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Standard Terminology for Geosynthetics¹

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1. Referenced Documents

1.1 *ASTM Standards*:²

- C125 Terminology Relating to Concrete and Concrete Aggregates
- D1987 Test Method for Biological Clogging of Geotextile, Drainage Geocomposites, or Soil/Geotextile Filters
- D4354 Practice for Sampling of Geosynthetics and Rolled Erosion Control Products (RECPs) for Testing
- D4491/D4491M Test Methods for Water Permeability of Geotextiles by Permittivity
- D4533/D4533M Test Method for Trapezoid Tearing Strength of Geotextiles
- D4594/D4594M Test Method for Effects of Temperature on Stability of Geotextiles
- D4595 Test Method for Tensile Properties of Geotextiles by the Wide-Width Strip Method
- D4632/D4632M Test Method for Grab Breaking Load and Elongation of Geotextiles
- D4716/D4716M Test Method for Determining the (In-plane) Flow Rate per Unit Width and Hydraulic Transmissivity of a Geosynthetic Using a Constant Head
- D4751 Test Methods for Determining Apparent Opening Size of a Geotextile
- D4759 Practice for Determining the Specification Conformance of Geosynthetics
- D4833/D4833M Test Method for Index Puncture Resistance of Geomembranes and Related Products
- D4873/D4873M Guide for Identification, Storage, and Handling of Geosynthetic Rolls and Samples
- D4884/D4884M Test Method for Strength of Sewn or Bonded Seams of Geotextiles
- D4885 Test Method for Determining Performance Strength of Geomembranes by the Wide Strip Tensile Method
- D5101 Test Method for Measuring the Filtration Compatibility of Soil-Geotextile Systems

- D5141 Test Method for Determining Filtering Efficiency and Flow Rate of the Filtration Component of a Sediment Retention Device
- D5262 Test Method for Determining the Unconfined Tension Creep and Creep Rupture Behavior of Planar Geosynthetics Used for Reinforcement Purposes
- D5322 Practice for Laboratory Immersion Procedures for Evaluating the Chemical Resistance of Geosynthetics to Liquids
- D5323 Practice for Determination of 2 % Secant Modulus for Polyethylene Geomembranes
- D5397 Test Method for Evaluation of Stress Crack Resistance of Polyolefin Geomembranes Using Notched Constant Tensile Load Test
- D5494 Test Method for the Determination of Pyramid Puncture Resistance of Unprotected and Protected Geomembranes
- D5496 Practice for In-Field Immersion Testing of Geosynthetics
- D5514/D5514M Test Method for Large-Scale Hydrostatic Puncture Testing of Geosynthetics
- D5567 Test Method for Hydraulic Conductivity Ratio (HCR) Testing of Soil/Geotextile Systems
- D5594 Test Method for Determination of the Vinyl Acetate Content of Ethylene-Vinyl Acetate (EVA) Copolymers by Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (FT-IR)
- D5617 Test Method for Multi-Axial Tension Test for Geosynthetics
- D5641/D5641M Practice for Geomembrane Seam Evaluation by Vacuum Chamber
- D5747/D5747M Practice for Tests to Evaluate the Chemical Resistance of Geomembranes to Liquids
- D5818 Practice for Exposure and Retrieval of Samples to Evaluate Installation Damage of Geosynthetics
- D5820 Practice for Pressurized Air Channel Evaluation of Dual-Seamed Geomembranes
- D5994/D5994M Test Method for Measuring Core Thickness of Textured Geomembranes

1.2 *Federal Standard*:³

- Federal Standard 751a Stitches, Seams, and Stitchings

¹ This terminology is under the jurisdiction of D35 on Geosynthetics and is the direct responsibility of D35.93 on Editorial and Terminology.

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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.

³ Available from DLA Document Services, Building 4/D, 700 Robbins Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19111-5094, <http://quicksearch.dla.mil>.

