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Standard Test Methods for Length of Woven Fabric¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D3773/D3773M; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

This standard has been approved for use by agencies of the U.S. Department of Defense.

1. Scope

1.1 These test methods cover four options for measuring fabric length and are applicable to full rolls or bolts of materials.

1.2 There are four approved options of measuring length as follows:

1.2.1 *Option A—Hand* (Section 6).

1.2.2 *Option B—Drum* (Section 7).

1.2.3 *Option C—Clock* (Section 8).

1.2.4 *Option D—Folding* (Section 9).

1.3 The values stated in either SI units or in U.S. customary units shall be regarded separately as standard. 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:*²

[D123 Terminology Relating to Textiles](#)

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

¹ These test methods are under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D13 on Textiles and are the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D13.60 on Fabric Test Methods, Specific.

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² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

[D4850 Terminology Relating to Fabrics and Fabric Test Methods](#)

[E177 Practice for Use of the Terms Precision and Bias in ASTM Test Methods](#)

3. Terminology

3.1 For all terminology relating to D13.60, Fabric Test Methods, Specific, refer to Terminology [D4850](#).

3.1.1 The following terms are relevant to this standard: length, stable fabric, woven fabric

3.2 For definitions of other textile terms used in this test method, refer to Terminology [D123](#).

4. Summary of Test Methods

4.1 The length is measured from one end of the fabric to the other, using a suitable graduated device, or apparatus as described in the option used.

5. Conditioning

5.1 Condition the specimens as directed in Practice [D1776](#).

5.2 When full rolls or bolts of fabric cannot be properly conditioned in a reasonable time with available facilities, perform the tests without conditioning and report the actual conditions prevailing at the time of the test. Such results may not correspond with the results obtained after testing in the standard atmosphere for testing textiles.

6. Option A—Hand

6.1 *Significance and Use*—The hand method specifies that the length of a fabric be measured in a relaxed tension-free manner. This test method is the referee method to which all other test methods shall be compared for the establishment of their accuracy. This test method can be used for acceptance testing, although it is not used as a general practice because it is too time consuming.

6.1.1 In case of a dispute arising from differences in reported test values when using Test Methods D3773 for acceptance testing of commercial shipments, the purchaser and supplier should conduct 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 which are as homogeneous as possible and which are from a lot of material of the type in question. The test specimens should then be randomly assigned in equal numbers to each laboratory for testing. The average results from the two laboratories should be compared using Student's *t*-test for unpaired data and an acceptable probability level chosen by the two parties before testing is begun. If a bias is found, either its cause must be found and corrected or the purchaser and the supplier must agree to interpret future test results in the light of the known bias.

6.2 Apparatus:

6.2.1 *Flat Horizontal Surface*, at least 3 m [3 yd] long and having a width equal to or greater than the widest fabric to be measured.

6.2.2 *Length-Measuring Device, metal rule or steel tape*, 1 m [1 yd] minimum length graduated in 1 mm [$\frac{1}{16}$ in.] units, and

6.2.3 *Pins*, suitable for use as markers.

6.3 *Sampling*—Take a lot sample as directed in the material specification or as agreed upon by the purchaser and seller. In the absence of such specification or agreement, all rolls or pieces shall be measured. Consider rolls or bolts of fabric as the primary sampling units. The lot sample also serves as the laboratory sample and as the test specimens.

6.4 Procedure:

6.4.1 Lay the fabric on a smooth horizontal surface. Fabric must lay flat, without tension, and free from wrinkles and folds.

6.4.2 Using a minimum number of increments, measure successive lengths of fabric parallel to the selvage to the nearest 1 mm [$\frac{1}{16}$ in.], marking each length with pins.

6.4.3 Add the measurements to determine the length of the fabric.

7. Option B—Drum

7.1 *Significance and Use*—The drum option may be used for measuring the length of a fabric for the purpose of acceptance testing, provided the user's laboratory verifies for the specific weave and construction of interest that results obtained by this test method agree within $\pm 0.5\%$ of those obtained by the hand option. In cases of dispute the hand option shall be used.

7.2 Apparatus:

7.2.1 *Motor-Driven Measuring Drum*³, equipped with a dial or counter geared to the drum. The measuring drum is usually covered with fabric or cork. Synchronize the counting mechanism with the drum to read in metres [or yards].

7.2.2 *Standard Roll*, the length of which has been determined by the hand method.

7.3 *Sampling*—Sample as directed in 6.3.

7.4 Procedure:

7.4.1 Run the fabric over the measuring drum, face side up, with sufficient tension to keep the fabric running flat and true to prevent any slippage. Eliminate any observed slippage by adjusting one or two free running guide rollers to increase the

arc of contact between the fabric and the drum when necessary. The rollers should not touch the fabric in contact with the drum.

7.4.2 Read the length from the dial or counter geared to the drum. This reading represents the length measured under the tension existing while the fabric is running.

7.4.3 Calculate the average length for the lot.

8. Option C—Clock

8.1 *Significance and Use*—The clock option may be used for measuring the length of a fabric for the purpose of acceptance testing, provided the user's laboratory verifies for the specific weave and construction of interest that results obtained by this test method agree within $\pm 0.5\%$ of those obtained by the hand method. Use the device on any machine equipped to handle continuous lengths of fabric. In cases of dispute, the hand option shall be used.

8.2 Apparatus:

8.2.1 *Measuring Device*³, consisting of a pair of identical wheels, mounted 75 to 100 mm [3 to 4 in.] apart on a free-running common axle connected to a counting mechanism graduated to read in metres or decimetres [yards and eighths of a yard]. The surfaces of the wheels are approximately 10 mm [$\frac{1}{2}$ in.] wide and should be covered with cork or other suitable friction material ground to a known circumference. Synchronize the counting mechanism to this circumference so that it will read in metres [yards].

8.2.2 *Standard Roll*, the length of which has been determined by the hand option.

8.3 *Sampling*—Sample as directed in 6.3.

8.4 Procedure:

8.4.1 Mount the measuring device in such a way that the movement of the fabric through the machine will turn the wheels.

8.4.2 Run the fabric through the measuring device. Read the length of fabric directly from the counter. This reading represents the length measured under the tension existing while the fabric is running.

8.4.3 Calculate the average length for the lot.

9. Option D—Folding

9.1 *Significance and Use*—The machine folding option is generally applicable for measuring the length of soft uncoated fabrics weighing 200 g/m² [6 oz/yd²] or less. However, the test method may be used with any fabric for the purpose of acceptance testing provided the user's laboratory verifies that results obtained by this test method agree within $\pm 0.5\%$ of those obtained by the hand option for the specific weave or construction of interest.

9.2 Apparatus:

9.2.1 *Mechanical Device*³, that folds a known length of fabric at each stroke.

9.2.2 *Rigid Measuring Device*, such as a metre stick graduated in 1-mm units or a yard stick graduated in $\frac{1}{16}$ -in. units.

9.3 *Sampling*—Sample as directed in 6.3.

9.4 Procedure:

³ Apparatus is commercially available.