



Designation: D6841 – 21

# Standard Practice for Calculating Design Value Treatment Adjustment Factors for Fire-Retardant-Treated Lumber<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D6841; 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 ( $\epsilon$ ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

## 1. Scope

1.1 This practice covers procedures for calculating adjustment factors that account for the effects of fire-retardant treatment on design properties of lumber. The adjustment factors calculated in accordance with this practice are to be applied to design values for untreated lumber in order to determine design values for fire-retardant-treated lumber used at ambient temperatures [service temperatures up to 100 °F (38 °C)] and as framing in roof systems.

NOTE 1—This analysis focuses on the relative performance of treated and untreated materials tested after equilibrating to ambient conditions following a controlled exposure to specified conditions of high temperature and humidity. Elevated temperature, moisture, load duration, and other factors typically accounted for in the design of untreated lumber must also be considered in the design of fire-retardant-treated lumber, but are outside the scope of the treatment adjustments developed under this practice.

1.2 These adjustment factors for the design properties in bending, tension parallel to grain, compression parallel to grain, horizontal shear, and modulus of elasticity are based on the results of strength tests of matched treated and untreated small clear wood specimens after conditioning at nominal room temperatures [72 °F (22 °C)] and of other similar specimens after exposure at 150 °F (66 °C). The test data are developed in accordance with Test Method D5664. Guidelines are provided for establishing adjustment factors for the property of compression perpendicular to grain and for connection design values.

1.3 Treatment adjustment factors for roof framing applications are based on thermal load profiles for normal wood roof construction used in a variety of climates as defined by weather tapes of the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers, Inc. (ASHRAE).<sup>2</sup> The solar loads, moisture conditions, ventilation rates, and other parameters used in the computer model were selected to represent typical

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<sup>2</sup> Available from American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers, Inc. (ASHRAE), 1791 Tullie Circle, NE, Atlanta, GA 30329, <http://www.ashrae.org>.

sloped roof designs. The thermal loads in this practice are applicable to roof slopes of 3 in 12 or steeper, to roofs designed with vent areas and vent locations conforming to national standards of practice and to designs in which the bottom side of the roof sheathing is exposed to ventilation air. For designs that do not have one or more of these base-line features, the applicability of this practice needs to be documented by the user.

1.4 The procedures of this practice parallel those given in Practice D6305. General references and commentary in Practice D6305 are also applicable to this practice.

1.5 The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as standard. The SI units listed in parentheses are provided for information only and are not considered standard.

1.6 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety, health, and environmental practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

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

## 2. Referenced Documents

### 2.1 ASTM Standards:<sup>3</sup>

D9 Terminology Relating to Wood and Wood-Based Products

D5664 Test Method for Evaluating the Effects of Fire-Retardant Treatments and Elevated Temperatures on Strength Properties of Fire-Retardant Treated Lumber

D6305 Practice for Calculating Bending Strength Design Adjustment Factors for Fire-Retardant-Treated Plywood Roof Sheathing

<sup>3</sup> For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, [www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org), or contact ASTM Customer Service at [service@astm.org](mailto:service@astm.org). For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

### 3. Terminology

#### 3.1 Definitions:

3.1.1 Definitions used in this practice are in accordance with Terminology **D9**.

#### 3.2 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.2.1 *bin mean temperature*—10 °F (5.5 °C) temperature ranges having mean temperatures of 105 (41), 115 (46), 125 (52), 135 (57), 145 (63), 155 (68), 165 (74), 175 (79), and 185 °F (85 °C).

3.2.2 *thermal load profile*—the cumulative time per year in each 10°F (5.5°C) temperature bin.

### 4. Summary of Practice

4.1 Test results developed in accordance with Test Method **D5664** are used in conjunction with thermal load profiles to calculate treatment factors that are applied to published design values for untreated lumber. These treatment adjustment factors account for the combined effect of fire-retardant-treatment and service temperatures.

### 5. Significance and Use

5.1 Fire-retardant-treatments are used to reduce the flame-spread characteristics of wood. Chemicals and redrying conditions employed in treatments are known to modify the strength properties of the wood product being treated. This practice establishes the procedures for determining adjustment factors that account for the isolated effects of fire-retardant treatment on design properties of lumber. These effects are established relative to performance of untreated lumber.

5.2 The effect of fire-retardant treatments on the strength of lumber used in roof framing applications is time related. In this practice, the cumulative effect on strength of annual thermal loads from all temperature bins is increased 50 times to establish treatment adjustment factors for fire-retardant treated lumber roof framing.

5.3 The procedures of Test Method **D5664** employ an elevated temperature intended to produce strength losses in a short period of time. Although the exposure is much more severe than that which occurs in an actual roof system, the chemical reactions that occur in the laboratory test are considered to be the same as those occurring over long periods of time in the field.

