



Designation: D5930 – 17

Standard Test Method for Thermal Conductivity of Plastics by Means of a Transient Line-Source Technique¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D5930; 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 thermal conductivity of plastics over a temperature range from -40 to 400°C . It is possible to measure the thermal conductivity of filled and unfilled thermoplastics, thermosets, and rubbers in the range from 0.08 to 2.0 W/m.K .

1.2 The values stated in SI units shall be regarded as standard.

1.3 *This standard does not purport to address the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish proper safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

NOTE 1—There is no known ISO equivalent to this test method.

1.4 *This international standard was developed in accordance with internationally recognized principles on standardization established in the Decision on Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations issued by the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*²

C177 Test Method for Steady-State Heat Flux Measurements and Thermal Transmission Properties by Means of the Guarded-Hot-Plate Apparatus

C518 Test Method for Steady-State Thermal Transmission Properties by Means of the Heat Flow Meter Apparatus

C1113 Test Method for Thermal Conductivity of Refractories by Hot Wire (Platinum Resistance Thermometer Technique)

D618 Practice for Conditioning Plastics for Testing

D883 Terminology Relating to Plastics

D2717 Test Method for Thermal Conductivity of Liquids

E177 Practice for Use of the Terms Precision and Bias in ASTM Test Methods

E1225 Test Method for Thermal Conductivity of Solids Using the Guarded-Comparative-Longitudinal Heat Flow Technique

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—Terminology used in this standard is in accordance with Terminology D883.

3.2 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

3.2.1 *temperature transient, n*—the temperature rise associated with the perturbation of a system, initially at a uniform temperature. The system does not attain thermal equilibrium during the transient.

3.2.2 *thermal conductivity, n*—the time rate of steady heat flow/unit area through unit thickness of a homogeneous material in a direction perpendicular to the surface induced by a unit temperature difference.

3.2.2.1 *Discussion*—Where other modes of heat transfer are present in addition to conduction, such as convection and radiation, this property often is referred to as the apparent thermal conductivity, λ_{app} .

3.2.2.2 *Discussion*—Thermal conductivity must be associated with the conditions under which it is measured, such as temperature and pressure, as well as the compositional variation of the material. It is possible that thermal conductivity will vary with direction and orientation of the specimen since some materials are not isotropic with respect to thermal conductivity. In the case of thermoset polymers, it is possible that thermal conductivity will vary with the extent of cure.

3.2.3 *thermal diffusivity*—a heat-transport property given by the thermal conductivity divided by the thermal mass, which is a product of the density and the heat capacity.

3.3 *Symbols:*

3.3.1 C —Probe constant.

3.3.2 λ —Thermal conductivity, W/m.K .

3.3.3 Q —Heat output per unit length, W/m .

3.3.4 T_2 —The temperature (K) recorded at time t_2 .

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D20 on Plastics and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D20.30 on Thermal Properties.

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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.

*A Summary of Changes section appears at the end of this standard