



Designation: D5485 – 21

Standard Test Method for Determining Corrosive Effect of Combustion Products Using the Cone Corrosimeter¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D5485; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

1. Scope

1.1 This fire-test-response standard measures the corrosive effect by loss of metal from the combustion products of materials, components, or products.

1.2 This test method provides corrosion results of product and material specimens limited to a maximum size of 100 by 100 mm in area and 50 mm thick.

1.3 Additional information regarding the targets, the test conditions, and test limitations is provided in [Annex A1](#).

1.4 The results of this test method have not been investigated with respect to correlation to actual fires.

1.5 An ISO standard exists, as developed by ISO TC 61 (Plastics), subcommittee 4 (on burning behavior), which is technically very similar to this test method and is designated ISO 11907-4.

1.6 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as standard. No other units of measurement are included in this standard. (See IEEE/ASTM [SI10](#).)

1.7 *This standard measures and describes the response of materials, products, or assemblies to heat and flame under controlled conditions, but does not by itself incorporate all factors required for fire hazard or fire risk assessment of the materials, products, or assemblies under actual fire conditions.*

1.8 *Fire testing is inherently hazardous. Adequate safeguards for personnel and property shall be employed in conducting these tests.*

1.9 *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.* For specific hazard statements, see Section 7.

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D09 on Electrical and Electronic Insulating Materials and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D09.17 on Fire and Thermal Properties.

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1.10 *This international standard was developed in accordance with internationally recognized principles on standardization established in the Decision on Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations issued by the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

D618 Practice for Conditioning Plastics for Testing
D1711 Terminology Relating to Electrical Insulation
D6113 Test Method for Using a Cone Calorimeter to Determine Fire-Test-Response Characteristics of Insulating Materials Contained in Electrical or Optical Fiber Cables

E176 Terminology of Fire Standards

E603 Guide for Room Fire Experiments

E906/E906M Test Method for Heat and Visible Smoke Release Rates for Materials and Products Using a Thermopile Method

E1354 Test Method for Heat and Visible Smoke Release Rates for Materials and Products Using an Oxygen Consumption Calorimeter

IEEE/ASTM SI-10 Standard for Use of the International System of Units (SI): The Modern Metric System

2.2 ISO Standards:³

ISO 11907-4 Plastics—Smoke Generation—Determination of the Corrosivity of Fire Effluents—Part 4: Dynamic Decomposition Method Using a Conical Radiant Heater

ISO 13943 Fire safety — Vocabulary

2.3 Other Documents:

OSHA 191.1450 Occupational Exposure to Hazard Chemicals in Laboratories⁴

IEC 60695-4 Fire hazard testing - Part 4: Terminology

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

³ Available from International Organization for Standardization (ISO), ISO Central Secretariat, Chemin de Blandonnet 8, CP 401, 1214 Vernier, Geneva, Switzerland, <https://www.iso.org>.

⁴ Available from Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), 200 Constitution Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20210, <http://www.osha.gov>.

concerning fire tests for electrotechnical products⁵

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions:

3.1.1 For definitions of terms used in this test method and associated with fire issues use Terminology E176, ISO 13943, and IEC 60695-4. Where differences exist in definitions, those contained in Terminology E176 shall be used. Use Terminology D1711 for definitions of terms used in this test method and associated with electrical insulation materials.

3.2 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.2.1 *cone corrosimeter*, n —equipment used to determine corrosion in this test method.

3.2.2 *corrosion-by-metal-loss*, n —loss of metal of a target expressed as reduction of thickness of the target metal.

3.2.3 *exposure chamber*, n —enclosure in which a target is exposed to combustion products.

3.2.4 *heat flux*, n —heat transfer to a surface per unit area, per unit time (see also *initial test heat flux*).

3.2.4.1 *Discussion*—The heat flux from an energy source, such as a radiant heater, can be measured at the initiation of a test (such as Test Method E1354 or E906/E906M) and then reported as the initial test heat flux, with the understanding that the burning of the test specimen can generate additional heat flux to the specimen surface. The heat flux can also be measured at any time during a fire test, for example as described in Guide E603, on any surface, and with measurement devices responding to radiative and convective fluxes. Typical units are kW/m^2 , W/cm^2 , or $\text{BTU}/(\text{s ft}^2)$.

