



Standard Specification for Fiberglass-Reinforced Plastic (FRP) Rod and Tube Used in Live Line Tools¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This specification covers insulating rods and foam-filled tubes made from fiberglass-reinforced plastic (FRP) that are intended for use in live line tools.

1.2 This specification does not include insulating foam-filled tubes and rods from other materials. Specifications for fittings and attachments to rods and foam-filled tubes for complete tools are not covered in this specification.

1.3 This specification establishes the technical characteristics that the tubes and rods must satisfy.

1.4 The following safety hazards caveat pertains only to the test method portion, Section 12, of this specification. *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:

D 149 Test Method for Dielectric Breakdown Voltage and Dielectric Strength of Solid Electrical Insulating Materials at Commercial Power Frequencies²

D 638 Test Method for Tensile Properties of Plastics³

D 695 Test Method for Compressive Properties of Rigid Plastics³

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.1.1 *acceptance test*—a type of test made at the option of the purchaser.

3.1.2 *design test*—a type of test made on a sample treated as representative of an industrial product. These tests will not generally be repeated in quantity production.

3.1.3 *insulating tubes and rods*—fiberglass-reinforced plastic (FRP) products manufactured using processes so that the

tubes and rods produced will meet the electrical and mechanical tests prescribed in this specification.

3.1.4 *interior foam-filled tube*—homogeneous unicellular thermosetting foam filling with closed cells blown with non-combustible gases. The foam filling shall be bonded to the interior tube wall. The foam filling should be free of voids, separations, holes, cracks, etc.

3.1.5 *routine test*—a type of test made regularly on production material.

3.1.6 *visual inspection*—a visual check made to detect constructional defects.

4. Ordering Information

4.1 *Outside Diameter Sizes*—Foam-filled FRP tube and solid FRP rod shall meet the outside diameter dimensions shown in Table 1. The tolerances shown will assist in ensuring interchangeability with interfacing equipment.

4.2 Inspection of the material shall be agreed upon between the purchaser and the seller as part of the purchase contract.

5. Materials and Manufacture

5.1 Except for those test methods leading to destruction, neither the FRP tube, foam, or the bond between them shall deteriorate during the prescribed mechanical and electrical tests of this specification.

6. Physical Requirements

6.1 The materials shall conform to the diameters prescribed in Table 1 for tube and rod.

6.2 The standard sizes listed by nominal diameter are recommended and do not preclude the manufacture of other sizes or shapes.

7. Weight

7.1 It has not been found necessary to specify the weight of the product produced under this specification in order for it to comply with performance requirements.

8. Workmanship, Finish, and Appearance

8.1 The external surface shall be uniform, symmetrical, and free of abrasions, scratches, blemishes, and surface defects.

8.2 Any defect that may capture an impurity or impair the dielectric integrity of the product shall be cause for rejection.

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F18 on Electrical Protective Equipment for Workers and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F18.35 on Tools and Equipment.

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² *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 10.01.

³ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 08.01.