



Designation: D6076 – 18 (Reapproved 2023)

Standard Test Method for Shrinkage Temperature of Leather¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D6076; 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 test method covers the determination of the shrinkage temperature of all types of leather. The heating medium is water when the shrinkage temperature is at or below 98 °C. The heating medium is a glycerine-water solution when the shrinkage temperature is above 98 °C.

1.2 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as the standard. The values given in parentheses are for information only.

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

1.4 *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

[D1517 Terminology Relating to Leather](#)

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D31 on Leather and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D31.07 on Physical Properties. This test method was developed from Federal Test Method Standard No. 311, Method 7011.1, in cooperation with the U.S. Defense Personnel Support Center, Directorate of Clothing and Textiles, Philadelphia, PA and the U.S. Army Natick Research, Development and Engineering Center, Natick, MA.

Current edition approved Jan. 1, 2023. Published January 2023. Originally approved in 1997. Last previous edition approved in 2018 as D6076-18. DOI: 10.1520/D6076-18R23.

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. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—For definitions of general leather terms used in this test method, refer to Terminology [D1517](#).

3.2 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

3.2.1 *shrink*—to contract or become smaller.

3.2.2 *shrinkage*—the temperature at which noticeable shrinkage occurs when a leather specimen is gradually heated in an aqueous medium.

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 A leather specimen is thoroughly soaked in the aqueous medium that will be used to heat the specimen for this test method. This specimen is then fastened between two clamps (one fixed and one movable) and immersed in the aqueous medium (see [Fig. 1](#)). The aqueous medium is gradually heated until the specified temperature is reached without shrinkage or until shrinkage is indicated by a deflection of the dial needle which is attached to the movable clamp.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 This test method is designed to determine the temperature at which a thoroughly wetted leather specimen experiences shrinkage. In this test method, shrinkage occurs as a result of hydrothermal denaturation of the collagen protein molecules which make up the fiber structure of the leather. The shrinkage temperature of leather is influenced by many different factors, most of which appear to affect the number and nature of crosslinking interactions between adjacent polypeptide chains of the collagen protein molecules. The value of the shrinkage temperature of leather is commonly used as an indicator of the type of tannage or the degree of tannage, or both, of that particular leather (especially for the more hydrothermally stable tannages such as chrome tannage).

6. Apparatus

6.1 *Stand*, for supporting the testing equipment.



FIG. 1 Shrinkage Meter Apparatus (“Shrinkometer”)

6.2 *Indicating Device*, either of the two devices listed as follows:

6.2.1 *Theis Shrinkage Meter Dial*—a dial indicator having a face divided into 360° to 380°, with one revolution of the dial hand corresponding to 12.7 mm (0.5 in.) of specimen movement, and with leeway for four revolutions of the dial hand.³

6.2.2 *AGD (American Gauge Design) Dial Indicator*—A mechanical device capable of registering on a scale a reading of the shrinkage or swelling movement of the specimen in a ratio of at least 25 units of dial movement (or greater) to 1 unit of specimen movement, and shall accurately detect by movement of the dial needle the point at which shrinkage begins.

³ A shrinkage meter apparatus setup meeting these specific requirements was formerly available from the Arthur H. Thomas Co., Philadelphia, PA. The minimum number of apparatus setups required for an order makes the cost of new apparatus of this type prohibitive. Used apparatus of this type may still be available from tanneries or laboratories that have gone out of business or from used equipment dealers.

The indicator shall have a spindle capable of attachment to the specimen and to the adjustable weight assembly.⁴

6.3 *Immersion Heater*, 250 W to 500 W, with a heating element not longer than 140 mm (5½ in.) and a depth of immersion not in excess of 152 mm (6 in.).

6.4 *Variable Speed Stirrer*, with small blades.

6.5 *Spring-loaded Clamps*—(alligator type), two, mounted vertically one above the other and sufficiently far apart for gripping the full width of the specimen at the ends. The bottom clamp shall be fastened to the end of a U-shaped rod that can be turned sideways. The upper clamp shall be movable sideways as well as up and down.

6.6 *Metal Supporting Plate*, with apertures for the stirrer, thermometer, immersion heater, and the rod fastened to the upper specimen clamp.

6.7 *Variable Transformer*, capable of controlling the rate of heating (3 °C/min to 5 °C/min) of the aqueous medium and capable of maintaining a temperature of 98 °C ± 0.5 °C.

6.8 *Thermometer*, with a white background, a scale from –1 °C or –10 °C to +101 °C or +110 °C or +150 °C, graduated in 1 °C, and with ±0.5 °C tolerance.

6.9 *Tall-form 1 L Beaker*, for holding the aqueous heating medium.

6.10 *Lead Shot*.

6.11 *Indicating Device*, attached to the upper (movable) clamp and equipped with an adjustable weight assembly mounted over a pulley. The weight assembly shall consist of a small bottle (with a lid) containing lead shot that shall be attached to the string running over the pulley. The weight assembly shall be approximately 178 g to counterbalance the weight of the clamp, to overcome any inertia or friction of the indicating device, and to maintain the specimen under a slight tension. The weight shall be adjusted accordingly, so that it will not cause an elongation (prior to shrinkage) or more than 10 %. The device shall register a ratio of 25:1 (or greater) between the scale reading and the shrinkage or elongation of the specimen, and shall accurately detect the point at which shrinkage begins.

6.12 *Metal Die*, for cutting the specimen to the required dimensions.

6.13 *Suction Flask*, 1 L.

6.14 *Nylon String*, for connecting the upper clamp (or the rod connected to the upper clamp) to the weight assembly and passing over the pulley on the indicating dial.

7. Reagents

7.1 *Glycerine-water Solution*—When glycerine-water medium is specified for use (that is, when the shrinkage temperature is specified or expected to be greater than 98 °C) the solution shall consist of 75 parts glycerine to 25 parts water.

⁴ The sole source of supply of the dial indicator (Model 2282PCC) known to the committee at this time is B.C. Ames, Inc., Melrose, MA 02176, www.bcames.com. If you are aware of alternative suppliers, please provide this information to ASTM Headquarters. Your comments will receive careful consideration at a meeting of the responsible technical committee, which you may attend.