

CLEANABILITY TEST FOR OUTSIDE VINYL COATED MATERIAL

Application

This procedure is used to evaluate the surface durability and cleanability of outside automotive quality vinyl coated fabric material after exposure to an industrial atmosphere.

Apparatus Required

Soap

2 % mild liquid soap in tap water (Lux liquid or equivalent). All equivalent materials must be approved by the responsible Engineering activity.

Brush

Soft bristle type.

Paper Towels

Holder

Wood frame, consisting of 4 sides each approximately 2.5 x 2.5 cm cross section. Outside dimensions approximately 23 x 30 cm. Staple or tack specimen to frame and secure to roof with frame at specified angle.

Industrial Atmosphere (Roof)

The approved location for this testing is the Ford Rouge Plant area. Other locations of equivalent dirt fall-out may be used. However, other testing locations must be approved by the responsible Engineering activity.

Conditioning and Test Conditions

All test values indicated herein are based on material conditioned in a controlled atmosphere of 23 +/- 2 °C and 50 +/- 5 % relative humidity for not less than 24 h prior to testing and tested under the same conditions unless otherwise specified.

Date	Action	Revisions
2001 08 22	Revised	Editorial – no technical change A. Cockman
1992 07 06		

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Procedure

1. Cut two 20 x 28 cm test specimens from the material to be tested. Also, cut two 20 x 28 cm test specimens from material which is known to meet the soiling requirement of the Engineering Specification. The latter sample must be the same color and grain as the material being tested, and will be the control specimen. Retain one of each specimen. Mount one of each specimen in holder (control and specimen to be tested), at a 5° angle to the horizontal facing south, and expose to direct weathering in the specified or other approved industrial atmosphere area, for a time duration as specified in the Engineering Specification.
2. Following the exposure period of the test specimens, prepare a two percent soap solution. Using the soft bristle brush and the soap solution, wash one-half of each test specimen. Rinse the washed area of the two specimens with cool water and blot dry with a paper towel.
3. Compare the cleaned exposed control test specimen area with the cleaned exposed area of the specimen under test. Report the ease of cleanability, relative color and/or gloss change or any change as defined in the Engineering Specification between the cleaned control specimen and the cleaned specimen tested.

Chemicals, materials, parts, and equipment referenced in this document must be used and handled properly. Each party is responsible for determining proper use and handling in its facilities.