



Designation: D229 – 26

Standard Test Methods for Rigid Sheet and Plate Materials Used for Electrical Insulation¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D229; 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 These test methods cover procedures for testing rigid electrical insulation normally manufactured in flat sheet or plate form. They are generally used as terminal boards, spacers, voltage barriers, and circuit boards.

1.2 Use Test Methods **D619** (withdrawn) or Specification **D710** for tests applying to vulcanized fibre.

1.3 Some of the test methods contained in this standard are similar to those contained in IEC 60893-2, which applies to rigid industrial laminated sheets based on thermosetting resins for electrical purposes.

1.4 The test methods appear in the following sections:

Test	Sections	ASTM Test Method
Acetone extractable matter	69 to 70	D494
Arc resistance	47	D495
Ash	56 to 60	...
Bonding strength	49 to 54	...
Flammability methods I and II	61	D8647
Coefficient of linear thermal expansion	63	D696
Compressive strength	25	D695
Conditioning	4	D6054
Dissipation factor	34 to 40	D669
Dielectric strength	28 to 33	D149
Expansion (linear thermal)	62	D696
Flexural properties	12 to 24	D790
Hardness (Rockwell)	55	D785
Insulation resistance and resistivity	41 to 46	D257
Permittivity	34 to 40	D150
Resistance to impact	26	D256
Tensile properties	7 to 11	D638
Thickness	5 to 6	D374/ D374M
Tracking resistance	48	D2132
Warp or twist	63 to 68	...
Water absorption	27	D570

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 The two fire test methods formerly included in these test methods have been converted into Test Methods **D8647**, without technical changes.

1.7 *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.* Specific precautionary statements are given in **31.1**.

1.8 *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

- D149** Test Method for Dielectric Breakdown Voltage and Dielectric Strength of Solid Electrical Insulating Materials at Commercial Power Frequencies
- D150** Test Methods for AC Loss Characteristics and Permittivity (Dielectric Constant) of Solid Electrical Insulation
- D256** Test Methods for Determining the Izod Pendulum Impact Resistance of Plastics
- D257** Test Methods for DC Resistance or Conductance of Insulating Materials
- D374/D374M** Test Methods for Thickness of Solid Electrical Insulation
- D494** Test Method for Acetone Extraction of Phenolic Molded or Laminated Products (Withdrawn 2026)³
- D495** Test Method for High-Voltage, Low-Current, Dry Arc

¹ These test methods are under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee **D09** on Electrical and Electronic Insulating Materials and are the direct responsibility of Subcommittee **D09.07** on Electrical Insulating Materials.

Current edition approved June 1, 2026. Published August 2026. Originally approved in 1925. Last previous edition approved in 2019 as D229 – 19^{e1}. DOI: 10.1520/D0229-26.

² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at www.astm.org/contact. 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.

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

Resistance of Solid Electrical Insulation
D570 Test Method for Water Absorption of Plastics
D617 Test Method for Punching Quality of Phenolic Laminated Sheets (Withdrawn 2003)³
D619 Test Methods for Vulcanized Fibre Used for Electrical Insulation
D638 Test Method for Tensile Properties of Plastics
D669 Test Method for Dissipation Factor and Permittivity Parallel with Laminations of Laminated Sheet and Plate Materials (Withdrawn 2012)³
D695 Test Method for Compressive Properties of Rigid Plastics
D696 Test Method for Coefficient of Linear Thermal Expansion of Plastics Between –30°C and +30°C with a Vitreous Silica Dilatometer
D710 Specification for Vulcanized Fibre Sheets, Rolls, Rods, and Tubes Used for Electrical Insulation
D785 Test Method for Rockwell Hardness of Plastics and Electrical Insulating Materials
D790 Test Methods for Flexural Properties of Unreinforced and Reinforced Plastics and Electrical Insulating Materials
D792 Test Methods for Density and Specific Gravity (Relative Density) of Plastics by Displacement
D883 Terminology Relating to Plastics
D1674 Test Method for Testing Polymerizable Embedding Compounds Used for Electrical Insulation (Withdrawn 1990)³
D1711 Terminology Relating to Electrical Insulation
D1825 Practice for Etching and Cleaning Copper-Clad Electrical Insulating Materials and Thermosetting Laminates for Electrical Testing (Withdrawn 2012)³
D2132 Test Method for Dust-and-Fog Tracking and Erosion Resistance of Electrical Insulating Materials
D2303 Test Methods for Liquid-Contaminant, Inclined-Plane Tracking and Erosion of Insulating Materials
D3487 Specification for Mineral Insulating Liquid Used in Electrical Apparatus
D5032 Practice for Maintaining Constant Relative Humidity by Means of Aqueous Glycerin Solutions
D6054 Practice for Conditioning Electrical Insulating Materials for Testing (Withdrawn 2012)³
D8647 Test Methods for Flammability of Rigid Plastic Materials Used for Electrical Insulation
E176 Terminology of Fire Standards
E197 Specification for Enclosures and Servicing Units for Tests Above and Below Room Temperature (Withdrawn 1981)³