2. Terminology

absorption, *n*—the process by which a liquid is drawn into and tends to fill permeable pores in a porous solid body, also, the increase in mass of a porous solid body resulting from penetration of a liquid into its permeable pores. **C125**

aerobic, *n*—a condition in which a measurable volume of air is present in the incubation chamber or system. **D1987**

anaerobic, *n*—a condition in which no measurable volume of air is present in the incubation chamber or system. **D1987**

apparent opening size (AOS), O_{95} , *n*—for a geotextile, a property which indicates the approximate largest particle that would effectively pass through the geotextile. **D4751**

atmosphere for testing geosynthetics, *n*—air maintained at a relative humidity between 50 to 70 % and a temperature of 21 ± 2 °C (70 ± 4 °F). **D4439, D4751, D5494**

back flushing, *n*—a process by which liquid is forced in the reverse direction to the flow direction. **D1987**

basis weight—deprecated term (do not use in the sense of mass per unit area). **D4439**

bend, *vt*—in *mechanics*, to force an object from its natural or manufactured shape into a curve or into increased curvature. **D4439**

biocide, *n*—a chemical used to kill bacteria and other microorganisms. **D1987**

bituminous geosynthetic barrier (GBR-B), *n*—factory-produced structure of geosynthetic materials in the form of a sheet in which the barrier function is fulfilled by bitumen.

blinding, *n*—for *geotextiles*, the condition where soil particles block the surface openings of the fabric, thereby reducing the hydraulic conductivity of the system. **D4439**

breaking force, (F), J , *n*—the force at failure. **D4885**

breaking load, *n*—the maximum force applied to a specimen in a tensile test carried to rupture. **D4632/D4632M**

breaking toughness, T , (FL^{-1}), Jm^{-2} , *n*—for *geotextiles*, the actual work-to-break per unit surface area of material. **D4595, D4885**

chemical resistance, *n*—the ability to resist chemical attack. **D5322**

clogging, *n*—for *geotextiles*, the condition where soil particles move into and are retained in the openings of the fabric, thereby reducing the hydraulic conductivity. **D4439**

clogging potential, *n*—in *geotextiles*, the tendency for a given geotextile to decrease permeability due to soil particles that have either lodged in the geotextile openings or have built up a restrictive layer on the surface of the geotextile. **D5101**

compressed thickness (t , (L), mm), *n*—thickness under a specified stress applied normal to the material. **D4439**

constant-rate-of-load tensile testing machine (CRL), *n*—a testing machine in which the rate of increase of the load being applied to the specimen is uniform with time after the first 3 s. **D4439**

corresponding force, *n*—synonym for force at specified elongation. **D4885**

coupon, *n*—a portion of a material or laboratory sample from which multiple specimens can be taken for testing. **D5747/D5747M**

creep, *n*—the time-dependent increase in accumulative strain in a material resulting from an applied constant force. **D5262**

critical height (ch), *n*—the maximum exposed height of a cone or pyramid that will not cause a puncture failure of a geosynthetic at a specified hydrostatic pressure for a given period of time. **D5514/D5514M**

cross-machine direction, *n*—the direction in the plane of the fabric perpendicular to the direction of manufacture. **D4632/D4632M**

density (ρ , (ML^{-3}), kg/m^3), *n*—mass per unit volume. **D4439**

design load—the load at which the geosynthetic is required to operate in order to perform its intended function. **D5262**

elastic limit, *n*—in *mechanics*, the stress intensity at which stress and deformation of a material subjected to an increasing force cease to be proportional; the limit of stress within which a material will return to its original size and shape when the force is removed, and hence, not a permanent set. **D4885**

elongation at break, *n*—the elongation corresponding to the breaking load, that is, the maximum load. **D4632/D4632M**

failure, *n*—an arbitrary point beyond which a material ceases to be functionally capable of its intended use. **D4885, D5262**

failure, *n*—in *testing geosynthetics*, water or air pressure in the test vessel at failure of the geosynthetic. **D5514/D5514M**

field testing, *n*—testing performed in the field under actual conditions of temperature and exposure to the fluids for which the immersion testing is being performed. **D5496**

fill—deprecated term, see **filling**.

filling, *n*—yarn running from selvage to selvage at right angles to the warp in a woven fabric. **D4439**

flexible polypropylene, *n*—a material having a 2 % secant modulus of less than 300 MPa (40 000 psi) as determined by Practice **D5323**, produced by polymerization of propylene with or without other alpha olefin monomers.

force at specific elongation, **FASE**, *n*—the force associated with a specific elongation on the force-elongation curve. **D4439**

force-elongation curve, *n*—in a *tensile test*, a graphical representation of the relationship between the magnitude of an externally applied force and the change in length of the

specimen in the direction of the applied force. (*Synonym for stress-strain curve.*) **D4885**

geocell, *n*—a factory-produced, three-dimensional, compartmentalized, polymeric structure having discrete cells formed by expanding the structure, which are subsequently filled.

geocomposite, *n*—a product composed of two or more materials, at least one of which is a geosynthetic.

geofoam, *n*—block or planar rigid cellular foamed polymeric material used in geotechnical engineering applications.

