



Standard Test Method for Tearing Strength of Fabrics by Trapezoid Procedure¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D5587; 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 measurement of the tearing strength of textile fabrics by the trapezoid procedure using a recording constant-rate-of-extension-type (CRE) tensile testing machine.

1.1.1 The CRE-type tensile testing machine has become the preferred test apparatus for determining trapezoid tearing strength. It is recognized that some constant-rate-of-traverse-type (CRT) tensile testing machines continue to be used. Consequently, these test instruments may be used when agreed upon between the purchaser and the supplier. The conditions for use of the CRT-type tensile tester are included in [Appendix X1](#).

1.2 This test method applies to most fabrics including woven fabrics, air bag fabrics, blankets, napped fabrics, knitted fabrics, layered fabrics, pile, and nonwoven fabrics. The fabrics may be untreated, heavily sized, coated, resin-treated, or otherwise treated. Instructions are provided for testing specimens with or without wetting.

1.3 Tearing strength, as measured in this test method, requires that the tear be initiated before testing. The reported value obtained is not directly related to the force required to initiate or start a tear.

1.4 Two calculations for trapezoid tearing strength are provided: the single-peak force and the average of five highest peak forces.

1.5 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as the standard. The values stated in inch-pound units may be approximate.

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:*²

- [D76 Specification for Tensile Testing Machines for Textiles](#)
- [D123 Terminology Relating to Textiles](#)
- [D629 Test Methods for Quantitative Analysis of Textiles](#)
- [D1776 Practice for Conditioning and Testing Textiles](#)
- [D2904 Practice for Interlaboratory Testing of a Textile Test Method that Produces Normally Distributed Data \(Withdrawn 2008\)](#)³
- [D2906 Practice for Statements on Precision and Bias for Textiles \(Withdrawn 2008\)](#)³
- [D4850 Terminology Relating to Fabrics and Fabric Test Methods](#)

3. Terminology

3.1 For all terminology relating to D13.59, Fabric Test methods, General, refer to Terminology [D4850](#).

3.1.1 The following terms are relevant to this standard: fabric, in textiles; peak force, in tear testing of fabrics; tearing force, in fabric; tearing strength, in fabrics; yarn distortion (see [Fig. 1](#)).

3.2 For all other terms related to textiles, refer to Terminology [D123](#).

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 An outline of an isosceles trapezoid is marked on a rectangular specimen (see [Fig. 2](#)). The specimen is slit at the center of the smallest base of the trapezoid to start the tear. The nonparallel sides of the marked trapezoid are clamped in parallel clamps of a tensile testing machine. The separation of the clamps is increased continuously to apply a force to propagate the tear across the specimen. At the same time, the force developed is recorded. The force to continue the tear is calculated from autographic chart recorders or microprocessor data collection systems.

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee [D13](#) on Textiles and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee [D13.60](#) on Fabric Test Methods, Specific.

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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 The last approved version of this historical standard is referenced on www.astm.org.