



Designation: D8052/D8052M – 22

Standard Test Method for Quantification of Air Leakage in Low-Sloped Membrane Roof Assemblies¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D8052/D8052M; 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.

1. Scope

1.1 This test method provides a laboratory technique for determining air leakage in low-sloped membrane roof assemblies under specified negative air pressure differences.

1.2 This test method is intended to measure air leakage of a roof assembly with rooftop penetrations.

1.3 The values stated in either SI units or inch-pound units are to be regarded separately as standard. The values stated in each system may not be exact equivalents; therefore, each system shall be used independently of the other. Combining values from the two systems may result in nonconformance with the standard.

1.4 *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.*

1.5 *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

D1079 Terminology Relating to Roofing and Waterproofing
D7586/D7586M Test Method for Quantification of Air Intrusion in Low-Sloped Mechanically Attached Membrane Roof Assemblies (Withdrawn 2020)³

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D08 on Roofing and Waterproofing and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D08.20 on Roofing Membrane Systems.

Current edition approved Aug. 1, 2022. Published September 2022. Originally approved in 2017. Last previous edition approved in 2017 as D8052/D8052M – 17. DOI: 10.1520/D8052_D8052M-22.

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.

E283/E283M Test Method for Determining Rate of Air Leakage Through Exterior Windows, Skylights, Curtain Walls, and Doors Under Specified Pressure Differences Across the Specimen

E631 Terminology of Building Constructions

E691 Practice for Conducting an Interlaboratory Study to Determine the Precision of a Test Method

E1677 Specification for Air Barrier (AB) Material or Assemblies for Low-Rise Framed Building Walls

E1680 Test Method for Rate of Air Leakage through Exterior Metal Roof Panel Systems

E2357 Test Method for Determining Air Leakage Rate of Air Barrier Assemblies

2.2 CAN/CSA Standard:⁴

CAN/CSA-A123.21-14 Standard Test Method for the Dynamic Wind Uplift Resistance of Membrane-roofing Systems

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—Terms used in this test method are defined in Terminology **D1079**, Terminology **E631**, Test Method **E283/E283M**, and Test Method **D7586/D7586M**.

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 The air leakage test consists of installing a roof assembly with five typical rooftop penetrations between two chambers, a bottom chamber where the roof assembly is installed in a horizontal plane, a top chamber through which air is exhausted at a rate required to maintain the specified pressure difference across the roof assembly, and measuring the resultant air flow through the specimen. Although the roof assembly is tested in horizontal plane, the results are applicable to low-sloped roofs as defined in Terminology **D1079**.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 This test method can be useful in understanding the response of low-sloped membrane roof assemblies to air pressure differences induced across the assembly.

⁴ Available from Canadian Standards Association (CSA), 178 Rexdale Blvd., Toronto, ON M9W 1R3, Canada, <http://www.csagroup.org>.

5.2 This test method can be useful in understanding the role of different roofing components in providing resistance to air leakage through the roof assembly.

5.3 When applying the results of tests by this test method, note that the performance of a roof or its components, or both, depends on proper installation.

5.4 This test method does not purport to establish all criteria necessary for the consideration of air movement in the design of a roof assembly. Air intrusion in roofing systems is separate and distinct from air leakage in roofing systems. Test Method [D7586/D7586M](#) provides an air intrusion test method for mechanically attached roof assemblies. The results are intended to be used for comparison purposes and likely do not represent the field-installed performance of the roof assembly.

6. Test Apparatus

6.1 This description of the apparatus is general in nature, and any arrangement of the equipment capable of performing the test method within the allowable tolerances is permitted.

6.2 The major components of the test apparatus are shown in [Fig. 1](#) and described below:

6.2.1 *Pressure Box*—The pressure box shall consist of two test chambers designated as the top chamber and the bottom chamber.

6.2.1.1 *Top Chamber*—The interior length and width dimension of top chamber shall be minimum 6.1 m [20 ft] long and 2.44 m [8 ft] wide, respectively. It shall have a minimum height of 0.9 m [3 ft] and shall be movable. To measure the chamber pressure, it shall be fitted with at least one pressure tap. Provision shall be made for an opening on the top chamber through which the pipe network will be installed and connected to the blower. The top chamber shall be provided with window openings to view the test specimen response and a gust

simulator. The gust simulator shall consist of flap valve connected to a stepping motor through a timing belt arrangement. To facilitate the control of test pressures that are applied over the test specimen, the top chamber shall be well sealed by appropriate sealing products. The top chamber shall be structurally resilient to resist deformation from wind loads induced during the wind conditioning.