5.4 Treatment adjustment factors developed under this practice apply to lumber installed in accordance with construction practices recommended by the fire-retardant chemical manufacturer which include avoidance of direct wetting, precipitation or frequent condensation. Application of this practice is limited to roof applications with design consistent with **1.3**.

### 6. Test Data

6.1 Test Method **D5664** describes the procedures used to obtain the data needed to calculate the ratios of average treated and average untreated values for the strength properties.

6.1.1 Procedure 1 of Test Method **D5664** provides data for comparing the initial effects of fire-retardant treatments to untreated controls for bending, tension parallel, compression

parallel, and horizontal shear properties. The procedure uses small clear specimens.

6.1.2 Procedure 2 of Test Method **D5664** provides data for assessing the differential trends between treated and untreated specimens on bending and tension parallel properties over the course of a prolonged exposure to elevated temperature. The procedure uses small clear specimens.

6.1.3 Procedure 3 of Test Method **D5664** is an optional procedure to provide additional information on size effects. The results are used to modify the test results for the small clear specimens of Procedure 1 and 2.

6.2 In Test Method **D5664**, specimens subjected to prolonged exposure to elevated temperature are exposed in a controlled environment of  $150 \pm 4^\circ\text{F}$  ( $66 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ ) and  $\geq 50\%$  relative humidity (RH). Durations of exposure are 36, 72, and 108 days.

NOTE 2—Exposure durations may vary  $-0\%$ ,  $+5\%$  to allow convenient scheduling for the laboratory conducting the test.

### 7. Calculation of Strength Loss Rates

7.1 For each species and property evaluated, calculate the ratio of the average treated value to the average untreated value for the specimens conditioned at room temperature only (unexposed specimens) and for specimens exposed for the same period of time at elevated temperature.

7.1.1 The treated and untreated specimen averages used to calculate each ratio shall include the same number of specimens and each treated specimen value shall be matched to an untreated specimen value obtained from the same source piece of lumber.

NOTE 3—Test data show that the ratio of average treated and average untreated values is a more conservative measure of treatment effect than the median or the average of the individual matched specimen ratios.

7.2 The ratio of the average property value for unexposed treated specimens to the average value for unexposed untreated specimens shall be designated the initial treatment ratio,  $R_o$ .

7.3 Using the ratios of average property values of treated to untreated specimens exposed to elevated temperature for the same period of time,  $R_{it}$ , determine by least squares the linear regression in the form of **Eq 1**.

$$R_{it} = a + k_t (D) \quad (1)$$

where:

$R_{it}$  = ratio of average property value of treated specimens to average property value of untreated specimens,

$D$  = number of days of elevated temperature exposure,

$a$  = intercept, and

$k_t$  = slope, strength loss rate.

7.3.1 The ratio,  $R_o$ , for unexposed specimens (conditioned at room temperature only) shall be included in the regression analysis.

7.3.2 A property for which the strength loss rate,  $k_t$ , is not negative is assumed to be unaffected by the elevated temperature exposure.

7.3.3 The strength loss rate,  $k_t$ , shall be adjusted to a 50 % RH basis by the equation:

$$k_{50} = k_t (50/RH_t) \quad (2)$$

where:

$k_{50}$  = strength loss rate at 50 % RH, and  
 $RH_i$  = relative humidity in elevated temperature test.

7.4 Calculate strength loss per day rates for bin mean temperatures of 105 (41), 115 (46), 125 (52), 135 (57), 145 (63), 155 (68), 165 (74), 175 (79), and 185 °F (85 °C) using the Arrhenius equation:

$$\ln \frac{k_{50,i}}{k_2} = \frac{E_a(T_1 - T_2)}{RT_1T_2} \quad (3)$$

where:

$k_2$  = strength loss rate at bin mean temperature,  
 $E_a$  = 21 810 cal/mol, (1)<sup>4,5</sup> (91 253 J/mol),  
 $R$  = 1.987 cal/mol-K (8.314 J/mol-K), gas constant,  
 $T_1$  = test temperature, K, and  
 $T_2$  = bin mean temperature, K.

7.4.1 Where the treatment effect was evaluated at more than one elevated temperature [for example 130°F (54°C) and 150°F (66°C)], the strength loss rates associated with the bin mean temperatures shall be calculated for each temperature separately and the rates averaged for determination of capacity loss values associated with thermal load profiles.

NOTE 4—This practice constructs an Arrhenius plot using classical chemical kinetics techniques, which is the simplest modeling approach. Other more sophisticated modeling techniques are available but require a different procedure for calculating strength loss rate (2, 3).<sup>6</sup>

## 8. Calculating Capacity Loss for Roof Framing Applications

8.1 Thermal load profiles applicable to roof framing are given in Table 1. The loads represent the cumulative days per year framing temperatures fall within 10°F (5.5°C) of the bin mean temperatures of 105 (41), 115 (46), 125 (52), 135 (57),

<sup>4</sup> The boldface numbers in parentheses refer to a list of references at the end of this standard.

