at  $212^\circ\text{F}$  ( $100^\circ\text{C}$ ), for 30 minutes. The specimen shall be removed from the oven, cooled for 1 hour, and the change in dimension (shrinkage or expansion) of the cut area calculated by the following formula:

$$\% \text{ Dimensional Change} = \frac{L_1 - L}{L} \times 100$$

Where:

L = Original length (or width) of marked area, to the nearest 0.01 inch.

L<sub>1</sub> = Final length (or width) of marked area, to the nearest 0.01 inch, after exposure to test conditions.

The dimensional change in length (or width) is the average of the values calculated for each of the two specimens. A negative value denotes shrinkage, and a positive value indicates expansion.

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## CFFA - 220 DIMENSIONS OF FILM

**Reference:** ASTM D751-06 - Standard Test Methods for Coated Fabrics

The dimensions of a plastic film may be determined by the methods described in Standard Test Method CFFA 700.

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## CFFA - 221 LAYFLAT

**Purpose:** This procedure provides a standard method of determining PVC roll contour characteristics.

A roll of PVC film should be of uniform contour across its width. The roll surface should be flat without bumps or valleys that may be caused by an uneven thickness profile or other winding problems such as entrapped air or varying tensions. A condition of non-uniform contour can be readily determined by measuring roll circumference at several points across the roll.

**Apparatus:** Steel tape measure that converts circumference into diameter measurements, graduated to 1/16".

Measure roll circumference to the nearest 1/16" on at least 3 points on the roll. These should be the End, Middle, and End. Mark where the measurements have been taken. Calculate percent difference between readings.

Suspend the roll for 60 minutes on a mandrel and repeat measurements at same locations if material falls outside of specifications.

Calculate percent difference.

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## CFFA - 23 LOW TEMPERATURE IMPACT RESISTANCE

**Purpose:** To determine the temperature at which plastic films will crack if folded sharply

**Reference:** ASTM D1790-08 - Brittleness Temperature of Plastic Film by Impact

**Apparatus:** SPI Impact Tester.\* Low Temperature Chamber

Five 2 x 5 inch (5 x 12.5 cm) specimens are cut in both the machine and cross-machine directions of the film. The two ends of the short dimension of each sample are brought together with the finished side out and stapled to a 2 x 5 inch (5 x 12.5 cm) card so as to form a smooth loop at the unstapled end. The 2 inch (5 cm) end of the card is matched with the ends of the specimen, and the staple attaching card and specimen applied 1 inch (2.5 cm) from the ends of the specimen.

For testing at low temperatures the apparatus is placed in an insulated enclosure with the test temperature maintained at  $\pm 2^{\circ}\text{F}$  ( $\pm 1^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) for one hour prior to testing. The specimens shall be similarly conditioned for at least 10 minutes. As the specimens are put in the test chamber, a 0.5 inch (1.25 cm) diameter metal bar cooled to the test temperature is placed through the loop of the specimen to maintain the loop dimensions.

The specimen is placed on the anvil with the staple in the slot and the loop pointed away from the arm. The arm is raised to a vertical position and then allowed to drop of its own weight onto the specimen. The tested specimens are examined for breaks.

The cold crack temperature criteria for passing is not more than 20%.

\*Available from U.S. Testing Company, Inc., 291 Fairfield Avenue, Fairfield, NJ 07004, 973-575-5252.

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## CFFA - 240 PVC ROLL CONTOUR AND RACETRACKING

**Purpose:** This procedure provides a standard method for determining PVC rolled film contour and racetracking. After PVC film is cut from a roll, the cut sheet should maintain the same contour as when it was wound on the core. Some film, because of the manner in which it was wound on a core, will deviate from its original contour, causing the film to “racetrack” or not unwind in a straight line. This can result in sheets being so far out of dimension tolerance that fabrication of end products is difficult or impossible. Racetracking can also be due to edge to edge gauge variation in the film.

**Apparatus:**

- 1) Large, flat and clean surface.
- 2) A piece of string or straight edge at least 35 feet in length.

Place the roll on a clean flat surface. Kraft paper may be rolled out first to provide a clean surface.

Roll out film to a length of 30 feet or as required by the product specification. The roll should be unwound carefully and uniformly so as not to affect the natural layflat or tendency to roll curved or flat. Two people are recommended to perform this roll out satisfactorily.

