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AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR TESTING AND MATERIALS
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Standard Specification for Rubber Insulating Matting¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D 178; 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 Department of Defense.

1. Scope

1.1 This specification covers acceptance testing of rubber insulating matting for use as a floor covering for protection of workers.

1.2 Two types of matting, differing in chemical and physical characteristics, are provided and are designated as Type I and Type II matting.

1.3 The following safety hazards caveat applies only to the test method portion, Sections 17 to 19, of this specification: *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.*

NOTE 1—Rubber insulating matting should remain flexible for use through normal temperature ranges.

NOTE 2—Rubber as used in this specification is a generic term that includes elastomers and elastomer compounds, regardless of origin.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:

D 149 Test Method for Dielectric Breakdown Voltage and Dielectric Strength of Solid Electrical Insulating Materials at Commercial Power Frequencies²

D 297 Test Methods for Rubber Products—Chemical Analysis³

D 412 Test Methods for Vulcanized Rubber and Thermoplastic Rubbers and Thermoplastic Elastomers—Tension³

D 471 Test Method for Rubber Property—Effect of Liquids³

D 570 Test Method for Water Absorption of Plastics⁴

D 1149 Test Method for Rubber Deterioration—Surface Ozone Cracking in a Chamber³

D 1692 Test Method for Rate of Burning or Extent and Time of Burning of Cellular Plastics Using a Specimen

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F-18 on Electrical Protective Equipment for Workers and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F18.25 on Insulating Cover-Up Equipment. This standard replaces ANSI Standard J 6.7, which is no longer available.

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² Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 10.01.

³ Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 09.01.

⁴ Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 08.01.

Supported by a Horizontal Screen⁵

2.2 American National Standard:⁶

ANSI C84.1 Voltage Ratings for Electric Power Systems and Equipment (60 Hz)

3. Terminology

3.1 *user—as used in 4.3.1*, the entity employing the actual worker(s) utilizing the equipment; if no separate employer, then the individual.

3.2 *voltage, maximum retest*—voltage, either ac rms or dc avg, which is equal to the proof-test voltage for new protective equipment.

3.3 *voltage, retest*—voltage, either ac rms or dc avg, that used protective equipment must be capable of withstanding for a specified test period without breakdown.

3.4 *voltage, nominal design*—a nominal value consistent with the latest revision of ANSI C84.1, assigned to the circuit or system for the purpose of conveniently designating its voltage class.

3.5 *voltage, maximum use*—the ac voltage (rms) classification of the protective equipment that designates the maximum nominal design voltage of the energized system that may be safely worked. The nominal design voltage is equal to phase-to-phase voltage on multiphase circuits.

3.5.1 If there is no multiphase exposure in a system area, and the voltage exposure is limited to phase (polarity on dc systems) to ground potential, the phase (polarity on dc systems) to ground potential shall be considered to be the nominal design voltage.

3.5.2 If electrical equipment and devices are insulated, or isolated, or both, such that the multiphase exposure on a grounded wye circuit is removed, then the nominal design voltage may be considered as the phase-to-ground voltage on that circuit.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 This specification covers the minimum electrical, chemical, and physical properties guaranteed by the manufacturer and the detailed procedures by which such properties are to be determined. The purchaser may at his option perform or

⁵ This standard was discontinued in January 1978. Refer to the 1977 Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Part 36.

⁶ Available from American National Standards Institute, 11 West 42nd Street, 13th Floor, New York, NY 10036.

have performed any of these tests in order to verify the guarantee. Claims for failure to meet the specification are subject to verification by the manufacturer.

4.2 Rubber insulating matting is used for personal protection; therefore when authorizing its use a margin of safety should be allowed between the maximum voltage at which it is used and the proof-test voltage at which it is tested. The relationship between proof-test and the maximum voltage at which matting shall be used is shown in Table 1.

4.3 Work practices vary from user to user, depending upon many factors. These may include, but are not limited to, operating system voltages, construction design, work procedures and techniques, weather conditions etc. Therefore, except for the restrictions set forth in this specification because of design limitations, the use and maintenance of this equipment is beyond the scope of this specification

4.3.1 It is common practice and the responsibility of the user of this type of protective equipment to prepare complete instructions and regulations to govern the correct and safe use of such equipment.

