

Colorfastness to Perspiration

Developed in 1949 by AATCC Committee RR52; revised 1952, 1957, 1960, 1962, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1976, 1997; reaffirmed 1967, 1979, 1985, 1989; editorially revised 1961, 1967, 1974, 1981, 1983, 1986, 1995, 2004, 2005; editorially revised and reaffirmed 1994, 2002. Related to ISO 105-E04.

1. Purpose and Scope

1.1 This test method is used to determine the fastness of colored textiles to the effects of acid perspiration. It is applicable to dyed, printed or otherwise colored textile fibers, yarns and fabrics of all kinds and to the testing of dyestuffs as applied to textiles.

1.2 Work by Committee RA52 showed this test will correlate with limited field studies. Prior to this there were acid and alkaline tests; however, as a result of these studies the alkaline test was eliminated (see 13.1).

2. Principle

2.1 A specimen of colored textile in contact with other fiber materials (for color transfer) is wet out in simulated acid perspiration solution, subjected to a fixed mechanical pressure and allowed to dry slowly at a slightly elevated temperature. After conditioning, the specimen is evaluated for color change and the other fiber materials are evaluated for color transfer.

3. Terminology

3.1 **colorfastness**, *n.*—the resistance of a material to change in any of its color characteristics, to transfer of its colorant(s) to adjacent materials or both, as a result of the exposure of the material to any environment that might be encountered during the processing, testing, storage or use of the material.

3.2 **perspiration**, *n.*—a saline fluid secreted by the sweat glands.

4. Safety Precautions

NOTE: These safety precautions are for information purposes only. The precautions are ancillary to the testing procedures and are not intended to be all inclusive. It is the user's responsibility to use safe and proper techniques in handling materials in this test method. Manufacturers MUST be consulted for specific details such as material safety data sheets

and other manufacturer's recommendations. All OSHA standards and rules must also be consulted and followed.

4.1 Follow good laboratory practices. Wear safety glasses in all laboratory areas.

4.2 All chemicals should be handled with care.

4.3 Observe padder safety. Normal safe guards on pad should not be removed. Ensure adequate guard at the nip point. A foot operated kick off is recommended for a motorized padder.

5. Apparatus, Materials and Reagents

5.1 AATCC Perspiration Tester, Spirometer or equivalent device (plastic or glass plates are available with the equipment) (see 13.2 and Figs. 1 and 2).

5.2 Drying oven—convection.

5.3 Balance with a weighing accuracy of ± 0.001 g.

5.4 Multifiber test fabric No. 10 or FA (see 13.3).

5.5 pH meter accurate to ± 0.01 .

5.6 9-step AATCC Chromatic Transference Scale or Gray Scale for Staining (see 13.4).

5.7 Gray Scale for Color Change (see 13.4).

5.8 Wringer (see 13.5).

5.9 White AATCC Blotting Paper (see 13.4).

5.10 Acid perspiration solution.

6. Preparation of Reagent

6.1 Prepare the acid perspiration solution by filling a 1 L volumetric flask half full of distilled water. Add the following chemicals and mix to be sure that all chemicals are thoroughly dissolved:

10 \pm 0.01 g sodium chloride (NaCl)

1 \pm 0.01 g lactic acid, USP 85%

1 \pm 0.01 g sodium phosphate, dibasic, anhydrous (Na₂HPO₄)

0.25 \pm 0.001 g *l*-histidine monohydrochloride (C₆H₉N₃O₂·HCl·H₂O) (see 13.6) Fill the volumetric flask with distilled water to the 1 L mark.

6.2 Test the pH of the solution with a pH meter. If it is not 4.3 ± 0.2 discard it and prepare a new one, making sure all ingredients are weighed accurately. The use of pH test paper is not recommended for this purpose because of its lack of accuracy.

6.3 Do not use perspiration solution that is more than three days old (see 13.7).

7. Verification

7.1 Verification checks on the operation of the test and apparatus should be made routinely and the results kept in a log. The following observations and corrective actions are extremely important to avoid incorrect test results.

7.2 Use an in-house perspiration fabric with a mid-range visual grade on the most heavily stained stripe of the multifiber cloth as a calibration specimen and conduct a perspiration test using three specimens. Verification checks should be performed periodically as well as each time a new lot of multifiber or undyed adjacent fabric is used.

7.2.1 Non-uniform color transfer may be due to improper wet-out procedures or may be a result of uneven pressure on the specimens due to warped plates in the tester. Check the wet-out procedures to be sure that the balance is accurate and that the procedure is being carefully followed. Check all plates to be sure they are in good condition and not warped.

8. Test Specimen

8.1 Number and size of specimens.

8.1.1 Cut one $6 \times 6 \pm 0.2$ cm specimen from each sample and an equal size piece of multifiber test fabric. Do not use multifiber test fabric that has fused edges because it might have thickness variations at the edges which would cause uneven compression during testing. If the fiber or



Fig. 1—AATCC perspiration tester.

