

# Australian Standard<sup>®</sup>

## Methods of testing rigid cellular plastics

### Method 1: Sampling and conditioning

#### METHOD

**1 SCOPE** This Standard sets out the method for the sampling of rigid cellular plastics for testing purposes and for the conditioning of test specimens.

**2 REFERENCED DOCUMENT** The following document is referred to in this Standard:

AS

1327                      Standard environments for conditioning and testing plastics materials

**3 SAMPLING** For the purpose of carrying out the necessary tests, which may be stipulated in any material specification, sampling of rigid cellular plastics shall be undertaken as follows:

- (a) Where possible, the completed manufactured product shall be used for the test specified. Representative samples of the lot being examined shall be selected at random.

NOTE: The method of random selection is a matter for agreement between the purchaser and the manufacturer.

- (b) When it is necessary or advisable to obtain specimens from the article, e.g. in those cases where the entire sample is not required or adaptable for testing, the method of cutting and the exact positions from which specimens are taken shall be specified. If a test specimen is die-cut, sufficient time shall be allowed for complete recovery.
- (c) Test specimens shall be prepared free from skin or other surface defects, unless otherwise specified in the particular test method.
- (d) Test specimens shall be prepared so that the cell structure and surface texture of the cut test specimen remains unaltered. Hot wire cutting of test specimens shall not be used.

NOTE: Where the finished product does not lend itself to testing or to the taking of standard test specimens, the purchaser and manufacturer may agree on deviations from these sampling and specimen size requirements. For example, this may require a comparison of results of standard specimens with results obtained on actual parts.

**4 CONDITIONING OF TEST SPECIMENS** All conditioning shall be as follows:

- (a) No test shall be carried out on samples, specimens or test pieces within 72 h of manufacture.
- (b) All rigid cellular polystyrene test specimens shall be preconditioned in an oven at  $70 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$  for seven days.
- (c) All test specimens and test pieces shall then be conditioned in accordance with AS 1327, at  $23 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$  and  $50 \pm 5\%$  relative humidity for a minimum period of 16 h and only moved to the testing location immediately prior to testing.

NOTE: Where the rigid cellular plastics is, or has to be, used at the same time as other materials, an atmosphere of  $20^\circ\text{C}$  and 65% relative humidity may be permitted to be used after agreement between the interested parties, or if expressly specified.

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