



Designation: C553 – 13 (Reapproved 2019)

Standard Specification for Mineral Fiber Blanket Thermal Insulation for Commercial and Industrial Applications¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation C553; 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.

This standard has been approved for use by agencies of the U.S. Department of Defense.

1. Scope

1.1 This specification covers the classification, composition, physical properties, and dimensions of mineral fiber (rock, slag, or glass) blanket intended for use as thermal insulation on surfaces operating at temperatures between 0°F (–18°C) and 1200°F (649°C). For specific applications, the actual temperature limits shall be agreed upon between the supplier and the purchaser.

1.2 The orientation of the fibers within the blanket is primarily parallel to the principal surface (face). This specification does not cover fabricated pipe and tank wrap insulation where the insulation has been cut and fabricated to provide a fiber orientation that is perpendicular to the surface (face).

1.3 For satisfactory performance, properly installed protective vapor retarders must be used in below ambient temperature applications to reduce movement of water vapor through or around the insulation towards the colder surface. Failure to use a vapor retarder can lead to insulation and system damage. Refer to Practice C921 to aid material selection. Although vapor retarders are not part of this specification, properties required in Specification C1136 are pertinent to application or performance.

1.4 This standard does not purport to provide the performance requirements of hourly-rated fire systems. Consult the manufacturer for the appropriate system.

1.5 The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as standard. The values given in parentheses are mathematical conversions to SI units that 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*

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:*²

- C167 Test Methods for Thickness and Density of Blanket or Batt Thermal Insulations
- C168 Terminology Relating to Thermal Insulation
- C177 Test Method for Steady-State Heat Flux Measurements and Thermal Transmission Properties by Means of the Guarded-Hot-Plate Apparatus
- C390 Practice for Sampling and Acceptance of Thermal Insulation Lots
- C411 Test Method for Hot-Surface Performance of High-Temperature Thermal Insulation
- C447 Practice for Estimating the Maximum Use Temperature of Thermal Insulations
- C518 Test Method for Steady-State Thermal Transmission Properties by Means of the Heat Flow Meter Apparatus
- C665 Specification for Mineral-Fiber Blanket Thermal Insulation for Light Frame Construction and Manufactured Housing
- C680 Practice for Estimate of the Heat Gain or Loss and the Surface Temperatures of Insulated Flat, Cylindrical, and Spherical Systems by Use of Computer Programs
- C795 Specification for Thermal Insulation for Use in Contact with Austenitic Stainless Steel
- C921 Practice for Determining the Properties of Jacketing Materials for Thermal Insulation
- C1045 Practice for Calculating Thermal Transmission Properties Under Steady-State Conditions

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee C16 on Thermal Insulation and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee C16.23 on Blanket and Loose Fill Insulation.

Current edition approved Sept. 1, 2019. Published October 2019. Originally approved in 1964. Last previous edition approved 2013 as C553 – 13. DOI: 10.1520/C0553-13R19.

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.

TABLE 1 Physical Property Requirements^A

Properties	Type I	Type II	Type III	Type IV	Type V	Type VI	Type VII
Maximum Use Temperature °F (°C) See Paragraph 6.2.1 - Note 1	Up to 450 (232)	Up to 450 (232)	Up to 450 (232)	Up to 850 (454)	Up to 1000 (538)	Up to 1000 (538)	Up to 1200 (649)
Apparent Thermal Conductivity Max. Btu-in./h-ft ² ·°F (W/m·K)							
Mean Temperatures							
°F (°C)							
25 (-4)	0.35 (0.051)	0.30 (0.043)	0.25 (0.036)	0.24 (0.035)	0.30 (0.043)	0.25 (0.036)	0.24 (0.035)
75 (24)	0.36 (0.052)	0.31 (0.045)	0.26 (0.038)	0.25 (0.036)	0.31 (0.045)	0.26 (0.038)	0.25 (0.036)
100 (38)	0.39 (0.056)	0.33 (0.048)	0.28 (0.040)	0.27 (0.039)	0.33 (0.048)	0.28 (0.040)	0.27 (0.039)
200 (93)	0.55 (0.079)	0.44 (0.063)	0.36 (0.052)	0.34 (0.049)	0.44 (0.063)	0.36 (0.052)	0.34 (0.049)
300 (149)	0.76 (0.110)	0.60 (0.087)	0.46 (0.066)	0.43 (0.062)	0.60 (0.087)	0.46 (0.066)	0.43 (0.062)
400 (204)				0.55 (0.079)	0.89 (0.128)	0.60 (0.087)	0.55 (0.079)
500 (260)				0.70 (0.101)	1.10 (0.159)	0.80 (0.115)	0.70 (0.101)
600 (316)					1.50 (0.216)	1.05 (0.151)	0.89 (0.128)
700 (371)							1.13 (0.163)
Water Vapor Sorption ^B % by Weight, max	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
Surface Burning Characteristics							
Flame Spread Index, max	25	25	25	25	25	25	25
Smoke Developed Index, max	50	50	50	50	50	50	50

