



Standard Test Method for Measuring Heat Stability of Resilient Flooring by Color Change¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This test method covers a procedure for determining the resistance of resilient floor covering to color change from exposure to elevated temperature over a specified period of time.

1.2 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.

1.3 *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

[D794 Practice for Determining Permanent Effect of Heat on Plastics \(Withdrawn 1998\)](#)³

[D2244 Practice for Calculation of Color Tolerances and Color Differences from Instrumentally Measured Color Coordinates](#)

[E177 Practice for Use of the Terms Precision and Bias in ASTM Test Methods](#)

[E691 Practice for Conducting an Interlaboratory Study to Determine the Precision of a Test Method](#)

3. Significance and Use

3.1 Resilient floor covering is made by fusing polymer materials under heat or pressure, or both, in various manufac-

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

turing and decorating processes. The polymer material may be compounded with plasticizers, stabilizers, fillers, and other ingredients for processibility and product performance characteristics. The formulation of the compound can be varied considerably depending on the desired performance characteristics and methods of processing. See Practice [D794](#) for additional significance and use information.

3.1.1 Heat stability, which is resistance to discoloration from heat, is a basic requirement for processing and functional use.

3.1.2 This test method provides a means of measuring the amount of color change in flooring products when subjected to elevated temperatures over a period of time (functional use of the flooring product).

3.2 This test method is not intended to be a means of predicting the amount of color change that occurs during processing (manufacture).

3.3 This test method specifies that a sample is subjected to 158°F ± 2°F (70°C ± 1°C) for 7 days, and the color difference is measured by a spectrophotometer and expressed as ΔE^* units.

NOTE 1—It is the intent that this test method be used for testing heat stability performance properties to be referenced in resilient flooring specifications.

4. Apparatus

4.1 *Circulating Air Oven*, which can be maintained at 158°F ± 2°F (70°C ± 1°C).

4.2 *Suitable Spectrophotometer or Colorimeter* with a minimum ¼ in. (6.35 mm) diameter opening having both a cool white fluorescent (CWF) and daylight light (D-65) sources that measure color in CIE L*, a*, b* using CIE 10° Standard Observer and Specular Included. See Test Method [D2244](#). When an individual color cannot be totally covered within the ¼ in. spectrophotometer opening, then the largest spectrophotometer opening shall be used.

4.3 A suitable holder rack that separates samples a minimum ½ in. (12.70 mm) in a standing or vertical position.

5. Hazards

5.1 Cautions: