



Standard Test Method for Tensile Strength and Breaking Tenacity of Wool Fiber Bundles 1-in. (25.4-mm) Gage Length¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D1294; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

1. Scope

1.1 This test method covers the determination of the breaking force (or load) and estimation of the tensile strength and tenacity of wool fiber bundles with a 1-in. (25.4-mm) gage length. A procedure for preparation of the fiber bundle is included.

1.2 The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as standard; the values in SI units are provided for information only. Because the instrument is calibrated in inch-pound units, inch-pound units are shown first, contrary to Committee D13 policy.

NOTE 1—For other methods of measuring breaking tenacity of fiber bundles, refer to Test Methods [D1445](#) and [D2524](#).

NOTE 2—This test method can be used for other fibers that lend themselves to the same kind of preparation but the difference in density must be taken into account when calculating the tensile strength. It is not necessary to know or correct for the density of a fiber when calculating breaking tenacity.

1.3 *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 and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

- [D76 Specification for Tensile Testing Machines for Textiles](#)
- [D123 Terminology Relating to Textiles](#)
- [D1445 Test Method for Breaking Strength and Elongation of Cotton Fibers \(Flat Bundle Method\)](#)
- [D1776 Practice for Conditioning and Testing Textiles](#)
- [D2524 Test Method for Breaking Tenacity of Wool Fibers, Flat Bundle Method— \$\frac{1}{8}\$ -in. \(3.2-mm\) Gage Length](#)
- [D2525 Practice for Sampling Wool for Moisture](#)

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee [D13](#) on Textiles and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee [D13.13](#) on Wool and Felt.

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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.

[D4845 Terminology Relating to Wool](#)

3. Terminology

3.1 For all terminology related to Wool and Wool Felt, [D13.13](#), refer to Terminology [D4845](#).

3.1.1 The following terms are relevant to this standard: gage length, recycled wool, tenacity, tensile strength, wool (as defined in the Wool Products Labeling Act of 1939).

3.2 For all other terminology related to textiles see Terminology [D123](#).

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 The strength determination is based on the load required to break a bundle of fibers which had been parallelized and held under uniform tension with masking tape. A 1-in. (25.4-mm) spacing between the tapes (and clamps at the zero setting) makes possible the cutting and weighing of this amount of fiber for use in calculating the strength expressed as breaking tenacity in grams-force per tex or tensile strength in pounds-force per square inch.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 Test Method [D1294](#) for the determination of tensile strength may be used for the acceptance testing of commercial shipments of wool, but caution is advised since technicians may fail to get good agreement between results. Comparative tests as directed in [5.1.1](#) may be advisable.

5.1.1 If there are differences of practical significance between reported test results for two laboratories (or more), comparative test should be performed to determine if there is a statistical bias between them, using competent statistical assistance. As a minimum, use the samples for such a comparative test that are as homogenous as possible, drawn from the same lot of material as the samples that resulted in disparate results during initial testing and randomly assigned in equal numbers to each laboratory. The test results from the laboratories involved should be compared using a statistical test for unpaired data, a probability level chosen prior to the testing series. If bias is found, either its cause must be found and corrected, or future test results for that material must be adjusted in consideration of the known bias.

5.2 This test method is useful in studying the relationship between fiber strength and product quality; results should be considered comparative rather than fundamental since the strength found will be lower than the sum of the strengths of the individual fibers present due to slight differences in tensioning.

5.3 Elongation may be obtained also but the accuracy of elongation measurements is limited and their determination is, therefore, not included as a formal part of this test method.

5.4 The basic differences between the procedures employed in this test method and those of Test Method **D2524** are in the gage lengths employed and the methods of clamping. In Test Method **D2524**, specific clamps are required whereas in Test Method **D1294**, any conventional clamps may be used. Results for breaking load determined by Test Method **D2524** average 30 % higher than those obtained by Test Method **D1294**.

6. Apparatus and Materials

6.1 *Comb*, fine, sharp.³

6.2 *Analytical Balance*, with a sensitivity of 0.0001 g.