3.2.5 *initial test heat flux*, n —the heat flux set on the test apparatus at the initiation of the test (see also *heat flux*).

3.2.5.1 *Discussion*—The initial test heat flux is the heat flux value commonly used when describing or setting test conditions.

3.2.6 *sustained flaming*, n —existence of flame on or over the surface of the test specimen for periods of 4 s or more.

3.2.6.1 *Discussion*—Flaming ignition of less than 4 s is identified as transitory flaming or flashing.

3.2.7 *target*, n —detector of known electrical resistance which can lose metal through a process of corrosion when it is exposed to combustion products.

3.3 Symbols:

3.3.1 A_0 —initial corrosion instrument reading

3.3.2 A_1 —corrosion instrument reading at the end of 1-h exposure to combustion products

3.3.3 A_{24} —corrosion instrument reading at the end of 24 h in the environmental chamber

3.3.4 C —corrosion of a target, nm

3.3.5 C_1 —corrosion at the end of 1-h exposure to combustion products, nm

3.3.6 C_{24} —corrosion at the end of 24 h in the environmental chamber, nm

3.3.7 m —specimen mass, g

3.3.8 m_f —final specimen mass, g

3.3.9 m_i —initial specimen mass, g

3.3.10 m_{70} —average 70 % of the total mass loss, g

3.3.11 t_d —sampling time, s

3.3.12 T_e —temperature of the gas in the exposure chamber, °C

3.3.13 V —volumetric sampling rate of combustion products, m^3/s

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 In this test method, a specimen is subjected to radiant heat. A spark igniter is used to ignite the combustible vapors. The products of decomposition or combustion are channeled through a funnel. A portion of the products continuously flows through an exposure chamber which holds the corrosion targets until the specimen has lost an average 70 % of the total combustible mass or for a period of 60 min, whichever is less. The corrosion of the target is determined by exposure of the target to combustion products for 1 h, followed by 24-h exposure of the target to a controlled humidity and temperature environment in a separate chamber. The increase in electrical resistance of each target is monitored, and the reduction in thickness of the metal on the target is calculated from the increase in electrical resistance. This reduction in thickness is referred to as corrosion-by-metal-loss.

4.2 This test method involves the use of a cone corrosimeter as described in Section 7 and shown in Fig. 1.

4.3 Alternate equipment found suitable for this test method is the cone calorimeter (see Test Method E1354), with the addition of the gas sampling system described in this test method.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 The metal loss from corrosion is directly related to the increase in electrical resistance of the target due to the decrease in conductive cross-sectional area.

5.2 The relationship between resistance increase of metallic targets used in this test method and the amount of metal loss as reported by a uniform loss in thickness has not been determined.

5.3 This test method is used to determine the corrosive effect of combustion products from burning electrical insulations or coverings or their constituent materials or components. Corrosion is determined by the reduction of thickness of the metal on standardized targets, as measured by electrical resistance. These targets are not necessarily representative of the intended end use.

5.4 This test method is intended for use in electrical insulations or coverings material and product evaluations, for additional data to assist in design of electrical insulations or coverings products, or for development and research of electrical insulations or coverings products.

⁵ Available from International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), 3, rue de Varembe, 1st floor, P.O. Box 131, CH-1211, Geneva 20, Switzerland, <https://www.iec.ch>.

