

Standard Test Method for Determining Material Ignition and Flame Spread Properties¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation E1321; 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 fire test response standard determines material properties related to piloted ignition of a vertically oriented sample under a constant and uniform heat flux and to lateral flame spread on a vertical surface due to an externally applied radiant-heat flux.

1.2 The results of this test method provide a minimum surface flux and temperature necessary for ignition ($\dot{q}''_{o,ig}$, T_{ig}) and for lateral spread ($\dot{q}''_{o,s}$, $T_{s,min}$), an effective material thermal inertia value ($k\rho c$), and a flame-heating parameter (Φ) pertinent to lateral flame spread.

1.3 The results of this test method are potentially useful to predict the time to ignition, t_{ig} , and the velocity, V , of lateral flame spread on a vertical surface under a specified external flux without forced lateral airflow. Use the equations in [Appendix X1](#) that govern the ignition and flame-spread processes and which have been used to correlate the data.

1.4 This test method is potentially useful to obtain results of ignition and flame spread for materials. Data are reported in units for convenient use in current fire growth models.

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

1.6 *This standard is used to measure and describe the response of materials, products, or assemblies to heat and flame under controlled conditions, but does not by itself incorporate all factors required for fire hazard or fire risk assessment of the materials, products, or assemblies under actual fire conditions.*

1.7 *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.* For specific hazard statements, see Section 7.

1.8 *Fire testing is inherently hazardous. Adequate safeguards for personnel and property shall be employed in conducting these tests.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

[E84 Test Method for Surface Burning Characteristics of Building Materials](#)

[E162 Test Method for Surface Flammability of Materials Using a Radiant Heat Energy Source](#)

[E176 Terminology of Fire Standards](#)

[E286 Test Method for Surface Flammability of Building Materials Using an 8-ft \(2.44-m\) Tunnel Furnace](#) (Withdrawn 1991)³

[E648 Test Method for Critical Radiant Flux of Floor-Covering Systems Using a Radiant Heat Energy Source](#)

[E970 Test Method for Critical Radiant Flux of Exposed Attic Floor Insulation Using a Radiant Heat Energy Source](#)

[E1317 Test Method for Flammability of Marine Surface Finishes](#)

2.2 ASTM Adjuncts:ASTM

Detailed drawings (19), construction information, and parts list (Adjunct to [E1317](#))⁴

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—For definitions of terms used in this test method, refer to Terminology [E176](#).

3.2 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.2.1 *backing board, n*—a noncombustible insulating board, mounted behind the specimen during actual testing to satisfy the theoretical analysis assumption of no heat loss through the specimen. It shall be roughly 25 ± 5 mm thick with a density no greater than 200 ± 50 kg/m³.

3.2.2 *dummy specimen, n*—a noncombustible insulating board used for stabilizing the operating condition of the equipment, roughly 20 ± 5 mm in thickness with a density of 750 ± 100 kg/m³.

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee E05 on Fire Standards and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee E05.22 on Surface Burning.

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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.

⁴ Available from ASTM Headquarters. Order [ADJE1317](#).