2.2 IEC Standard:

IEC 60893–2 Specification for Rigid Industrial Laminated Sheets Based on Thermosetting Resins for Electrical Purpose, Methods of Tests⁴

2.3 *International Organization for Standardization (ISO) Standard:*

ISO 13943 Fire Safety: Vocabulary⁵

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—Rigid electrical insulating materials are defined in these test methods in accordance with Terminology **D883**. The terminology applied to materials in these test methods shall be in accordance with the terms appearing in Terminologies **D883** and **D1711**. Use Terminology **E176** and ISO 13943 for definitions of terms used in this test method and associated with fire issues. Where differences exist in definitions, those contained in Terminology **E176** shall be used.

3.2 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

3.2.1 In referring to the cutting, application, and loading of the specimens, the following terms apply:

3.2.1.1 *crosswise (CW)*, *adj*—in the direction of the sheet at 90° to the lengthwise direction.

3.2.1.1.1 *Discussion*—This is normally the weakest direction in flexure. For some materials, including the raw materials used for manufacture of materials considered herein, this direction may be designated as the cross-machine direction or the weft direction.

3.2.1.2 *edgewise loading*, *n*—mechanical force applied in the plane of the original sheet or plate.

3.2.1.3 *flatwise loading*, *n*—mechanical force applied normal to the surfaces of the original sheet or plate.

3.2.1.4 *lengthwise (LW)*, *adj*—in the direction of the sheet which is strongest in flexure.

3.2.1.4.1 *Discussion*—For some materials, including the raw materials used for the manufacture of materials considered herein, this direction may be designated as the machine direction or the warp direction.

3.2.2 In referring to bonding strength, the following term applies:

3.2.2.1 *bonding strength*, *n*—the force required to split a prescribed specimen under the test conditions specified herein.

3.2.3 In reference to ignitability and burning time, the following terms apply:

3.2.3.1 *ignition time*, *n*—the elapsed time in seconds required to produce ignition under conditions of this test method.

3.2.3.2 *burning time*, *n*—the elapsed time that the specimen burns after removal of the ignition heat source under conditions of this test method.

4. Conditioning

4.1 The properties of the materials described in these test methods are affected by the temperature and moisture exposure of the materials to a greater or lesser extent, depending on the particular material and the specific property. Control of temperature and humidity exposure is undertaken to: (1) obtain satisfactory test precision, or (2) study the behavior of the material as influenced by specific temperature and humidity conditions.

⁴ Available from American National Standards Institute (ANSI), 1180 Avenue of the Americas, 10th Floor, New York, NY 10036, <http://www.ansi.org>.

⁵ Available from International Organization for Standardization, P.O. Box 56, CH-1211, Geneva 20, Switzerland or from American National Standards Institute (ANSI), 25 W. 43rd St., 4th Floor, New York, NY 10036, <http://www.ansi.org>.