Hold an appropriate length of string taut along the edge of the unwound film or align the material to a straight edge. The string or straight edge should touch the edge of the film at a point where it just comes away from the roll (on the floor) and at the end of the unwound section.

Measure, to the nearest 1/16", the gap between the string and the largest deviation in the edge of the film.

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## **CFFA - 241 SNAP BACK TESTING FOR POOL LINER FILMS**

**Purpose:** To determine PVC rolled film snapback.

**Apparatus:** A large, flat, smooth surface and a steel tape measure graduated to the nearest 1/16".

When a pool liner film is calendered, printed or just re-wound, it can be stretched. This stretch can then be temporarily locked into the film when it is wound into a roll. When the film is then removed from the roll and allowed to relax, it wants to return to its normal length. This phenomenon is called snap back. Snap back, however, can last anywhere from 24 hours to 72 hours to completely relax. There are several factors that control the rate at which it relaxes, but temperature is one of the major factors. Therefore, if snap back is being measured in a colder temperature it may take much longer to relax than if it is warmer.

Using the apparatus, specimens are exposed using the following conditions:

1. Remove two (2) outer wraps from the roll to be measured and discard.
2. Cut a twelve (12) foot sample from the roll to be measured.
3. Fan fold the cut sample and immediately place it on the smooth flat table so that it can be laid flat.
4. Place two (2) marks 100" apart on one edge of the film.
5. The maximum amount of time that shall elapse from the time the sample is removed from the roll until the 100" marks are placed on the sheet (steps 2, 3, & 4) is three (3) minutes. If more time has elapsed the sampling process must begin again.
6. After 24 hours, measure the distance between the two marks on the sheet.
7. Calculate the percent (%) snapback =  $100 - (\text{distance in step 5})$ .

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## **CFFA - 25 SOAPY WATER EXTRACTION**

**Purpose:** To determine the weight loss of chemical films after extended contact with soapy water

**Reference:** ASTM D1239-07 - Standard Test Method for Resistance of Plastic Films to Extraction by Chemicals

**Apparatus:** Forced Air Laboratory Oven

The test specimens shall be in the form of squares 2 inches (5 cm) on each side. At least three specimens shall be tested. The test solution is a 1% concentration of pure white soap flakes in distilled water.

The test procedure consists of the following steps:

1. The test specimens shall be preconditioned for 40 hours at  $73.4^{\circ}\text{F} \pm 3.6^{\circ}\text{F}$  ( $23^{\circ} \pm 2^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) and  $50 \pm 5\%$

relative humidity, then removed from the oven, cooled to room temperature in a dessicator, and weighed.

2. Each test specimen shall be separately immersed in one pint (400 ml.) of soap solution, freely suspended in a vertical position in its own container.
3. The container shall be covered and placed in the oven at 104°F (40°C) for 24 hours.
4. The test specimen shall be removed from the soap solution, rinsed in clear water, wiped dry, and conditioned and weighed as in step 1.

$$\text{The percentage weight loss} = \frac{W - W_1}{W} \times 100$$

Where:  $W$  = Original Specimen Weight.

$W_1$  = Specimen Weight After Extraction.

All weighings shall be made to 4 decimal points.

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## CFFA - 26 TEARING STRENGTH

**Purpose:** To determine the force required to initiate and propagate tearing in plastic films or sheeting

### a. Graves Method

**Reference:** ASTM D1004-09 - Initial Tear Resistance of Plastic Film and Sheeting

**Apparatus:** Testing machine consisting of a power driven machine of either of the two following types shall be used: Static Weighing - Constant Rate of Grip Separation Type; Pendulum Weighing - Constant Rate of Powered Grip Motion Type

The tearing strength may be determined on any suitable testing machine of the constant rate of jaw separation type. Suitable steel grips shall be used and the rate of travel of the grip shall be 2 inches (5 cm) per minute. Knurled grips, grips faced with abrasive paper or those of the eccentric type shall be used when flat smooth steel grips give rise to slippage or failure at the edge of the grip jaws.

The test specimen shall be uniform in thickness and cut with a (Graves) die, dimensions of which are described in ASTM D 1004-94a. Thickness of the specimen shall be measured with a micrometer accurate to 0.0001 inches (0.0025 mm).

Five specimens shall be cut in both the machine and cross machine directions of the sheet. The test specimen shall be clamped in the jaws of the testing machine, care being taken that the jaws grip the specimen evenly and that the longitudinal axis is in line with the direction of the application of the load.

