



Standard Test Method for Deterioration of Geotextiles by Exposure to Light, Moisture and Heat in a Xenon Arc Type Apparatus¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D4355/D4355M; 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.

This standard has been approved for use by agencies of the U.S. Department of Defense.

1. Scope

1.1 This test method covers the determination of the deterioration in tensile strength of geotextiles by exposure to xenon arc radiation, moisture, and heat.

1.2 The light and water exposure apparatus employs a xenon-arc light source.

1.3 The values stated in either SI units or inch-pound 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.

1.4 *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:*²

[D123 Terminology Relating to Textiles](#)

[D1898 Practice for Sampling of Plastics \(Withdrawn 1998\)](#)³

[D4439 Terminology for Geosynthetics](#)

[D5035 Test Method for Breaking Force and Elongation of Textile Fabrics \(Strip Method\)](#)

[E691 Practice for Conducting an Interlaboratory Study to Determine the Precision of a Test Method](#)

[G113 Terminology Relating to Natural and Artificial Weathering Tests of Nonmetallic Materials](#)

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee [D35](#) on Geosynthetics and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee [D35.02](#) on Endurance Properties.

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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.

[G141 Guide for Addressing Variability in Exposure Testing of Nonmetallic Materials](#)

[G151 Practice for Exposing Nonmetallic Materials in Accelerated Test Devices that Use Laboratory Light Sources](#)

[G155 Practice for Operating Xenon Arc Light Apparatus for Exposure of Non-Metallic Materials](#)

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

3.1.1 *geotextile*—any permeable textile material used with foundation, soil, rock, earth, or any other geotechnical engineering related material that is an integral part of a man-made product, structure, or system.

3.2 *Definitions:*

3.2.1 For definitions of other textile terms used in this test method, refer to Terminology [D123](#), for geotextile terms refer to Terminology [D4439](#).

3.2.2 The definitions given in Terminology [G113](#) are applicable to this standard.

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 Five specimens of a geotextile for the machine direction and for the cross machine direction are exposed in a xenon arc device for each of the following times: 0 (control specimens), for 150, 300, and 500 h. The exposure consists of 120-min cycles as follows: 90 min of light only at $65 \pm 3^\circ\text{C}$ uninsulated black panel temperature and $50 \pm 10\%$ relative humidity, followed by 30 min of light plus water spray. (See [Note 8](#).)

4.2 After each exposure period, the specimens are subjected to a cut or ravel strip tensile test. The average breaking strength in each direction is compared with the average breaking strength in each direction of the control specimens. The percent strength retained is plotted versus exposure period to produce a degradation curve for the specimens from each direction.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 This method is intended to induce property changes associated with end use conditions, including the effects of solar radiation, moisture and heat. The exposure used is not intended to simulate the deterioration caused by localized

weather phenomena such as atmospheric pollution, biological attack, and salt water exposure.

5.2 The relation between time to failure in an exposure conducted in accordance with this test method, and service life in a specific outdoor environment requires determination of an acceleration factor as defined in Terminology G113. The acceleration factor is material-dependent and is only valid if it is based on data from a sufficient number of separate exterior and laboratory-accelerated exposures so that the results used to relate times to failure in each exposure can be analyzed using statistical methods.

NOTE 1—An example of a statistical analysis using multiple laboratory and exterior exposures to calculate an acceleration factor is described by J. A. Simms.⁴ See Practice G151 for more information and additional cautions about the use of acceleration factors.

5.2.1 The deterioration curve obtained from the results of this test method enables the user to determine the tendency of a geotextile to deteriorate when exposed to xenon arc radiation, water and heat.

5.3 Variation in results may be expected when operating conditions are varied within the accepted limits of this test method. Its intended use is as a qualitative assessment of the presence of ultraviolet inhibitors, and comparison of that influence between products. However, no inference to the time of stability should be implied by the test results to the relation between time duration and outdoor exposure.

NOTE 2—Information on sources of variability and on strategies for addressing variability in the design, execution and data analysis of laboratory accelerated exposure tests is found in Guide G141.

