



Standard Test Methods for Transmitted Shock Characteristics of Foam-in-Place Cushioning Materials¹

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1. Scope

1.1 These test methods determine the shock-absorbing characteristics of foam-in-place packaging materials.

1.2 *Test Method A* uses a free-fall package drop test apparatus.

1.3 *Test Method B* uses a shock-test apparatus.

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.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:

D 996 Terminology of Packaging and Distribution Environments²

D 1596 Test Method for Dynamic Shock Cushioning Characteristics of Packaging Materials²

D 3332 Test Method for Mechanical-Shock Fragility of Products, Using Shock Machines²

D 4332 Practice for Conditioning of Containers, Packages, or Package Components for Testing²

D 5276 Test Method for Drop Test of Loaded Containers by Free Fall²

D 5487 Test Method for Simulated Drop of Loaded Containers by Shock Machines²

E 122 Practice for Choice of Sample Size to Estimate a Measure of Quality for a Lot or Process³

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions:

3.1.1 *acceleration*—the rate of change of velocity of a body with respect to time, measured in inches per second per second (metres per second per second).

3.1.2 *velocity*—the rate of change of position of a body in a specified direction with respect to time, measured in inches per second (metres per second).

3.2 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.2.1 *equivalent free-fall height*—the calculated height of free fall in a vacuum required for a falling body to attain a measured or given impact velocity.

3.2.2 *foam-in-place cushioning material*—a material that is formed by dispensing chemical components which react and expand to produce a foam cushioning material in a container or mold.

3.2.3 *free rise core density*—the density of a foam sample taken from the interior of a bun of foam (without skin) that was produced under unrestricted (free-rise) conditions in pounds per cubic foot (kilograms per cubic metre).

3.2.4 *static loading*—the applied mass in pounds (kilograms) divided by the area, measured in square inches (square metres) to which the mass is applied in pounds per square inches (kilograms per square metre).

3.2.5 *velocity change*—the sum of the impact velocity and any rebound velocity.

3.3 Symbols:

3.3.1 *g*—symbol for the acceleration due to the effects of the earth's gravitational pull. While somewhat variable, it is usually considered a constant of value 386 in./s/s (9.8 m/s/s).

4. Summary of Test Methods

4.1 The test methods consist of using the cushioning material to be tested to support a weighted test block inside a package. The complete package is subjected to drops or controlled shocks and the accelerations transmitted to the test block are measured.

4.2 Either Test Method A or B may be used. However, the two methods will not necessarily give the same result.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 Data obtained by these methods may be used to determine the transmitted shock cushioning characteristics of foam-in-place packaging materials. These data allow design of cushioning systems that can provide adequate and efficient use of foam for protection of goods during a distribution life-cycle.

5.2 These methods, in contrast to other methods that usually test only the cushioning foam, are designed to evaluate foam-in-place cushioning materials in a manner in which the foam-in-place packaging material is used. In particular, the method includes simultaneous use of a plastic film, the foam, and the box usually used in this method of packaging. See Fig. 1.

¹ These test methods are under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D-10 on Packaging and are the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D10.13 on Interior Packaging.

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² *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 15.09.

³ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 14.02.