<sup>5</sup> Pasek and McIntyre (1) have shown that the Arrhenius parameter,  $E_a$ , for phosphate-based retardants for wood averages 21 810 cal/mol (91 253 J/mol). Other values are appropriate for fire retardants that are not phosphate based.

<sup>6</sup> A description of other models is available in Refs (2, 3).

TABLE 1 Reference Thermal Load Profiles

Bin Mean Temperature, °F (°C)	Cumulative days per year					
	Bottom of roof sheathing/attic air			Attic air		
	Zone 1A <sup>A</sup>	Zone 1B <sup>A</sup>	Zone 2 <sup>A</sup>	Zone 1A <sup>A</sup>	Zone 1B <sup>A</sup>	Zone 2 <sup>A</sup>
105 (41)	11.194	25.584	6.233	11.613	22.720	5.236
115 (46)	9.248	9.326	2.232	9.697	5.236	0.416
125 (52)	7.846	3.097	0.766	7.782	--	--
135 (57)	2.987	0.947	0.180	1.383	--	--
145 (63)	1.526	0.024	0.009	0.020	--	--
155 (68)	0.652	--	--	--	--	--
165 (74)	0.005	--	--	--	--	--
175 (79)	0.005	--	--	--	--	--
185 (85)	0.010	--	--	--	--	--

<sup>A</sup> Zone definitions:

Zone 1: Where minimum roof live load or maximum ground snow load  $\leq$ 20 psf (960 Pa).

Zone 1A: Southwest Arizona and Southeast Nevada (Area bound by Las Vegas, Yuma, Phoenix, and Tucson).

Zone 1B: All other qualifying areas.

Zone 2: Where maximum ground snow load >20 psf (960 Pa).

145 (63), 155 (68), 165 (74), 175 (79), and 185°F (85°C). Tabulated values are based on a verified attic temperature and moisture content model developed by the USDA, Forest Service Forest Products Laboratory (4) and reference year weather tapes. Input parameters used in the model were a 3 in 12 roof slope, south exposure, roofing absorptive factor of 0.65 and ventilation rate of 8 air changes per hour (ach).

NOTE 5—Additional information on the computer model and the input parameters used is given in Practice D6305.

8.1.1 Two thermal load profiles are given in Table 1. The first profile shall be used with all properties except tension parallel to grain. This profile represents a weighted average of bin temperature days for the bottom of the roof sheathing and for the attic air with weights of 0.25 and 0.75 respectively. The second load profile shall be used for tension parallel to grain and is based on bin temperature days for the attic air.

NOTE 6—Field temperatures for upper and lower chords of roof rafters (truss) for two locations have been studied (5) (Fig. 1). This data indicates that the upper chord temperature tracks closely with the attic air temperature. The use of a weighted average of bottom sheathing and attic air temperatures for properties other than tension parallel to grain represent a conservative approach for locations where field data is not available.

NOTE 7—Thermal load profiles in Practice D6305 represent the binning of the average of the hour by hour temperatures at the top and bottom of the roof sheathing.

NOTE 8—Thermal loads in Table 1 have been indexed to a 50 % RH basis by multiplying model generated loads by the ratio of the time weighted average attic RH for all temperatures of 80°F and above and 50 %. The adjustment is based on the use of a linear adjustment of test strength loss rates for RH and the use of a linear regression model to characterize strength loss over time.

8.2 Calculate capacity loss for each property as the negative value of the rates ( $k_2$ ) as determined in 7.4 for each bin temperature by the cumulative days per year for that bin for the applicable zone and property from Table 1. The summation of the capacity loss values for each temperature bin shall be designated as the total annual capacity loss (CLT) for that property and zone.

## 9. Treatment Adjustment Factors

9.1 For each property and zone, a treatment adjustment factor for design values shall be calculated as:

$$TF = [1 - IT - n(CF)(CLT)] \quad (4)$$

where:

$TF$  = treatment adjustment factor,  
 $IT$  = initial treatment effect =  $1 - R_o$ ,  
 $n$  = number of iterations = 50,  
 $CF$  = cyclic loading factor = 0.6, and  
 $CLT$  = total annual capacity loss.

9.1.1 Where a property has been evaluated at more than one elevated temperature,  $IT$  in Eq 4 shall be taken as the average of the  $R_o$  ratio for each temperature data set.

9.2 Where the properties of compression parallel to grain and horizontal shear have not been evaluated at elevated temperatures for a species, the  $CLT$  determined for bending and for tension parallel to grain, whichever is greater, shall be used in Eq 4 to determine treatment adjustment factors for these properties.