The tear resistance shall be calculated by dividing the maximum load registered by the thickness, and shall be expressed as weight/thickness (e.g. lbs/in. or gms/cm).

The average resistance to tearing shall be calculated using all five specimens tested in each principal direction of orientation.

## **b. Elmendorf Method**

**Reference:** ASTM D1922-09 - Propagation Tear Resistance of Plastic Film and Thin Sheeting by Pendulum Method

The tearing strength of a plastic film may be determined by the falling pendulum method described in CFFA Standard Test Method 16.

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## **CFFA - 27 TENSILE STRENGTH AND ELONGATION**

**Purpose:** To determine the pulling force required to rupture a film and elongation at that point

**Reference:** ASTM D882-09 - Tensile Properties of Thin Plastic Sheeting

**Apparatus:** Any suitable testing machine of the constant rate of jaw separation type. Grips should be designed to eliminate slippage or tearing. Rate of separation of the grips shall be 20 in./min. (500 mm/min.).

Test specimens shall consist of strips of uniform width and thickness, measured to an accuracy of 0.010 inches (0.25 mm) and 0.0001 inches (0.0025 mm), respectively. Test specimens should also be conditioned at least 24 hours at  $73 \pm 2^\circ\text{F}$  ( $23^\circ\text{C}$ ) and  $50 \pm 5\%$  relative humidity. Ratio of width/thickness shall be at least 8/1 and width should be between 0.20 inches (5.0 mm) and 1.0 inch (25.4 mm). Length of samples shall be at least 2.0 inches (50 mm) between the grips. Cutting should be done in such a manner as to avoid edge imperfections. Using a sharp well-maintained die will insure uniform cuts and reduce edge imperfections. ASTM Type IV or C dies are commonly used. Five test specimens in each of the machine and cross machine directions shall be used.

The specimens shall be clamped in the jaws of the machine, with care being taken that the jaws grip the specimen evenly and that the longitudinal axis is in line with the direction of load application.

Tensile strength at break shall be calculated by dividing the load at break by the original minimum cross-sectional area of the specimen and expressed in pounds-force per square inch or Newtons per meter.

Elongation at break shall be calculated as follows:

$$\text{Percent Elongation} = \frac{l_1 - l}{l} \times 100$$

Where:  $l_1$  = Length between grips at moment of rupture.

$l$  = Original length between grips.

When gage marks or extensometers are used to define a specific test section, only this length shall be used in the calculation; otherwise, the distance between the grips shall be used.

Values used in the calculations are the average from five specimens.

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## **CFFA - 270 VOLATILITY**

**Reference:** ASTM D1203-94 (2003) - Standard Test Methods for Volatile Loss From Plastics Using Activated Carbon Methods

The volatility of a plastic film may be determined by the Activated Carbon Volatility Method as described in CFFA Standard Test Method 18.

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## **SECTION III**

### **TERMINOLOGY AND CUSTOMS IN THE INDUSTRY**

#### **Length**

Chemical coated fabrics are usually sold by the linear yard.

Chemical films are usually sold by the pound, square yard, or linear yard for light gauge material (under 6 mils), and by the square yard in heavier gauges (6 mils and over).

#### **Number Of Pieces**

(a) The maximum number of pieces (cuts).

The maximum number of separate pieces ordinarily acceptable in a roll of chemical coated fabrics (other than wallcovering):

1 - 15 yard roll	-	1 piece
16 - 30 yard roll	-	2 pieces
31 - 60 yard roll	-	3 pieces
61 - 90 yard roll	-	4 pieces
91 - 115 yard roll	-	5 pieces
116 - 125 yard roll	-	6 pieces

The maximum number of separate pieces ordinarily acceptable in a 30 yard roll of wallcovering is two pieces.

(b) The minimum length of pieces.

The minimum length of a single piece in any roll of chemical coated fabrics is not ordinarily less than three linear yards.

#### **Width**

There is no minus width tolerance. The width specified is the minimum guaranteed width of the material between edges. Width may be expressed as 52/53 which means minimum is 52 inches.

#### **Finished Weight**

(a) Chemical Coated Fabrics.

Tolerance on weight specifications are typically plus or minus 10% except when meeting minimum weight specifications for wallcovering as set forth in CFFA-W-101-C.

(b) Chemical Films.

Chemical film is customarily sold by thickness in measurements of thousandths (.001) of an inch. The thickness of smooth chemical film is determined by measuring with a standard type paper micrometer.