NOTE 1—Sealing products such as non-hardening mastic compounds or pressure-sensitive tape can be used to achieve the air tightness in the construction of the pressure chamber, to seal the perimeter edges of the test specimen to the bottom chamber, and to seal the access door to the chamber.

6.2.1.2 *Bottom Chamber*—A supporting frame for the top chamber, which shall have a minimum interior length and width dimension of 6.1 m [20 ft] long and 2.44 m [8 ft] wide, respectively, and a minimum height of 0.9 m [3 ft]. The bottom chamber shall comprise a structural support on which the test specimen shall be installed horizontally as shown in [Fig. 1](#). The structural support shall be installed on a height-adjustable platform that can accommodate membrane roof assemblies with different thicknesses. The bottom chamber and the structural support must be capable of supporting the loads transferred from the test assembly during the conditions specified in [9.8](#).

6.2.2 *Air System*—A controllable blower designed to provide the required air flow at the specified negative pressures. The blower shall be capable of creating suction pressures of up to 5 kPa [100 psf].

6.2.3 *Pressure Measuring Apparatus*—A device for measuring the test pressure difference within a tolerance of $\pm 2\%$ of the reading or ± 2.5 Pa [0.05 psf], whichever is greater.

6.2.4 *Air Flow Measurement System*—A device to measure the air flow into the test chamber or through the test specimen.

NOTE 2—The accuracy of the specimen leakage flow measurement is

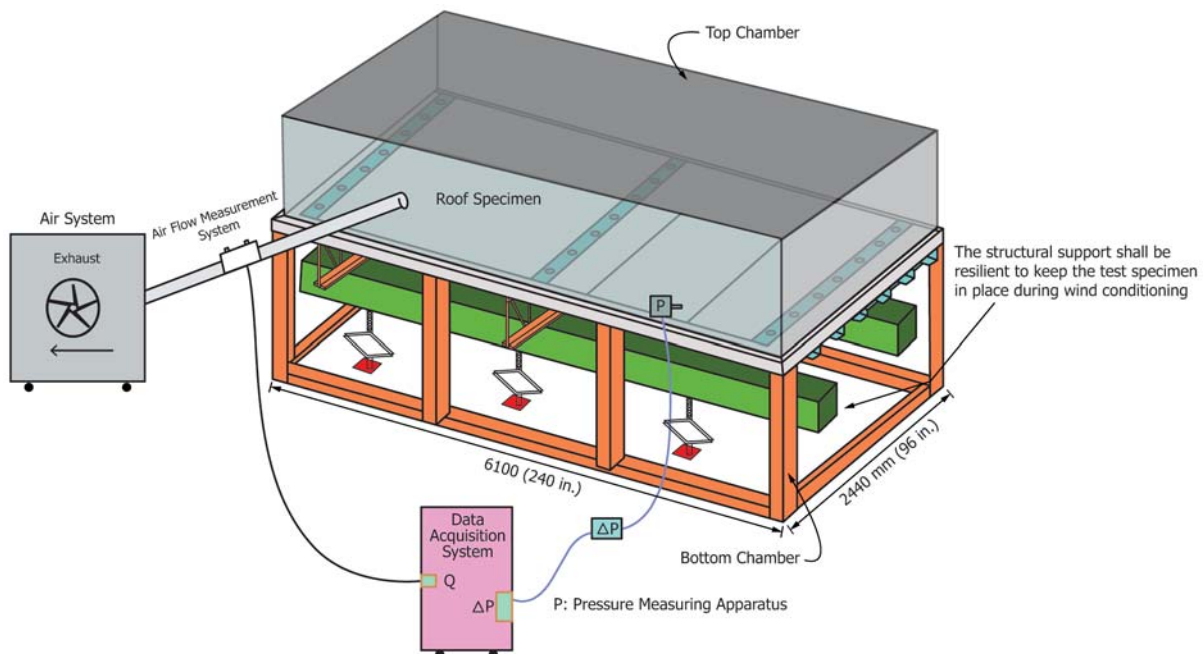


FIG. 1 Air Leakage Test Apparatus