geogrid, *n*—a geosynthetic formed by a regular network of integrally connected elements with apertures greater than 6.35 mm (1/4 in.) to allow interlocking with surrounding soil, rock, earth, and other surrounding materials to function primarily as reinforcement. **D5262**

geomembrane, *n*—an essentially impermeable geosynthetic composed of one or more synthetic sheets. **D4439, D4873/D4873M, D4885, D5994/D5994M, D5820**

geonet, *n*—a geosynthetic consisting of integrally connected parallel sets of ribs overlying similar sets at various angles for planar drainage of liquids or gases. **D4439**

geostrip—polymeric material in the form of a strip of width not more than 200 mm (7.87 in.), used in contact with soil or other materials in geotechnical and civil engineering applications, or both.

geosynthetic, *n*—a planar product manufactured from polymeric material used with soil, rock, earth, or other geotechnical engineering related material as an integral part of a man-made project, structure, or system. **D4354, D4759, D4873/D4873M, D5617, D5818**

geosynthetic barrier—low-permeability geosynthetic material, used in geotechnical and civil engineering applications with the purpose of reducing or preventing the flow of fluid through the construction.

geosynthetic barrier clay (GBR-C), *n*—factory-produced structure of geosynthetic materials in the form of a sheet, in which the barrier function is fulfilled by clay.

geosynthetic barrier polymeric (GBR-P), *n*—factory-produced structure of geosynthetic materials in the form of a sheet, in which the barrier function is fulfilled by polymers.

geosynthetic cementitious composite mat (GCCM), *n*—a factory-assembled geosynthetic composite consisting of a cementitious material contained within layer or layers of geosynthetic materials that becomes hardened when hydrated.

geosynthetic clay liner, *n*—a manufactured hydraulic barrier consisting of clay bonded to a layer or layers of geosynthetic materials.

geotechnical engineering, *n*—the engineering application of geotechnics. **D4439, D4595**

geotechnics, *n*—the application of scientific methods and engineering principles to the acquisition, interpretation, and use of knowledge of materials of the earth's crust to the solution of engineering problems. **D4439, D4491/D4491M, D4595, D4716/D4716M, D4751**

geotextile, *n*—a permeable geosynthetic comprised solely of textiles.

DISCUSSION—Geotextiles perform several functions in geotechnical engineering applications, including: separation, filtration, drainage, reinforcement, and protection. **D1987, D4439, D5594**

grab test, *n*—*in fabric testing*, a tension test in which only a part of the width of the specimen is gripped in the clamps. **D4632/D4632M**

gradient ratio, *n*—*in geotextiles*, the ratio of the hydraulic gradient through a soil-geotextile system to the hydraulic gradient through the soil alone. **D5101**

gravity flow, *n*—flow in a direction parallel to the plane of a geotextile or related product driven predominately by a difference in elevation between the inlet and outflow points of a specimen. **D4716/D4716M**

head, *n*—pressure at a point in a liquid, expressed in terms of the vertical distance of the point below the surface of the liquid. **D4716/D4716M**

hydraulic conductivity (*k*), *n*—the rate of discharge of water under laminar flow conditions through a unit cross-sectional area of a porous medium under a unit hydraulic gradient and standard temperature conditions (20 °C). **D5567**

hydraulic conductivity ratio (HCR), *n*—the ratio of the hydraulic conductivity of the soil/geotextile system, k_{sg} , at any time during the test, to the initial hydraulic conductivity, k_{sg0} , measured at the beginning of the test (NEW).

hydraulic gradient, *i*, *s* (*D*)—the loss of hydraulic head per unit distance of flow, dH/dL . **D5101**

hydraulic transmissivity, θ ($L^2 T^{-1}$), *n*—*for a geotextile or related product*, the volumetric flow rate of water per unit width of specimen per unit gradient in a direction parallel to the plane of the specimen. **D4716/D4716M**

hydrostatic pressure, *n*—a state of stress in which all the principal stresses are equal (and there is no shear stress), as in a liquid at rest; induced artificially by means of a gaged pressure system; the product of the unit weight of the liquid and the difference in elevation between the given point and the free water elevation. **D5514/D5514M**

index test, *n*—a test procedure which may contain a known bias but which may be used to establish an order for a set of specimens with respect to the property of interest. **D4833/D4833M, D4885**

inflection point, *n*—the first point of the force-elongation curve at which the second derivative equals zero. **D4885**

initial tensile modulus, J_p (FL^{-1}), Nm^{-1} , *n*—*for geosynthetics*, the ratio of the change in force per unit width to the change