5. Classification

5.1 Matting covered under this specification shall be designated as Type I or Type II; Class 0, Class 1, Class 2, Class 3, or Class 4.

5.1.1 *Type I*, made of any elastomer or combination of elastomer compounds, properly vulcanized.

5.1.2 *Type II*, made of any elastomer or combination of elastomeric compounds with one or more of the following special properties:

5.1.2.1 *A*—Ozone resistance

5.1.2.2 *B*—Flame resistance

5.1.2.3 *C*—Oil resistance

5.1.3 The class designation shall be based on the electrical properties as shown in Table 2.

6. Ordering Information

6.1 Orders for matting under this specification should include the following information:

6.1.1 Type,

6.1.2 Class,

6.1.3 Thickness,

6.1.4 Width,

6.1.5 Length, and

6.1.6 Color.

6.2 The listing of types, classes, thicknesses, widths, lengths, and colors is not intended to mean that all shall necessarily be available from manufacturers; it signifies only that, if made, they shall conform to the details of this specification.

7. Manufacture and Marking

7.1 The matting shall consist of a rubber compound with a smooth, corrugated, or diamond design on one surface and may be backed with fabric, or may have one or more fabric inserts. The back of the matting may be finished with cloth imprint or other slip-resistant material. Any such fabric insert shall not affect adversely the dielectric characteristics of the matting.

7.2 Each piece of matting shall be marked clearly and permanently at a maximum interval of 1 m (3 ft) with the name of the manufacturer or supplier, ASTM D178, type, and class.

8. Dimensions and Permissible Variations

8.1 *Width*—Standard widths shall be 610 ± 13 mm (24.0 ± 0.5 in.), 760 ± 13 mm (30.0 ± 0.5 in.), 914 ± 25 mm (36 ± 1 in.) and 1220 ± 25 mm (48 ± 1 in.).

8.2 *Thickness*—The thickness of the matting shall be as specified in Table 3. Measurements shall be made over the corrugations or diamonds. The corrugations shall be not more than 3.2 mm (0.125 in.) deep. The diamonds shall not be higher than 1.6 mm (0.062 in.).

9. Workmanship and Finish

9.1 The matting shall be free of harmful physical irregularities, which can be detected by thorough test or inspection.

9.1.1 *Nonharmful Irregularities*—Surface irregularities may be present on all rubber matting due to imperfections in molds and inherent difficulties in the manufacturing processes. These irregularities may appear as indentations, protuberances, or imbedded foreign material that are acceptable provided that:

9.1.1.1 The indentation or protuberance tends to blend into a smooth slope upon stretching of the material.

9.1.1.2 The rubber thickness at any irregularity conforms to the thickness requirements.

9.1.1.3 Foreign material remains in place when the matting is bent and stretches equally with the material surrounding it.

10. Chemical and Physical Requirements

10.1 Insulating matting shall conform to the physical requirements in Table 4. For Type II matting, flame or oil resistance can be determined by conducting the tests in 19.2.5 or 19.2.6, respectively.

11. Electrical Requirements

11.1 The entire length of each roll of matting when new (unused) shall withstand the 60-Hz ac proof-test voltage (rms value) or the dc proof-test voltage (average value) specified in Table 2. The test voltage shall be applied continuously for 1 min.

11.2 The matting material when tested between 50-mm (2-in.) disk electrodes with edges rounded to a radius of 6 mm

TABLE 1 Proof Test/Use Voltage Relationship

NOTE 1—The ac voltage (rms) classification of the protective equipment designates the maximum nominal design voltage of the energized system that may be safely worked. The nominal design voltage is equal to:

a. The phase to phase on multiphase circuits or

b. The phase to ground voltage on single phase grounded circuits.

Class of Insulating Matting	Nominal Maximum Use Voltage ^A Phase-Phase ac rms, max	AC Proof-Test Voltage, rms V	DC Proof-Test Voltage, avg, V
0	1 000	5 000	20 000
1	7 500	10 000	40 000
2	17 000	20 000	50 000
3	26 500	30 000	60 000
4	36 000	40 000	70 000

^AExcept for Class 0 equipment, the maximum use voltage is based on the following formula:

Maximum use voltage (maximum nominal design voltage) 0.95 ac proof-test voltage – 2000