



Standard Practice for Outdoor Weathering of Plastics¹

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This standard has been approved for use by agencies of the Department of Defense.

1. Scope*

1.1 This practice is intended to cover procedures for the exposure of plastic materials to weather.

NOTE 1—See Practice [G24](#) for aging under glass.

1.2 This practice is limited to the method by which the material is to be exposed and the general procedure to be followed. It is intended for use with finished articles of commerce as well as with all sizes and shapes of test specimens.

1.3 Means of evaluation of the effects of weathering will depend on the intended use for the test material.

1.4 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as the standard.

1.5 *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—This standard and ISO 877.2-2009, Method A, are technically equivalent.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

[D883 Terminology Relating to Plastics](#)

[D1600 Terminology for Abbreviated Terms Relating to Plastics](#)

[E772 Terminology of Solar Energy Conversion](#)

[G7 Practice for Atmospheric Environmental Exposure Testing of Nonmetallic Materials](#)

[G24 Practice for Conducting Exposures to Daylight Filtered Through Glass](#)

[G113 Terminology Relating to Natural and Artificial Weathering Tests of Nonmetallic Materials](#)

[G141 Guide for Addressing Variability in Exposure Testing of Nonmetallic Materials](#)

[G147 Practice for Conditioning and Handling of Nonmetallic Materials for Natural and Artificial Weathering Tests](#)

2.2 ISO Standard:

[ISO 877.2-2009 Plastics—Methods of exposure to solar radiation—Part 2: Direct weathering and exposure behind glass³](#)

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—For definitions of technical terms pertaining to plastics used in this practice, see Terminologies [D883](#), [D1600](#), [G113](#), and [E772](#).

4. Significance and Use

4.1 Tests conducted in accordance with this practice are used to evaluate the stability of plastic materials when they are exposed outdoors. The relative durability of plastics in outdoor use can be very different depending on the location of the exposure because of differences in ultraviolet (UV) radiation, time of wetness, temperature, pollutants, and other factors. It cannot be assumed, therefore, that results from one exposure in a single location will be useful for determining relative durability in a different location. Exposures in several locations with different climates that represent a broad range of anticipated service conditions are recommended.

4.1.1 Because of year-to-year climatological variations, results from a single exposure test cannot be used to predict the absolute rate at which a material degrades. Several years of repeat exposures are needed to get an average test result for a given location.

4.2 The results of short-term exposure tests can provide an indication of relative outdoor performance, but they should not be used to predict the absolute long-term performance of a material. The results of tests conducted for less than twelve months will depend on the particular season of the year in which they begin.

¹ This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee [D20](#) on Plastics and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee [D20.50](#) on Durability of Plastics.

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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 Available from American National Standards Institute (ANSI), 25 W. 43rd St., 4th Floor, New York, NY 10036, <http://www.ansi.org>.