



Standard Practice for Enclosed Carbon-Arc Exposure Tests of Paint and Related Coatings¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D5031/D5031M; 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 practice covers the selection of test conditions for accelerated exposure testing of coatings and related products in enclosed carbon arc devices operated according to Practices [G151](#) and [G153](#). This practice also covers the preparation of test specimens, the test conditions suited for coatings, and the evaluation of test results. [Table 1](#) describes commonly used test conditions.

1.2 This practice does not cover filtered open-flame carbon-arc exposures of paints and related coatings, which is described in Practice [D822/D822M](#). Another procedure for exposing these products is covered by Practice [D3361/D3361M](#), in which the specimens are subjected to radiation from an unfiltered open-flame carbon arc that produces shorter wavelengths and higher levels of short wavelength radiation than filtered open flame or enclosed carbon arcs.

NOTE 1—Practice [D3361/D3361M](#) requires use of open-flame carbon-arc apparatus with automatic humidity control.

1.3 The values stated in either SI units or inch-pound units are to be regarded separately as standard. The values stated in each system may not be exact equivalents; therefore, each system shall be used independently of the other. Combining values from the two systems may result in non-conformance with the standard.

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

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

¹ This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee [D01](#) on Paint and Related Coatings, Materials, and Applications and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee [D01.27](#) on Accelerated Testing.

Current edition approved Oct. 1, 2013. Published October 2013. Originally approved in 1989. Last previous edition approved in 2006 as D5031 – 01 (2006). DOI: 10.1520/D5031_D5031M-13.

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.

- [D358](#) Specification for Wood to Be Used as Panels in Weathering Tests of Coatings (Withdrawn 2014)³
- [D523](#) Test Method for Specular Gloss
- [D609](#) Practice for Preparation of Cold-Rolled Steel Panels for Testing Paint, Varnish, Conversion Coatings, and Related Coating Products
- [D610](#) Practice for Evaluating Degree of Rusting on Painted Steel Surfaces
- [D659](#) Method for Evaluating Degree of Chalking of Exterior Paints (Withdrawn 1990)³
- [D660](#) Test Method for Evaluating Degree of Checking of Exterior Paints
- [D662](#) Test Method for Evaluating Degree of Erosion of Exterior Paints
- [D714](#) Test Method for Evaluating Degree of Blistering of Paints
- [D772](#) Test Method for Evaluating Degree of Flaking (Scaling) of Exterior Paints
- [D822/D822M](#) Practice for Filtered Open-Flame Carbon-Arc Exposures of Paint and Related Coatings
- [D823](#) Practices for Producing Films of Uniform Thickness of Paint, Varnish, and Related Products on Test Panels
- [D1005](#) Test Method for Measurement of Dry-Film Thickness of Organic Coatings Using Micrometers
- [D1186](#) Test Methods for Nondestructive Measurement of Dry Film Thickness of Nonmagnetic Coatings Applied to a Ferrous Base (Withdrawn 2006)³
- [D1400](#) Test Method for Nondestructive Measurement of Dry Film Thickness of Nonconductive Coatings Applied to a Nonferrous Metal Base (Withdrawn 2006)³
- [D1729](#) Practice for Visual Appraisal of Colors and Color Differences of Diffusely-Illuminated Opaque Materials
- [D1730](#) Practices for Preparation of Aluminum and Aluminum-Alloy Surfaces for Painting
- [D2244](#) Practice for Calculation of Color Tolerances and Color Differences from Instrumentally Measured Color Coordinates
- [D2616](#) Test Method for Evaluation of Visual Color Difference With a Gray Scale

³ The last approved version of this historical standard is referenced on www.astm.org.

*A Summary of Changes section appears at the end of this standard

TABLE 1 Test Cycles Commonly Used for Enclosed Carbon-Arc Exposure Testing of Paints and Related Coatings^A