A reasonable plus or minus tolerance from the weight/thickness specification is generally acceptable. Tolerance on weight/thickness is customarily plus or minus 10%.

On deeply embossed or texture grained chemical film, the weight per square yard is used as an indication of thickness. The average thickness can be determined by the weight method which determines the specific gravity of the material. (Reference ASTM D 792-66).

### **Allowances**

The maximum number of allowances for imperfections in one 60-yard roll is customarily four. If there is more than one piece in a 60-yard roll, then the number of pieces plus the number of allowances in the 60 yards of material generally should not exceed six. For rolls of greater or lesser length, allowance for imperfections is increased or decreased proportionately.

- (a) Flags are inserted or attached to the edge of the goods, or marks satisfactory to the customer made on the edge, to indicate the imperfections for which allowances have been made.
- (b) Each flag or mark indicates allowance of a minimum of 1/8th of a yard for noticeable defect, and as much more allowance as may be necessary, depending upon the extent of the defect. There should be no less than five yards between defect flags or markers.
- (c) No allowances and no flags are necessary in wallcovering; all defects are removed.

### **Packaging**

Material ordinarily is rolled on cardboard tubes of adequate strength and circumference and wrapped in paper or plastic stretch wrapping of adequate weight and strength with roll ends properly secured---material may be packed in cartons. Large diameter rolls of film products are usually placed in suspended packaging.

In packaging instructions, a notation should be included as to special handling requirements for urethane coated fabrics.

## **CLEANING AND CARE SUGGESTIONS**

Chemical films and coated fabrics are made to withstand scuffing, cracking, peeling, hard use, and soiling. Manufacturer's cleaning instructions should be consulted. In general, most household soil can be easily cleaned with warm soapy water and several clear water rinses. Moderate scrubbing with a medium bristle brush will help to loosen the soiling agent from the depressions of embossed surfaces. Certain commercially available products clean routine household spills from vinyl very effectively. Check label on product to see if recommended. Full strength rubbing alcohol or bleach diluted with water may be tried if the above suggestions do not work. Certain household cleaners could cause damage or discoloration of the vinyl product and should be avoided.

Certain stains may become set if they are not removed immediately. Several stains and suggestions for removal (subject to manufacturer's instructions for stain removal) are discussed below.

**BALLPOINT INK** --- Ink spots usually stain plastic products permanently, but much of the stain may be removed by immediate wiping with rubbing alcohol.

**OIL BASE PAINT** --- Turpentine will remove fresh paint. Dried paint must be sparingly moistened with a semi-solid stripper so that the softened paint can be gently scraped away. **CAUTION**---paint stripper will probably remove the printed patterns on plastic surfaces.

**LATEX PAINT** --- Fresh paint can be wiped off with a damp cloth. Follow the instructions for dried oil paint if the latex has dried.

**SURFACE MILDEW** --- Wash with a bleach solution of one tablespoon of bleach to a quart of water, then rinse several times with clear water.

**TAR, ASPHALT** --- Remove immediately. Lengthy contact will cause a permanent stain. Using a cloth dampened with kerosene or mineral spirits, rub gently from outside edge of stain to center. This will prevent stain from spreading. Rinse with soap and water.

**CHEWING GUM, CAR GREASE, SHOE POLISH** --- Scrape off as much as possible (chewing gum will come off more easily if rubbed with ice cube) and go over lightly with mineral spirits to remove remainder. No time should be lost in removing shoe polish as it contains dye which can cause permanent staining. Rinse thoroughly.

**NOTE:** *Powdered abrasives, steel wool, and industrial strength cleaners are not recommended. They will cause dulling of glossy surfaces. Dry cleaning fluids and lacquer solvents are not recommended because they will attack most chemical films and coated fabrics, remove the printed patterns, and/or disturb the surface.*

Wax should only be used on chemical coated fabrics and film if the manufacturer recommends its use. Many waxes contain dyes, and dyes will stain.

Follow manufacturer's instruction regarding washing, tumble drying, ironing, or dry cleaning.

## **FITNESS FOR USE**

Member companies of the CFFA subscribe to a process of total quality management in the conduct of their business. Member companies believe that it is beneficial to their supplier/customer relationships to present basic total quality management principles in the form of an industry statement representing the general philosophy of CFFA member companies.

