



Designation: **F 903—99a 903 – 03**

An American National Standard

Standard Test Method for Resistance of Materials Used in Protective Clothing to Penetration by Liquids¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation F 903; 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.

INTRODUCTION

Workers involved in the production, use, and transportation of liquid chemicals can be exposed to numerous compounds capable of causing harm upon contact with the human body. The deleterious effects of these chemicals can range from acute trauma such as skin irritation and burn to chronic degenerative disease, such as cancer. Since engineering controls may not eliminate all possible exposures, attention is often placed on reducing the potential for direct skin contact through the use of protective clothing that resists permeation, penetration, and degradation.

This test method determines resistance to penetration only. Resistance to permeation and degradation should be determined by other test methods.

1. Scope

1.1 This test method is used to test specimens of protective clothing and candidate materials and constructions to be used in protective clothing. The resistance to visible penetration of the test liquid is determined with the liquid in continuous contact with the normally outside surface of the test specimen.

1.2 In some cases, significant amounts of hazardous materials will permeate specimens that pass the penetration tests. For more sensitive analysis use Test Method F 739 to determine permeation.

1.3 This test method is not applicable to finger tips or crotch areas of gloves, which are possible failure points.

1.4 The values as stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as the standard. The values in parentheses are for information only.

1.5 *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.* Specific hazards are given in Section 7.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*

D 1777 Test Method for ~~Measuring~~ Thickness of Textile Materials²

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F23 on Protective Clothing and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F23.30 on Chemical Resistance.

Current edition approved ~~June~~ January 10, 1999; 2003. Published August 1999; March 2003. Originally published as F 903—84; approved in 1984. Last previous edition approved in 1999 as F 903 — 99a.