



Standard Test Method for Impact Resistance of Flat, Rigid Plastic Specimen by Means of a Striker Impacted by a Falling Weight (Gardner Impact)¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D5420; 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 covers the determination of the relative ranking of materials according to the energy required to crack or break flat, rigid plastic specimens under various specified conditions of impact of a striker impacted by a falling weight.

1.2 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as the standard. The values given in parentheses are for information only.

1.3 *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 1—There is no known ISO equivalent to this standard.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

- D618 Practice for Conditioning Plastics for Testing
- D883 Terminology Relating to Plastics
- D1600 Terminology for Abbreviated Terms Relating to Plastics
- D2794 Test Method for Resistance of Organic Coatings to the Effects of Rapid Deformation (Impact)
- D3763 Test Method for High Speed Puncture Properties of Plastics Using Load and Displacement Sensors
- D4066 Classification System for Nylon Injection and Extrusion Materials (PA)
- D4226 Test Methods for Impact Resistance of Rigid Poly-(Vinyl Chloride) (PVC) Building Products
- D5628 Test Method for Impact Resistance of Flat, Rigid Plastic Specimens by Means of a Falling Dart (Tup or Falling Mass)

D5947 Test Methods for Physical Dimensions of Solid Plastics Specimens

E171 Practice for Conditioning and Testing Flexible Barrier Packaging

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

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—For definitions of plastics terms used in this test method, see Terminologies D883 and D1600.

3.2 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.2.1 *failure (of test specimen)*—the presence of any crack or split created by the impact of the falling weight that can be seen by the naked eye under normal laboratory lighting conditions.

3.2.1.1 *Discussion*—Failure shall include the following: (1) complete shattering of the plaque; (2) any crack radiating out toward the edges of the plaque on either surface of the plaque; (3) any radial crack within or just outside the impact area of the striker; (4) any hole in the plaque, whether due to brittle or ductile puncture, where unobstructed light or water could pass through; (5) any brittle splitting of the bottom surface of the plaque; and (6) any glassy-type chip dislodged from or loosened from the plaque.

3.2.1.2 *Discussion*—Since the interpretation of failure may be slightly different between material types, refer to the appropriate material specification for guidance.

3.2.1.3 *Discussion*—Cracks usually start at the surface opposite the one that is struck. For example, in some cases incipient cracking in glass-reinforced polymers is difficult to differentiate from the reinforcing fibers. In such cases, apply a penetrating dye such as gentian violet to the stressed surface to determine the onset of crack formation.

3.2.2 *mean-failure energy (mean impact resistance)*—the energy required to produce 50 % failures, equal to the product of the constant mass and mean failure height.

3.2.3 *mean-failure height (impact-failure height)*—the height at which a standard mass, when dropped on test specimens, will cause 50 % failures.

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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.