



Standard Test Method for Testing Flexible Cellular Materials Measurement of Indentation Force Deflection Using a 25-mm [1-in.] Deflection Technique¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D5672/D5672M; 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 a screening type quality control test used to determine if flexible polyurethane foam cushions are within the specified grade range for firmness.

1.2 This test method is limited to foams with thicknesses that are 75 mm [3 in.] or greater.

1.3 This test method is based on the fact that the traditional industry standard thickness for Indentation Force Deflection (IFD) is 100 mm [4 in.], and the traditional percent deflection for IFD acceptance and product planning is 25 %. With respect, then, to these traditional industry conventions, a 25 % deflection on a 100-mm [4-in.] cushion would be 25 mm [1 in.]. Thus, deflecting standard cushions (of proper 100 mm thickness) 25 mm [1 in.] provides a quick way to determine if the flexible polyurethane foam is within the specified grade range for 25 % IFD.

1.4 Cushion thicknesses less than 75 mm [3 in.] shall not be tested for IFD using this test method.

1.5 This test method is intended to provide a quick and simple method to screen flexible polyurethane foams for determination of its firmness grade.

1.6 *Units*—The values stated in U.S. Customary or SI 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.

1.7 *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.*

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D20 on Plastics and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D20.22 on Cellular Materials - Plastics and Elastomers.

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NOTE 1—This test method and ISO 2439 address the same subject matter, but differ in technical content.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

D3574 Test Methods for Flexible Cellular Materials—Slab, Bonded, and Molded Urethane Foams

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

2.2 ISO Standard:

ISO 2439 Flexible Cellular Polymeric Materials—Determination of Hardness (Indentation Technique)

2.3 Method for IFD, Chapter 4.0,

“Flexible Polyurethane Foam Standards and Guidelines,” Joint Industry Foam Standards and Guidelines Committee³

3. Terminology

3.1 This test method is based on Test Methods D3574, Test B₁. Refer to Test Methods D3574 for terminology used in this test method.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 The 25-mm [1-in.] deflection IFD method is recommended for production screening and quality control on full size cushions only.

4.2 Applicable cushion thicknesses to be tested by this test method are only those listed in this test method. Further research and development are required before this test method is applicable to other cushion thicknesses.

4.3 This test method is designed to give a value approximating the 25 % IFD on a 100-mm [4-in.] thick piece of foam when the actual specimen thickness tested is within the ranges listed in the test method. In case of disagreement, the referee

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 Available from the Polyurethane Foam Association (PFA), 334 Lakeside Plaza Loudon, TN 37774, <http://www.pfa.org>.

*A Summary of Changes section appears at the end of this standard

method is the IFD procedure in Test Methods **D3574**, Test B₁. The user of this test method shall establish the correlation between this test method and the referee method.

5. Apparatus

5.1 The apparatus used for determining IFD in Test Methods **D3574**, Test B₁ is used for this test method.

6. Conditioning

6.1 The conditioning conditions described in Test Methods **D3574** are ideal when using this test method; however, since this method is a screening-type test method, precise conditioning is not always practical.

6.2 IFD is very sensitive to temperature and humidity conditions, therefore, testing samples that have been exposed to extreme conditions of humidity and temperature shall be avoided. Simply placing the specimens to be tested into an air-conditioned room in the summer or a heated room in the winter and allowing them to equilibrate for at least 4 h with the cooled or heated room air will alleviate some of the problems associated with extreme weather conditions.

7. Procedure

7.1 *For test specimens 75 – 100 mm [3 – 4 in.] in thickness:*

7.1.1 Length and width of the test specimens shall be 380 mm by 380 mm [15 in. by 15 in.], at minimum. Using the indenter foot, measure the original thickness of the foam specimen using the 4.5-N [1-lb] preload procedure in Test Methods **D3574**, Test B₁. Preflex the test specimen 75 % of its original thickness two times. Before removing the test specimen from under the indenter foot and while the indenter foot still maintains the 4.5-N [1 lb] preload, draw the circumference of the indenter foot on top of the test specimen using a felt tip marker. While circumscribing the indenter foot on the test specimen, be certain that the test specimen is not moved laterally in any direction from the exact location where it was preflexed with the indenter foot. The circumscribed circle will be used for exact relocation of the indenter foot after the required waiting period. After preflexing, a waiting period of 6 ± 1 min is to be observed before performing the 25-mm [1-in.] deflection IFD.

7.1.2 The preflex indentation speed, the indenter foot, and the final indentation speed are the same as specified in Methods **D3574**, Test B₁.

7.1.3 After the 6 ± 1 min waiting period, measure the test specimen thickness by using the 4.5-N [1-lb] preload procedure

in Test Methods **D3574**, Test B₁. Immediately indent the 200-mm [8-in.] diameter presser foot into the foam exactly 25 mm [1 in.]. After 60 ± 3 s, read the 25-mm [1-in.] deflection IFD from the force gauge and record in N [lb].

7.2 *For test specimens 100 – 165 mm [4 – 6.5 in.] in thickness:*

7.2.1 On specimens 100 – 165 mm [4 – 6.5 in.] in thickness, the amount of deflection during preflexing shall be 75 mm [3 in.]. Carry out all other parts of the test as described in Section 6 and in Test Methods **D3574**, Test B₁.

7.3 It has been demonstrated that adherence to all details specified or referenced herein, are necessary to obtain good correlation between this test method and the Test Methods **D3574**, Test B₁, (IFD method). Small deviations in test procedures and conditions can produce large variances in test results in this and other tests on flexible polyurethane foams.

8. Precision and Bias

8.1 Precision for this test method is based on round robin studies conducted by members of the American Furniture Manufacturers Association (AFMA) in accordance with Practice **E691**. For the study, five commercial foams were selected ranging in density from 1.1 pcf up to 3.5 pcf, with IFD values between 53 N [12 lb] and 160 N [36 lb] at 25 % deflection. The number of labs that participated was five. Each laboratory obtained five test results for each material. Precision, characterized by repeatability (S_r and r) and reproducibility (S_R and R), have been determined as shown below.

One Inch IFD, N (Five Laboratories)					
Material	Avg.	S_r^A	S_R^B	r^C	R^D
1	124.9	6.8	13.4	19.1	37.4
2	111.9	6.2	13.3	17.3	37.1
3	77.9	6.8	13.4	19.1	37.6
4	135.3	5.4	8.1	15.0	22.7
5	138.3	9.6	11.9	26.8	33.2

^A S_r = within-laboratory standard deviation for the indicated material. It is obtained by pooling the within laboratory standard deviations of the test results from all of the participating laboratories.

^B S_R = between-laboratory reproducibility, expressed as standard deviation.

^C r = within-laboratory critical interval between two results = $2.8 \times S_r$.

^D R = between laboratories critical interval between two results = $2.8 \times S_R$.

8.2 *Bias*—There are no recognized standards by which to estimate bias for this test method.

9. Keywords

9.1 flexible cellular; foam hardness; indentation test; polyurethane



SUMMARY OF CHANGES

Committee D20 has identified the location of selected changes to this standard since the last issue (D5672 - 09) that may impact the use of this standard. (June 1, 2015)

(1) Revised 1.3 and 1.6, and made editorial corrections throughout the standard.

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