^AAdditional physical property requirements, refer to Section 7.

^BIt is possible that water sorption characteristics will change after the product is subject to elevated temperatures within normal service conditions.

- [C1058 Practice for Selecting Temperatures for Evaluating and Reporting Thermal Properties of Thermal Insulation](#)
- [C1101/C1101M Test Methods for Classifying the Flexibility or Rigidity of Mineral Fiber Blanket and Board Insulation](#)
- [C1104/C1104M Test Method for Determining the Water Vapor Sorption of Unfaced Mineral Fiber Insulation](#)
- [C1114 Test Method for Steady-State Thermal Transmission Properties by Means of the Thin-Heater Apparatus](#)
- [C1136 Specification for Flexible, Low Permeance Vapor Retarders for Thermal Insulation](#)
- [C1304 Test Method for Assessing the Odor Emission of Thermal Insulation Materials](#)
- [C1335 Test Method for Measuring Non-Fibrous Content of Man-Made Rock and Slag Mineral Fiber Insulation](#)
- [C1338 Test Method for Determining Fungi Resistance of Insulation Materials and Facings](#)
- [C1617 Practice for Quantitative Accelerated Laboratory Evaluation of Extraction Solutions Containing Ions Leached from Thermal Insulation on Aqueous Corrosion of Metals](#)
- [E84 Test Method for Surface Burning Characteristics of Building Materials](#)

2.2 Other Referenced Documents:

- [CAN/ULC-S102 Standard Method of Test for Surface Burning Characteristics of Building Materials and Assemblies³](#)

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—For definitions used in this specification, refer to Terminology [C168](#).

3.2 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.2.1 *mean temperature*—the sum of the cold surface temperature and the hot surface temperature divided by two.

3.2.2 *shot*—shot is defined, for the purposes of this document, as that material which cannot be brushed or mechanically shaken through No. 100 (150µm) sieve.

4. Classification

4.1 Mineral fiber blanket insulation covered by this specification shall be classified into seven types shown in [Table 1](#). The classification is based upon the maximum use temperature and apparent thermal conductivity of the insulations.

5. Ordering Information

5.1 The type, dimensions, maximum use temperature, and facing shall be specified by the purchaser. A product certification (if required) shall be specified in the purchase order.

6. Materials and Manufacture

6.1 *Composition*—Mineral fiber blanket insulation shall be composed of rock, slag, or glass processed from the molten state into fibrous form bonded with an organic or inorganic binder, or both. Asbestos shall not be used as an ingredient or component part of the product.

6.2 Facings:

6.2.1 The purchaser shall specify whether the insulation shall be supplied plain or with facing, and if faced, shall specify the type and its requirements.

NOTE 1—The user of this specification is advised that the maximum use temperature of facing and adhesives may be lower than the maximum use temperature of the insulation. The user of this specification shall ensure that sufficient insulation thickness is installed so that none of these accessory items (facings and adhesives) are exposed to temperatures above their maximum use temperature. Practice [C680](#) can be used to determine surface temperatures.

6.2.2 The vapor retarder facings shall be in accordance with specification [C1136](#).

6.2.3 Typical facing is as follows (others are available):

³ Available from Underwriters Laboratories (UL), 2600 N.W. Lake Rd., Camas, WA 98607-8542, <http://www.ul.com>.