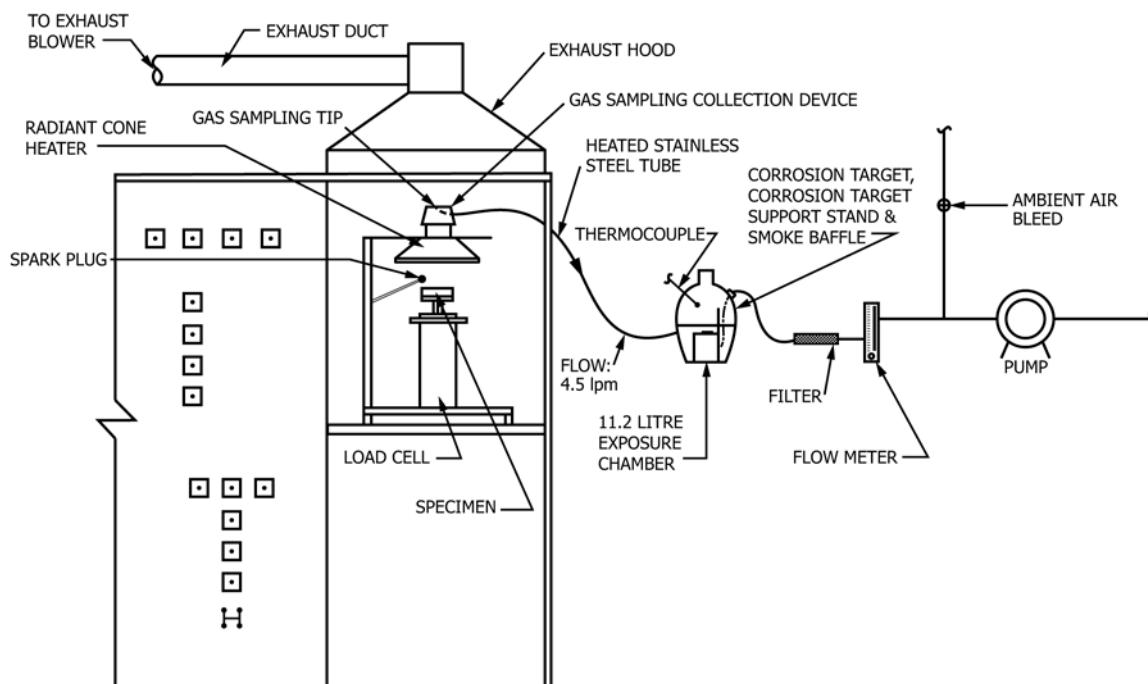


FIG. 1 Cone Corrosimeter

5.5 A value of the initial test heat flux is selected to be relevant to the fire scenario being investigated (up to 100 kW/m^2). Additional information for testing is given in A1.2.3.

6. Interferences

6.1 Discard the test data if any of the following occur:

6.1.1 Leakage occurs between the sampling point and the exit of the exposure chamber which could cause a dilution of gases.

6.1.2 The specimen swells sufficiently prior to ignition to touch the spark plug or swells into the plane of the heater base plate during combustion.

6.1.3 The specimen drips off the specimen holder or falls out of the specimen holder such that the specimen is not subjected to the test exposure conditions.

6.1.4 There is highly localized corrosion of the target, indicating a defective target.

6.1.5 There is visual degradation of the reference circuit by the attack of combustion products on or under the protective coating.

7. Apparatus

7.1 General:

7.1.1 This test method uses the cone corrosimeter described in 7.1.3. Alternatively, the cone calorimeter test equipment is acceptable provided that it is equipped with a gas sampling system as described in 7.8. If the cone calorimeter is used to assess the fire properties of insulating materials contained in electrical or optical fiber cables, the test shall be conducted in accordance with Test Method D6113, which was developed specifically for that purpose.

7.1.2 The dimensions of the cone corrosimeter specimen holder and additional equipment used in collection of gas samples are given in Figs. 1-11 and also stated in the following description.

7.1.3 The cone corrosimeter consists of the following main components: conical-shaped radiant electric heater, temperature controller, load cell, electric ignition spark plug, heat-flux gauge, exhaust system, specimen holder, and the gas sampling system. Other essential elements needed to measure corrosion are a corrosion target and a device to measure corrosion (see 7.9). A general view of the cone corrosimeter is shown in Fig. 1.

7.2 Conical Heater:

7.2.1 The active element of the heater consists of an electrical heater rod, rated at 5000 W at 240 V, tightly wound into the shape of a truncated cone (Fig. 2). The heater is encased on the outside with a double-wall stainless steel cone, and packed with a refractory fiber material of approximately 100-kg/m^3 density.

7.2.2 The heater is capable of producing heat flux on the surface of the specimen of up to 100 kW/m^2 with a uniformity of $\pm 2\%$ within the central 50 by 50 mm area of the specimen.

7.2.3 The heat flux from the heater is held at a preset level by means of a temperature controller and three Type K stainless-steel-sheathed thermocouples having an outside diameter of 1.5 to 1.6 mm with an unexposed hot junction. Alternatively, either 3 mm outside diameter sheathed thermocouples with an exposed hot junction, or 1 mm outside diameter sheathed thermocouples with an unexposed hot junction are suitable. They are symmetrically disposed and in contact with, but not welded to, the heater element (see Fig. 2).