5.3.1 If it becomes necessary for the purchaser and seller to use this test method for acceptance testing, the statistical bias, if any, between the purchaser’s and seller’s laboratories should be determined. Such comparison is based on specimens randomly drawn from the sample of geotextile being evaluated.

5.3.2 In such cases, as a minimum, the two parties should take a group of test specimens which are as homogeneous as possible, and which are from a lot of material of the type in question. The test specimens should then be randomly assigned in equal numbers to each laboratory for testing. The average results from the two laboratories should be compared using Student’s *t*-test for unpaired data and an acceptable probability level chosen by the two parties before the testing started. If a bias is found, either its cause must be found and corrected, or the purchaser and the supplier must agree to interpret future test results in the light of the known bias.

6. Apparatus

6.1 *Xenon-Arc Apparatus*, with daylight filters conforming to Practices G151 and G155.

NOTE 3—Previous versions of this standard referenced in Practice G26 which describes specific equipment designs of xenon arc devices. Practice G26 has been replaced by Practice G151, which gives performance criteria for all devices that use laboratory light sources, plus Practice G155, which gives requirements for exposure of nonmetallic materials in xenon arc devices.

6.1.1 The apparatus must be capable of exposing the specimens to cycles of light only, followed by light and moisture as water spray.

6.2 *Strength Testing Apparatus*, conforming to that described for a 2-in. cut or ravel strip test, as described in Test Method D5035.

7. Sampling

7.1 *Lot Sample*—As a lot sample for acceptance testing, take at random the number of rolls of fabric directed in an applicable material specification or other agreement between the purchaser and the supplier. Consider rolls of fabric to be the primary sampling units. If the specification requires sampling during manufacture, select the rolls for the lot sample at uniformly spaced time intervals throughout the production period.

NOTE 4—An adequate specification or other agreement between the purchaser and the supplier requires taking into account the variability between rolls of fabric, and between specimens from a swatch from a roll of fabric, so as to provide a sampling plan with a meaningful producer’s risk, consumer’s risk, acceptable quality level, and limiting quality level.

7.2 *Laboratory Sample*—Take for the laboratory sample a sample extending the full width of the fabric of sufficient length along the selvage from each sample roll such that the requirements of 8.1 are met. The sample shall exclude material from the outer wrap of the roll or the inner wrap around the core unless the sample is taken at the production site, at which point inner and outer wrap material may be used.

8. Specimen Preparation

8.1 Take two, one-metre square portions from the laboratory sample. Each shall be no closer to the selvage than 1/10 the sample width. One is to be used for machine direction specimens, the other for cross machine direction specimens.

NOTE 5—Since the thickness of a specimen may markedly affect test results, thickness of the replicate specimens shall be within ±10 % of the nominal dimensions. This is especially important when mechanical properties are being investigated.

8.2 Use template illustrated in Fig. 1 to identify potential

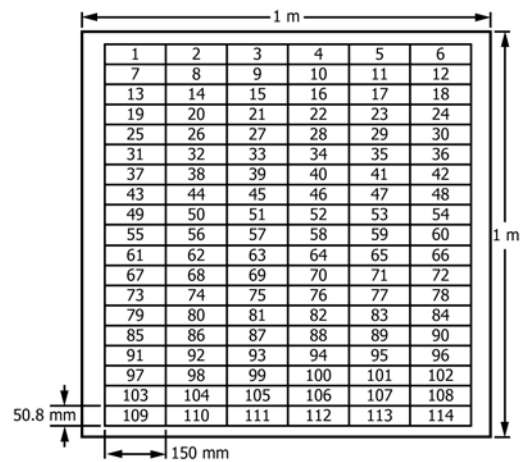


FIG. 1 Specimen Selection Template

⁴ Simms, J. A., *The Journal of Coatings Technology*, Vol 50, 1987, pp. 45-53.

specimens from which the actual specimens are drawn. To select these actual specimens randomly draw 20 specimens from both the machine and cross directions measuring 50 by 150 mm [2 by 6 in.] from the one-metre square portions of each laboratory sample as directed in Practice D1898.

