



Standard Test Method for Rubber Property—Durometer Hardness¹

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

1. Scope

1.1 This test method describes twelve types of rubber hardness measurement devices known as durometers: Types A, B, C, D, DO, E, M, O, OO, OOO, OOO-S, and R. The procedure for determining indentation hardness of substances classified as thermoplastic elastomers, vulcanized (thermoset) rubber, elastomeric materials, cellular materials, gel-like materials and some plastics is also described.

1.2 This test method is not equivalent to other indentation hardness methods and instrument types, specifically those described in Test Method D 1415.

1.3 This test method is not applicable to the testing of coated fabrics.

1.4 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as standard. The values given in parentheses are for information only. Many of the stated dimensions in SI are direct conversions from the U. S. Customary System to accommodate the instrumentation, practices and procedures that existed prior to the Metric Conversion Act of 1975.

1.5 All materials, instruments, or equipment used for the determination of mass, force or dimension shall have traceability to the National Institute for Standards and Technology, or other internationally recognized organization parallel in nature.

1.6 *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:

D 374 Test Methods for Thickness of Solid Electrical Insulation²

D 618 Practice for Conditioning Plastics for Testing³

D 785 Test Method for Rockwell Hardness of Plastics and Electrical Insulating Materials³

D 1349 Practice for Rubber—Standard Temperatures For Testing⁴

D 1415 Test Method for Rubber Property—International Hardness⁴

D 4483 Practice for Determining Precision for Test Method Standards in the Rubber and Carbon Black Industries⁴

F 1957 Test Method for Composite Foam Hardness—Durometer Hardness⁵

2.2 ISO Standards:

ISO/IEC 17025: 1999 General Requirements for the Competence of Testing and Calibration Laboratories⁶

3. Summary of Test Method

3.1 This test method permits hardness measurements based on either initial indentation or indentation after a specified period of time, or both. Durometers with maximum reading indicators used to determine maximum hardness values of a material may yield lower hardness when the maximum indicator is used.

3.2 The procedures for Type M, or micro hardness durometers, accommodate specimens that are, by their dimensions or configuration, ordinarily unable to have their durometer hardness determined by the other durometer types described. Type M durometers are intended for the testing of specimens having a thickness or cross sectional diameter of 1.25 mm (0.050 in.) or greater, although specimens of lesser dimensions may be successfully accommodated under the conditions specified in Section 6, and have a Type M durometer hardness range of between 20 and 90. Those specimens which have a durometer hardness range other than specified shall use another suitable procedure for determining durometer hardness.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 This test method is based on the penetration of a specific type of indenter when forced into the material under specified conditions. The indentation hardness is inversely related to the penetration and is dependent on the elastic modulus and viscoelastic behavior of the material. *The geometry of the*

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D11 on Rubber and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D11.10 on Physical Testing.

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² *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 10.01.

³ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 08.01.

⁴ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 09.01.

⁵ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 15.07.

⁶ Available from International Organization for Standardization (ISO), 1 rue de Varembé, Case postale 56, CH-1211, Geneva 20, Switzerland.