| Cycle Number | Cycle Description ^{B,C} | Uninsulated Black Panel Temperature ^{B,C,D} | | Typical Uses ^E |
|--------------|--|--|-------------------|---|
| | | °C | °F | |
| 1 | Continuous light 102 min light only at 50 ± 10 % RH 18 min light and water spray ^G Repeated continuously | 63 ± 2.5 | 145 ± 5 | General coatings and historical convention ^F |
| 2 | 18 h continuous light using: 102 min light only at 50 ± 10 % RH 18 min light and water spray ^G 6 h dark using: 95 % relative humidity (no water spray) Repeated continuously | 63 ± 2.5 24 ± 1.5 | 145 ± 5 75 ± 3 | General coatings |
| 3 | 48 min light at 50 ± 10 % RH 12 min light and water spray Repeated continuously | 63 ± 2.5 | 145 ± 5 | Coatings used in original equipment manufacturing |
| 4 | 4 h light at 50 ± 10 % RH 4 h dark with water spray Repeated continuously | 63 ± 2.5 | 145 ± 5 | Exterior pigmented stains |
| 5 | 12 h light at 50 ± 10 % RH 12 h dark water spray Repeated continuously | 63 ± 2.5 | 145 ± 5 | Exterior wood stains and clears |
| 6 | 8 h light at 50 ± 10 % RH 10 h light and water spray 6 h dark with water spray Repeated continuously | 63 ± 2.5 | 145 ± 5 | Marine enamels |

^A The cycles described are not listed in any order indicating importance, and are not necessarily recommended for the applications listed.

^B Unless otherwise specified, operate the device so that the allowable deviations about the set points given in Table 1 are within the specified limits specified in the corresponding entry. If the actual operating conditions do not agree with the machine settings after the equipment has stabilized, discontinue the test and correct the cause of the disagreement before continuing.

^C Set points and operational fluctuations are listed as set point ± operational fluctuation in Table 1. They are sometimes listed in separate columns. The set point is the target condition for the sensor used at the operational control point as programmed by the user. Operational fluctuations are deviations from the indicated set point at the control point indicated by the readout of the calibrated control sensor during equilibrium operation and do not include measurement uncertainty. At the operational control point, the operational fluctuation can exceed no more than the listed value at equilibrium. Therefore, when a standard calls for a particular set point, the user programs that exact number. The operational fluctuations specified with the set point do not imply that the user is allowed to program a set point higher or lower than the exact set point specified.

^D Unless otherwise indicated, black panel temperatures apply during the light-only portion of the cycle. The equilibrium black panel temperature is obtained without a spray period. For light intervals less than 30 min, the black panel temperature might not reach equilibrium.

^E Typical uses do not imply that results from exposures of these materials according to the cycle described will correlate to those from actual use conditions.

^F Historical convention has established this as a very commonly used test cycle. This cycle may not adequately simulate the effects of outdoor exposure.

^G Unless otherwise specified, water spray refers to water sprayed on the exposed surfaces of the test specimens.

- [D3361/D3361M Practice for Unfiltered Open-Flame Carbon-Arc Exposures of Paint and Related Coatings](#)
- [D4214 Test Methods for Evaluating the Degree of Chalking of Exterior Paint Films](#)
- [D5870 Practice for Calculating Property Retention Index of Plastics](#)
- [E691 Practice for Conducting an Interlaboratory Study to Determine the Precision of a Test Method](#)
- [E1347 Test Method for Color and Color-Difference Measurement by Tristimulus Colorimetry](#)
- [G113 Terminology Relating to Natural and Artificial Weathering Tests of Nonmetallic Materials](#)
- [G141 Guide for Addressing Variability in Exposure Testing of Nonmetallic Materials](#)
- [G147 Practice for Conditioning and Handling of Nonmetallic Materials for Natural and Artificial Weathering Tests](#)
- [G151 Practice for Exposing Nonmetallic Materials in Accelerated Test Devices that Use Laboratory Light Sources](#)
- [G152 Practice for Operating Open Flame Carbon Arc Light Apparatus for Exposure of Nonmetallic Materials](#)
- [G153 Practice for Operating Enclosed Carbon Arc Light Apparatus for Exposure of Nonmetallic Materials](#)
- [G169 Guide for Application of Basic Statistical Methods to Weathering Tests](#)

3. Terminology

3.1 The definitions given in Terminology G113 are applicable to this practice.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 The ability of a paint or coating to resist deterioration of its physical and optical properties caused by exposure to light, heat, and water can be very significant for many applications. This practice is intended to induce property changes associated with end-use conditions, including the effects of sunlight, moisture, and heat. The exposure used in this practice is not intended to simulate the deterioration caused by localized weather phenomena such as atmospheric pollution, biological attack, and saltwater exposure.

4.2 *Cautions*—Variation in results may be expected when different operating conditions are used. Therefore, no reference to the use of this practice shall be made unless accompanied by a report prepared according to Section 10 that describes the specific operating conditions used. Refer to Practice G151 for detailed information on the caveats applicable to use of results obtained according to this practice.

NOTE 2—Additional information on sources of variability and on strategies for addressing variability in the design, execution, and data