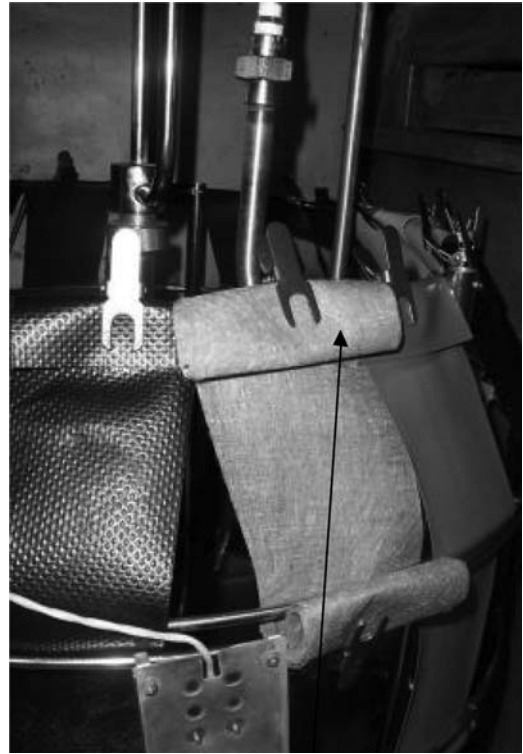
NOTE 6—In the event that roller grips are used to hold the specimens in the tensile testing machine, specimens must be longer than the 150 mm length specified. They shall be of sufficient length to ensure proper gripping. The portions of the specimens may be rolled to accommodate placement in the weathering device. See Figs. 2 and 3 for placement of specimens in a weathering device. Please note that the rolled portions of the specimens shall be protected from exposure to the radiation while in a weathering device.

9. Procedure

9.1 Operate the xenon-arc test apparatus as directed in Practices G151 and G155. Expose test specimens to the following cycle: 90 min of light only at $65 \pm 3^\circ\text{C}$ [$149 \pm 5^\circ\text{F}$] uninsulated black panel temperature, and $50 \pm 10\%$ relative humidity, followed by 30 min of light and water spray.

NOTE 7—Immersion in water during exposure to light is one of the methods specified in Practices G151 and G155 for providing moisture to specimens. It can be substituted for water spray if equivalency is demonstrated, or the geotextile will be immersed in water in its final installation.

NOTE 8—The \pm values are the maximum allowed operational fluctuations about the set points. If the operational fluctuations are greater than the maximum allowable after the equipment is stabilized, discontinue the test and correct the cause of the problem before continuing



When placing specimens to be tested using roller grips in weathering device, the rolled area in the clamp needs to be protected from exposure to radiation to avoid degradation of this area (see arrow).