CFFA member companies have initiated various procedures to ensure specification performance including:

1. Forming partnerships with their suppliers to ensure that raw materials are delivered in conformance with a mutually agreed upon specification and are fit for the coated fabric producers intended application.
2. Encouraging suppliers to provide statistical evidence of specification.
3. Performing appropriate internal audits to verify conformance to an agreed upon specification using up-to-date statistical and process control methods.

The film and coated fabric products of CFFA member companies are manufactured to meet a product specification. This specification was originated by one of the following:

- a. The customer.
- b. The film/coated fabric producer.
- c. A mutually agreed upon specification.

Ideally, the criteria would be jointly agreed to by the customer and the film or coated fabric producer, taking into account the customer's manufacturing process and product performance requirements, coupled with the coated fabric manufacturer's/film producer's statistical process capabilities.

Coated fabric and film customers are encouraged to perform supplier audits to verify conformance to established specifications.

CFFA member companies individually establish procedures and policies for handling return goods, quality claims and other requested adjustments.

Film and coated fabric products are intended for use as components of consumer products. The consumer product is a composite of materials chosen by the fabricating customer on the basis of their performance features, styling appeal, and other relevant considerations. The compatibility of the components is the responsibility of the manufacturer of the end product.

CFFA member companies' philosophy is one of supporting a process of **total quality management** and continuous improvement for their products, processes and services. Member companies invite their customers to join in total quality partnerships whereby products are designed and manufactured in accordance with mutually agreed upon product specifications. This invitation is extended based on a foundation of participative management, statistical methodology and a spirit of full communications between CFFA member companies and their respective customers.

## **INFORMATION ABOUT THE PRODUCT AND THE CHEMICAL FABRICS & FILM ASSOCIATION**

### **The Product**

Chemical fabrics includes vinyl and other polymer coatings and will incorporate new materials developed in the future.

The industry's materials have been the result of centuries of development in the treating and coating of fabrics to serve an unlimited range of applications. Chemical fabrics date back to the 8th century when the Egyptians used resin-treated flax for wrapping and preserving the dead, and we read of Northumbrian soldiers who greased their animal-hide cloaks to protect them against the chill and rain.

Chronological history of fabric coating:

- 1742** Germany begins art of coating with oil.
- 1754** U.S. establishes the first commercial factory for producing oil-coated fabrics.
- 1791** British patent granted for applying natural rubber to fabric.

- 1832** Charles MacIntosh builds factory in Glasgow, Scotland to produce rubber-coated cloth and starts the worldwide MacIntosh concept of rainwear.
- 1838** The Frenchman, Regnault, prepares first vinyl chloride.
- 1855** British patent granted for fabric coating with pyroxylin.
- 1890** U.S. produces commercial coating of cellulose nitrate.
- 1897** American patent rights for coating fabrics with pyroxylin granted to Pegamoid Company of Hohokus, NJ (moves to Newburgh in 1902 and is purchased by DuPont in 1910).
- 1927** Union Carbide Corporation manufacturers first vinyl in U.S.A.
- 1931** BFGoodrich Company becomes second producer of vinyl in U.S.A.
- 1938-1939**  
Germany produces first plasticized PVC coated fabrics.

#### **World War II Period**

Vinyls used for a multitude of military uses because of rubber shortage.

#### **Post World War II**

The research and emergency applications of vinyl products during World War II gains them almost immediate acceptance in major consumer markets, such as automotive and furniture upholstery, wallcovering, footwear and apparel and eventual acceptance in many other fields.

#### **The Chemical Fabrics & Film Association (CFFA)**

Keeping abreast of product change and development, the industry trade organization has changed its name five times since it was first formed in September, 1927, as The Association of Pyroxylin Coated Manufacturers. Pyroxylin obviously was then the predominant product.

Subsequent changes and reason for change:

#### **Name Change**

#### **Date Adopted**

Institute of Leather Cloth and Lacquered Fabric Manufacturers  
(to identify with product appearance)

June, 1932

Pyroxylin and Resin Coaters Institute  
(to include vinyl resin coating)

December, 1943

Plastic Coatings and Film Association  
(to include film and sheeting)

March, 1948

Vinyl Fabrics Institute  
(to recognize the growth and predominance of vinyl)

September, 1955

Chemical Fabrics and Film Association  
(to recognize the diversity of materials and provide a more  
permanent name for a developing industry)

January, 1972

Chemical Fabrics & Film Association, Inc.  
(to recognize the incorporation of the Association)

December, 1980