

NFPA®

701

Standard Methods of
Fire Tests for Flame
Propagation of Textiles
and Films

2023



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Standard Methods of Fire Tests for Flame Propagation of Textiles and Films

2023 Edition



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NFPA® 701

Standard Methods of

Fire Tests for Flame Propagation of Textiles and Films

2023 Edition

This edition of NFPA 701, *Standard Methods of Fire Tests for Flame Propagation of Textiles and Films*, was prepared by the Technical Committee on Fire Tests. It was issued by the Standards Council on November 29, 2022, with an effective date of December 19, 2022, and supersedes all previous editions.

This edition of NFPA 701 was approved as an American National Standard on December 19, 2022.

Origin and Development of NFPA 701

Requirements for the flameproofing of textiles were adopted by the NFPA on recommendation of the Committee on Fireproofing and Preservative Treatments in 1938. These requirements were amended in 1939, 1940, 1941, and 1951. This standard is now under the jurisdiction of the NFPA Technical Committee on Fire Tests; the 1966 edition, which was an extensive revision of the previous edition, was prepared by that committee, as were the 1968, 1969, 1975, 1976, and 1977 editions.

The 1989 edition was a complete rewrite with significant changes to the small-scale test.

The 1996 edition represented a significant departure from earlier editions, as it provided a new test for single-layer and multilayer fabric assemblies but maintained the large-scale test for multilayer assemblies involving coated fabric blackout linings. This new test was developed to address the problem presented by multilayer assemblies that could not be addressed by the current test procedures. The new Test 1 proved through experience to be an adequate predictor of the behavior of single-layer and multilayer assemblies. Chapter 10, "Field Test, Match Flame Test," of the 1989 edition was established as a separate document, NFPA 705, *Recommended Practice for a Field Flame Test for Textiles and Films*.

The 1999 edition incorporated multiple editorial revisions to streamline the terminology used within the document. Many of the editorial changes applied to the application of test procedures for the flame propagation of textiles and film in lieu of a material being designated as flame resistant. A section on the conditioning of test specimens was added to assist the user.

The 2004 edition included a complete editorial rewrite of the document for compliance with the *Manual of Style for NFPA Technical Committee Documents*, resulting in significant chapter renumbering and rearranging of information. Technical changes in the 2004 edition clarified that Test Method 1 was not applicable for plastic blinds and multilayered fabrics. In addition, advisory information was also added to the annex regarding previous small-scale test methodologies that were no longer applicable.

The 2010 edition included a number of primarily organizational changes. The lists and examples of the types of materials governed by NFPA 701 were relocated from Chapter 1 to Annex A. The applicable test protocols for materials used as part of an interior finish application were revised to recognize the ASTM E84/UL 723 tests. NFPA 286, *Standard Methods of Fire Tests for Evaluating Contribution of Wall and Ceiling Interior Finish to Room Fire Growth*, was also included as an acceptable test when evaluating materials for interior finish.

The 2015 edition included editorial revisions clarifying the differences between Test Method 1 and Test Method 2.

The 2019 edition included updates to the burner fuel requirements and those for reporting flaming droplets.

The 2023 edition adds artificial decorative vegetation to the scope and specifically excludes personal protective equipment. Additional clarifications on the history of the test method are added to Annex C.

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Contents

Chapter 1 Administration	701-5	Chapter 12 Test Apparatus and Materials for Test Method 2	701-10
1.1 Scope.	701-5	12.1 Conditioning Oven.	701-10
1.2 Purpose.	701-5	12.2 Test Enclosure.	701-10
1.3 Units.	701-6	12.3 Restraining Clamps.	701-11
Chapter 2 Referenced Publications	701-6	12.4 Gas Burner.	701-11
2.1 General.	701-6	12.5 Timer.	701-12
2.2 NFPA Publications.	701-6	12.6 Ruler.	701-12
2.3 Other Publications.	701-6	Chapter 13 Specimens and Conditioning for Test Method 2	701-12
2.4 References for Extracts in Mandatory Sections.	701-6	13.1 Test Specimens.	701-12
Chapter 3 Definitions	701-6	13.2 Conditioning of Test Specimens.	701-13
3.1 General.	701-6	Chapter 14 Flame Test Procedures for Test Method 2	701-13
3.2 NFPA Official Definitions.	701-6	14.1 Mounting of Test Specimens.	701-13
3.3 General Definitions.	701-6	14.2 Conducting the Flame Test.	701-13
Chapter 4 General Requirements for Test Method 1	701-6	14.3 Measurement of Length of Char.	701-14
4.1 General.	701-6	Chapter 15 Flame Propagation Performance Criteria for Test Method 2	701-14
Chapter 5 Test Apparatus and Materials for Test Method 1	701-7	15.1 Performance Criteria.	701-14
5.1 Conditioning Oven.	701-7	15.2 Retest.	701-14
5.2 Hood.	701-7	Chapter 16 Cleaning and Water Leaching Procedures	701-14
5.3 Test Chamber, Specimen Mounting Pin Bar, and Gas Burner.	701-7	16.1 General.	701-14
5.4 Gas and Control System.	701-7	16.2 Application.	701-14
5.5 Mounting Jig.	701-8	16.3 Accelerated Dry Cleaning.	701-14
5.6 Timer.	701-8	16.4 Accelerated Laundering.	701-14
5.7 Balance.	701-8	16.5 Accelerated Water Leaching.	701-14
5.8 Ruler.	701-8	Chapter 17 Reporting	701-15
5.9 Wire Brush.	701-8	17.1 General.	701-15
5.10 Binder Clips.	701-8	17.2 Material Description.	701-15
Chapter 6 Calibration and Standardization for Test Method 1	701-8	17.3 Conditioning.	701-15
6.1 General.	701-8	17.4 Test Conditions.	701-15
Chapter 7 Specimens and Conditioning for Test Method 1	701-8	17.5 Refurbishing or Weathering Conditions.	701-15
7.1 Test Specimens.	701-8	17.6 Test Results.	701-15
7.2 Conditioning.	701-8	17.7 Final Conclusion.	701-15
Chapter 8 Test Procedure for Test Method 1	701-8	Annex A Explanatory Material	701-15
8.1 Mounting of Test Specimens.	701-8	Annex B Guidance on the Use of the Two Test Methods	701-16
8.2 Burner Placement and Preparation.	701-9	Annex C Test Method 1 Information	701-16
8.3 Conducting the Test.	701-9	Annex D Textile Considerations	701-18
Chapter 9 Calculation of Results for Test Method 1	701-9	Annex E Informational References	701-19
9.1 Calculation of Percent Mass Loss.	701-9	Index	701-20
Chapter 10 Flame Propagation Performance Criteria for Test Method 1	701-9		
10.1 Performance Criteria.	701-9		
Chapter 11 General Requirements for Test Method 2	701-10		
11.1 General.	701-10		