FIG. 3 Roller Grip Specimen in Weathering Device

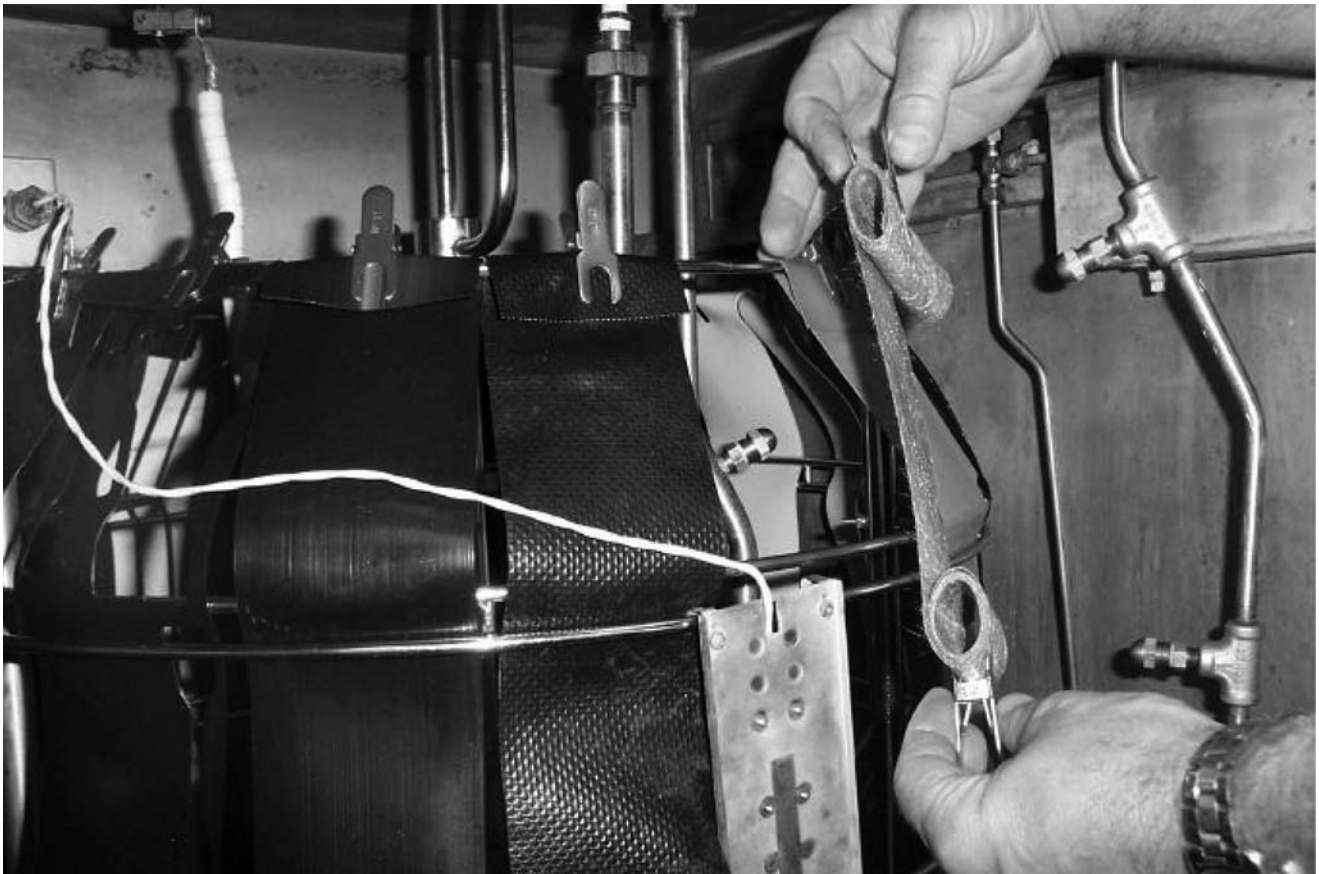


FIG. 2 Roller Grip Specimen Ready for Placement in Weathering Device

9.1.1 Unless otherwise specified, set the level of irradiance at the control point to produce $0.35 \text{ W}/(\text{m}^2 \cdot \text{nm})$ at 340 nm maintained at $0.02 \text{ W}/(\text{m}^2 \cdot \text{nm})$. If the exposure device is not equipped with irradiance control, follow the device manufacturer's recommendations to produce this irradiance. For the equivalent 300 to 400 nm or 300 to 800 nm broad band irradiances and tolerances, consult the manufacturer for the specification.

NOTE 9—Practice **G155** does not specify a particular irradiance level. Various options are listed in Table X3.1 of the appendix in Practice **G155**. However, as the historical records of testing of geotextiles are based on the irradiance of $0.35 \text{ W}/\text{m}^2/\text{nm}$ at 340 nm, this shall be the standard for Test Method D4355.

9.2 Randomly assign five specimens for each direction from each laboratory sample to each of the following exposure times: 0 (unexposed), 150, 300, and 500 clock hours. Place 15 specimens from each direction from each laboratory sample in the apparatus, such that the side most likely to solar radiation will be exposed to radiation in the apparatus.

9.3 Rotate the positions of the specimens in accordance with Practice **G155**.

9.4 At the end of each exposure time, remove the appropriate five specimens for each direction for cut or ravel strip tensile testing.

NOTE 10—Specimens should not be removed from the exposure apparatus for more than 24 h and then returned for additional test since this does not produce the same results on some materials as tests run without this type of interruption. Report the elapsed time for any specimens for which exposure was interrupted for more than 24 h.

