



Standard Practice for Assigning a Standard Commercial Moisture Content for Wool and its' Products¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This practice recommends that a single value be adopted for the commercial moisture content of wool in any of the following forms:

- 1.1.1 Scoured,
- 1.1.2 Carbonized and neutralized,
- 1.1.3 Noils, uncarbonized,
- 1.1.4 Top, oil or dry combed,
- 1.1.5 Yarn, worsted,
- 1.1.6 Yarn, woolen,
- 1.1.7 Yarn, hand knitting, or
- 1.1.8 Fabric.

1.2 *Limitations*—Grease wool, pulled wool, and wool with pH below 5.0 are excluded from this practice.

1.3 *This standard does not purport to address 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:*²

[D123 Terminology Relating to Textiles](#)

[D584 Test Method for Wool Content of Raw Wool—Laboratory Scale](#)

[D1909 Standard Table of Commercial Moisture Regains for Textile Fibers](#)

[D2720 Practice for Calculation of Commercial Weight and Yield of Scoured Wool, Top, and Noil for Various Commercial Compositions](#)

[D4845 Terminology Relating to Wool](#)

¹ This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D13 on Textiles and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D13.13 on Wool and Felt.

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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. Terminology

3.1 For definitions of textile terms used in this practice: carbonized and neutralized wool, commercial moisture content, wool, refer to Terminology [D4845](#).

3.2 For the definition of wool and other textile terms used in this practice, refer to Terminology [D123](#).

4. Significance and Use

4.1 The purpose of this practice is to bring about uniformity of commercial moisture standards in all ASTM specifications relating to wool and its products.

4.2 This practice provides a recommended single value for a standardized commercial moisture content for wool and its products. This avoids difficulties encountered in calculating the amount of moisture-free fiber present in a given mass of wool in any one of the forms listed in [1.1.1](#) to [1.1.8](#) due to trade practices which recognize various commercial moisture allowance values used by certain segments of the trade. (See Test Method [D584](#), Section 3.5, Table D1909, [D1909](#) Note E, and the Tables in Practice [D2720](#)).

4.3 The recommended commercial moisture content should be used where it is desirable to avoid problems in determining moisture-free fiber content when the form of the wool is changed. For example: from scoured wool (12.0 % moisture content) to worsted yarn, dry spun (13.04 % moisture content).

5. Recommended Commercial Moisture Content

5.1 Use 12.0 % as the commercial moisture content for wool and its products.

NOTE 1—For other commercial regain values commonly used for wool in various forms, refer to Table 1 in Table [D1909](#), Table 1 in Practice [D2720](#), and Note 1 in Test Method [D584](#).

5.2 The value of 12.0 % has been assigned as the commercial moisture content for the following reasons:

5.2.1 A moisture content of 12.0 % is approximately equal to 13.6 % moisture regain which has been listed as the American Moisture Regain specification for scoured wool.³

³ *American Wool Handbook*, Second edition, Table 17, p. 157.

5.2.2 A moisture content of 12.0 % is the basis for the assessment of duty on the importation of raw wool into the U.S.⁴

⁴Tariff Schedules of the United States of America, Schedule 3, Part 1, Subpart C, Headnote 1(c).

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