



Designation: D7953 – 20 (Reapproved 2024)

## Standard Practice for Electrical Leak Location on Exposed Geomembranes Using the Arc Testing Method<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D7953; 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 ( $\epsilon$ ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

### 1. Scope

1.1 This practice is a performance-based standard for an electrical method for locating leaks in exposed geomembranes. For clarity, this practice uses the term “leak” to mean holes, punctures, tears, knife cuts, seam defects, cracks, and similar breaches in an installed geomembrane (as defined in 3.2.6).

1.2 This practice can be used for geomembranes installed in basins, ponds, tanks, ore and waste pads, landfill cells, landfill caps, canals, and other containment facilities. It is applicable for geomembranes made of materials such as polyethylene, polypropylene, polyvinyl chloride, chlorosulfonated polyethylene, bituminous geomembrane, and any other sufficiently electrically insulating materials. This practice is best applicable for locating geomembrane leaks where the proper preparations have been made during the construction of the facility.

1.3 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as standard. No other units of measurement are included in this standard.

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, health, and environmental practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

1.5 *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:*<sup>2</sup>

D4439 Terminology for Geosynthetics

D6747 Guide for Selection of Techniques for Electrical Leak Location of Leaks in Geomembranes

D7002 Practice for Electrical Leak Location on Exposed Geomembranes Using the Water Puddle Method

D7703 Practice for Electrical Leak Location on Exposed Geomembranes Using the Water Lance Method

### 3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—For general definitions used in this practice, refer to Terminology D4439.

3.2 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

3.2.1 *artificial leak, n*—an electrical simulation of a leak in a geomembrane.

3.2.2 *conductive-backed geomembrane, n*—a specialty geomembrane manufactured using coextrusion technology featuring an insulating layer in intimate contact with a conductive layer.

3.2.3 *current, n*—the flow of electricity or the flow of electric charge.

3.2.4 *electrical leak location, n*—a method which uses electrical current or electrical potential to locate leaks in a geomembrane.

3.2.5 *electrically isolated conductive-backed geomembrane installation, n*—an installation of conductive-backed geomembrane that achieves a continuously conductive surface on the bottom layer while electrically isolating the bottom conductive layer from the top insulating layer of the entire geomembrane installation.

3.2.6 *leak, n*—for the purposes of this document, a leak is any unintended opening, perforation, breach, slit, tear, puncture, crack, or seam breach. Significant amounts of liquids or solids may or may not flow through a leak. Scratches, gouges, dents, or other aberrations that do not completely

<sup>1</sup> This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D35 on Geosynthetics and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D35.10 on Geomembranes.

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<sup>2</sup> For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, [www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org), or contact ASTM Customer Service at [www.astm.org/contact](http://www.astm.org/contact). For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.