



Designation: D 792 – 98

Standard Test Methods for Density and Specific Gravity (Relative Density) of Plastics by Displacement¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D 792; 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 Department of Defense.

1. Scope *

1.1 These test methods describe the determination of the specific gravity (relative density) and density of solid plastics in forms such as sheets, rods, tubes, or molded items.

1.2 Two test methods are described:

1.2.1 *Test Method A*—For testing solid plastics in water, and

1.2.2 *Test Method B*—For testing solid plastics in liquids other than water.

NOTE 1—Alternatively, Test Method D 1505 may be applied to many such forms, as well as to films and sheeting.

1.3 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as 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 and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

NOTE 2—There is no similar or equivalent ISO standard.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:

D 618 Practice for Conditioning Plastics and Electrical Insulating Materials for Testing²

D 891 Test Methods for Specific Gravity, Apparent, of Liquid Industrial Chemicals³

D 1505 Test Method for Density of Plastics by the Density-Gradient Technique²

D 1622 Test Method for Apparent Density of Rigid Cellular Plastics²

D 1898 Practice for Sampling of Plastics²

E 1 Specification for ASTM Thermometers⁴

E 12 Terminology Relating to Density and Specific Gravity of Solids, Liquids, and Gases⁵

¹ These test methods are under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D-20 on Plastics and are the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D20.70 on Analytical Methods (Section D20.70.01).

Current edition approved Aug. 10, 1998. Published November 1998. Originally published as D 792 – 44. Last previous edition D 792 – 91.

² *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 08.01.

³ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 15.05.

⁴ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 14.03.

⁵ Discontinued; see 1995 *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 15.05.

E 380 Practice for Use of the International System of Units (SI) (the Modernized Metric System)⁶

E 691 Practice for Conducting an Interlaboratory Study to Determine the Precision of a Test Method⁶

3. Terminology

3.1 *General*—The units, symbols, and abbreviations used in these test methods are in accordance with Practice E 380.

3.2 Definitions:

3.2.1 *specific gravity (relative density)*—the ratio of the mass in air of a unit volume of the impermeable portion of the material at 23°C to the mass in air of equal density of an equal volume of gas-free distilled water at the same temperature. The form of expression shall be:

$$\text{Specific gravity (relative density) } 23/23^{\circ}\text{C} \\ (\text{or sp gr } 23/23^{\circ}\text{C})$$

NOTE 3—This definition is essentially equivalent to the definition for apparent specific gravity and apparent density in Terminology E 12, because the small percentage difference introduced by not correcting for the buoyancy of air is insignificant for most purposes.

3.2.2 *density*—the mass in air in kilograms per cubic metre of impermeable portion of the material at 23°C. The form of expression shall be:

$$D^{23}, \text{ kg/m}^3 \text{ (Notes 2-4)}$$

NOTE 4—The SI unit of density, as defined in Practice E 380 is kg/m³. To convert density in g/cm³ to density in kg/m³, multiply by 1000.

NOTE 5—Specific gravity 23/23°C can be converted to density 23°C, kg/m³, by use of the following equation:

$$D^{23^{\circ}\text{C}}, \text{ kg/m}^3 = \text{sp gr } 23/23^{\circ}\text{C} \times 997.6$$

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 Determine the mass of a specimen of the solid plastic in air. It is then immersed in a liquid, its apparent mass upon immersion is determined, and its specific gravity (relative density) calculated.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 The specific gravity or density of a solid is a property that can be measured conveniently to identify a material, to

⁶ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 14.02.

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