6.3 *Tensile Testing Machine*, a CRE or CRT Type about 50-lb (22-kg) capacity machine as prescribed in Specification **D76**, capable of operating the moving clamp at a uniform speed of 10.0 ± 0.5 in./min (250 ± 12 mm/min). If a CRL type machine is used, it should be capable of operating at a rate of loading of 1 kgf/s (10 N/s). In no case shall the working range be outside the limits recommended by the manufacturer.

NOTE 3—There may be no overall correlation between the results obtained with the CRE, CRT, or CRL type testing machines. Consequently, these three machines cannot be used interchangeably.

6.4 *Metal Plates*, 2 by 1-in. (50.8 by 25.4-mm) with one rubber-covered surface. The plates should be rigid, flat, and approximately 0.1 in. (2.5 mm) thick with one rubber face approximately 0.06 in. (1.5 mm) thick (Note 4). Two plates are required to prepare a bundle for testing.

NOTE 4—These plates can be made by gluing rubber sheeting approximately 0.06 in. (1.5 mm) thick to the face of the plate.

6.5 *Hand Vise*,³ preferably of the spring-type.

6.6 *Masking Tape*, 2-in. (50-mm) wide, heavy.

7. Sampling

7.1 *Division into Lots*—Treat a single shipment of a single fiber type as a lot.

7.2 *Lot Sample*—As a lot sample for acceptance testing, take at random the number of shipping containers directed in an applicable material specification or other agreement between the purchaser and the supplier, such as an agreement to use Practice **D2525**. Consider shipping containers to be the primary sampling units.

7.3 *Laboratory Sample*—For acceptance testing, take a laboratory sample from each shipping container in the lot sample as follows:

7.3.1 For loose fiber, grease, and scoured wool, reduce the mass of clean fiber submitted for testing to approximately 15 g by randomly selecting pieces throughout the mass. Form into a loose sliver by hand.

7.3.2 For card sliver and top, cut a length of sliver about 20 in. (500 mm) long from each ball submitted for testing.

7.3.3 For roving, cut a length about 20 in. (500 mm) long from each spool submitted for testing and include all ends.

7.4 *Test Specimens*—Scour or solvent-extract the laboratory sample until residual contamination is 1 % or less of the laboratory mass, as established by further cleaning of a part of the laboratory sample. From each unit in the laboratory sample, prepare five test specimens as directed in 9.1.

8. Preconditioning and Conditioning

8.1 Bring the laboratory sample to moisture equilibrium for testing in the standard atmosphere for testing textiles, as directed in Practice **D1776**.

9. Preparation of Specimens

9.1 Prepare each specimen by drawing small groups of fibers from at least five locations in a unit of the laboratory sample. Parallelize and combine them in a bundle which may be held conveniently between the thumb and forefinger. Choose the size of the bundle so that in the final bundle the 1-in. (25.4-mm) length of fiber between the clamps of the testing machine has a mass of between 15 and 25 mg.

9.2 Transfer one end of the bundle to the hand vise and comb the rest of the bundle to remove the short fibers and to parallelize the remainder (see Fig. 1).

9.3 Transfer the hand vise to the other end of the bundle and repeat the combing operation.

NOTE 5—The procedure described in 9.2 and 9.3 may have to be repeated several times until the fibers are parallel.

9.4 Tension the fibers between the vise and the fingers as uniformly as possible (Fig. 2) and lay them across the rubber-faced plate (Fig. 3). On top of this plate and the fibers, place a second plate (Fig. 4) and hold it in place. Maintain pressure between these two plates, first by hand and then by vise (Fig. 5), until the masking tape is applied. Apply 1-in. (25.4-mm) squares of heavy masking tape to the protruding ends on each side of the plates on both top and bottom surfaces of the bundle (Fig. 6). During this application, tension the protruding fibers as evenly as possible while laying them across the masking tape. The final bundles should look like those shown in Fig. 7 with a 1-in. (25.4-mm) spacing between the tapes. The specimens are now ready to test.

10. Procedure

10.1 Test the conditioned specimens in the standard atmosphere for testing textiles.

10.2 Insert the conditioned test specimen in the testing machine using a gage length of 1 in. (25.4 mm) and break the test specimen in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

³ The comb and hand vise supplied with the Suter Sorter wool fiber stapling apparatus are suitable for this test method and are available from the Alfred Suter Co., Inc., Prel Plaza, Orangeburg, NY 10962.