



Standard Test Method for Determination of Mold Growth on Coated Building Products Designed for Interior Applications Using an Environmental Chamber and Indirect Inoculation¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D7855/D7855M; 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 an environmental chamber and the conditions of operation to evaluate in a 4-week period the relative resistance to mold growth and microbial surface defacement on coated building products designed for interior application using an indirect inoculation method. The apparatus is designed so it can be easily built or obtained by any interested party.

1.2 This test method can be used to evaluate the comparative resistance of coated building products to accelerated mold growth. Ratings do not imply a specific time period that the coated building product will be free of fungal growth during installation in an interior environment.

1.3 This test method is not intended for use in the evaluation of public health claims.

1.4 The test method is intended for the accelerated evaluation of mold growth on a coated building product designed for interior use. This method is not intended for evaluation of surfaces designed for exterior applications or uncoated surfaces. Use of this test method for evaluating exterior performance has not been validated, nor have the limitations for such use been determined.

1.5 The values stated in either SI units or inch-pound units are to be regarded separately as standard. The values stated in each system may not be exact equivalents; therefore, each system shall be used independently of the other. Combining values from the two systems may result in non-conformance with the standard.

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

D16 Terminology for Paint, Related Coatings, Materials, and Applications

D1193 Specification for Reagent Water

D6329 Guide for Developing Methodology for Evaluating the Ability of Indoor Materials to Support Microbial Growth Using Static Environmental Chambers

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

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

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—For definitions of terms refer to Terminology **D16**.

3.2 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard*:

3.2.1 *chamber control, n*—open Petri dish containing appropriate agar to demonstrate viability of fungal organisms within the environmental chamber.

3.2.2 *coated building product, n*—a building material having a liquid, liquefiable or mastic composition that is converted to a solid protective, decorative, or functional adherent film after application as a thin layer onto a building fabric.

3.2.3 *interior, n*—any surface not exposed to exterior environments in end use.

3.2.4 *interior finish, n*—interior wall and ceiling finish and interior floor finish.

3.2.5 *material control, n*—untreated representative substrate.

3.2.6 *sample, n*—a portion of material taken from a larger quantity for the purpose of estimating properties or composition of the larger quantity.

3.2.7 *sample tests, n*—a group of samples (one or more).

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee **D01** on Paint and Related Coatings, Materials, and Applications and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee **D01.28** on Biodeterioration.

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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.