9.5 Determine the breaking strength in kilonewtons per metre [pounds-force per inch] of five unexposed (control) specimens and five exposed specimens from each exposure time interval, for each direction, from each laboratory sample as directed in Test Method **D5035** using a 2-in. width strip, except, a CRE or a CRT type testing machine shall be operated at $305 \pm 10 \text{ mm}$ [$12 \pm \frac{1}{2} \text{ in.}$] unless specified otherwise. The distance between clamps shall be $75 \pm 1 \text{ mm}$ [$3 \pm 0.05 \text{ in.}$]. There may be no overall correlation between the results obtained with the CRE machine and the CRT machine. Consequently, these two breaking load testers cannot be used interchangeably. In case of controversy, the CRE method shall prevail.

10. Calculation

10.1 Calculate the average breaking strength for all exposed and unexposed (control) specimens for each direction.

10.2 Calculate the percent loss of strength from the unexposed specimens for the average results of each exposure time for each direction.

10.3 For the groups of five specimens from the unexposed specimens and the specimens exposed at various times, calculate the standard deviation and coefficient of variation for the strip tensile strength.

11. Report

11.1 The test report shall include the following information:

11.1.1 That the tests were made as directed in Test Method D4355,

11.1.2 A full description of the specimens and their origin,

11.1.3 Any full details of sampling not included in Section 7,

11.1.4 Any details of specimen preparation not included in Section 8,

11.1.5 Type and model of exposure device and light source,

11.1.6 Type and age of filters at the beginning of the exposure and whether the filters were changed during exposure,

11.1.7 If required, irradiance in $\text{W}/(\text{m}^2 \cdot \text{nm})$, or radiant exposure in J/m^2 , at the sample plane and the wavelength region in which the measurements were made,

11.1.7.1 Do not report irradiance or radiant exposure unless direct measurements were made during exposure,

11.1.8 Type of black or white panel thermometer, or both if used, and exact position of the thermometer if not located on the specimen plane,

11.1.9 Description of specimen repositioning, if used,

11.1.10 Exposure periods and the elapsed time for any specimens for which the exposure was interrupted for more than 24 h,

11.1.11 The total exposure times, along with the total radiant exposure (irradiance \times time of exposure) at respective clock hour intervals, and the number of cycles as defined in 9.1.1,

11.1.12 A listing of the test results for the unexposed (control) and for each exposure time, for the machine and cross machine direction, consisting of individual breaking strength test results, and their average, and their standard deviation and coefficient of variation,

11.1.13 A listing of the percent of the average unexposed (control) strength retained for each exposure time for each direction, and

11.1.14 A plot of average breaking strength versus exposure time for each direction.

12. Precision and Bias

12.1 Precision:

12.1.1 *Interlaboratory Test Program*—An interlaboratory study of the Test Method D4355 was performed in 2003. The design of the experiment, similar to that of Practice **E691**, and a within-between analyzer of the data, are available from ASTM. In this study, there were five laboratories participating in the round robin study. Four different geotextiles were utilized; a 4 oz/yd². Heat bonded non-woven (Material 1), a 7.8 oz/yd². Spun bonded non-woven (Material 2), a 12 oz/yd². Needle-punched non-woven (Material 3), and a slit film woven (Material 4). The numbers used in the precision statement are based on the percentage of strength retained after exposure.

12.1.2 *95 % Repeatability Limit*—The 95 % confidence Repeatability Limits for the four materials are listed in the following table.



Material	Repeatability Limit (r)	Standard Deviation of Repeatability Limit (S _r)
1	45.9 %	16.4 %
2	7.9 %	2.8 %
3	23.1 %	8.3 %
4	8.1 %	2.9 %

12.2 *Bias*—The procedure in this test method has no bias because the value of that property can only be defined in terms of a test method.

13. Keywords

13.1 accelerated weathering; degradation; deterioration; geotextiles; solar radiation; xenon arc

12.1.3 *95 % Reproducibility Limit (Between Laboratory)*—The 95 % confidence Reproducibility Limits for the four materials are listed in the following table.

Material	Reproducibility Limit (R)	Standard Deviation of Reproducibility Limit (S _R)
1	78.7 %	28.1 %
2	18.0 %	6.4 %
3	54.1 %	19.3 %
4	10.4 %	3.7 %

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