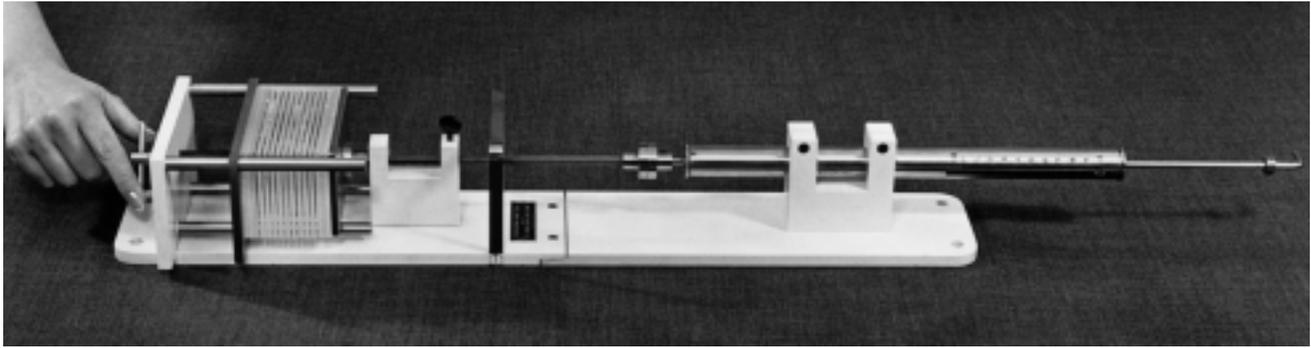


Fig. 2—Perspirometer.

fibers in the dyed fabric are not present in the multifiber test fabric, also include a piece of undyed original material in the test.

8.2 Preparation of specimens.

8.2.1 Sew or lay the multifiber test fabric to the technical face of the test specimen and if used, the undyed original fabric, with the specimen between to make a sandwich assembly.

9. Procedure

9.1 Place each test specimen (as prepared in 8.1 and 8.2) in a 9 cm diameter, 2 cm deep petri dish. Add freshly prepared perspiration solution to a depth of 1.5 cm in the petri dish. Soak the test specimen in the solution for 30 ± 2 min with occasional agitation and squeezing to ensure complete wetting. For fabrics hard to wet out, alternately wet the specimen and pass it through the wringer until it is completely penetrated by the solution.

9.2 After 30 ± 2 min, pass each test specimen assembly through the wringer with the multifiber stripes perpendicular to the length of the wringer rolls (all stripes go through the wringer at the same time). Weigh each test specimen to be sure it weighs 2.25 ± 0.05 times its original weight. Because certain fabrics may not be able to retain this amount of solution when passing through a wringer, such fabrics may be tested after blotting to the required wet pickup with White AATCC Blotting Paper (see 13.4). To obtain consistent results all specimens of a given construction in a test series should have identical pickup, as the degree of staining increases with the amount of retained solution.

9.3 Place each test specimen assembly on a marked plexiglass or glass plate with the multifiber stripes running perpendicular to the long dimension of the plate.

9.4 Depending upon equipment available, use the following alternates:

9.4.1 AATCC Perspiration Tester: Place the plates in the perspiration tester with the specimen assemblies evenly dis-

tributed between the 21 plates. Place all 21 plates into the unit regardless of the number of specimens. After placing the final plate in position (on top) set the dual plates with compensating springs in position, place the 3.63 kg (8.0 lb) weight on top making a total of 4.54 kg (10.0 lb) under the pressure plate, and lock the pressure plate in position by turning the thumb screws. Remove the weight and place the unit lying on its side in the oven.

9.4.2 Perspirometer: Assemble the plates in the perspiration tester with the specimens evenly distributed between the 21 plates. Place all 21 plates into the unit regardless of the number of specimens. The plates are held in a vertical position between an indicating scale with a fixed metal plate at one end and an adjustable metal plate at the other end. Use the adjusting screw to exert a 4.54 kg (10.0 lb) force against the plates. Lock the specimen unit containing the test specimens with a set screw. Remove the pressure gauge unit from the specimen unit and place the specimen unit in the oven. Another specimen unit may be added to the pressure gauge unit and the loading procedure repeated.

9.5 Heat the loaded specimen unit in an oven at $38 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$ ($100 \pm 2^\circ\text{F}$) for $6 \text{ h} \pm 5 \text{ min}$. Check the oven temperature periodically to be sure it remains at the specified temperature throughout the test.

9.6 Remove the tester from the oven and for each test specimen assembly, separate the multifiber fabric and, if used, the adjacent fabric from the test fabric. Place the multifiber fabric and test fabric specimens separately on a wire screen in a conditioned atmosphere ($21 \pm 1^\circ\text{C}$, $65 \pm 5\%$ RH) overnight.

10. Evaluation

10.1 General—Unsatisfactory perspiration fastness may be due to bleeding or migration of color or it may be due to change in color of the dyed material. It should be noted that objectionable change in color may be encountered with no apparent bleeding. On the other hand,

there may be bleeding with no apparent change in color, or there may be both bleeding and change in color.

10.2 Rate the effect on the color of the test specimens by reference to the Gray Scale for Color Change. (Usage of this scale is discussed in Evaluation Procedure 1.)

Grade 5—negligible or no change as shown in Gray Scale Step 5.

Grade 4.5—change in color equivalent to Gray Scale Step 4-5.

Grade 4—change in color equivalent to Gray Scale Step 4.

Grade 3.5—change in color equivalent to Gray Scale Step 3-4.

Grade 3—change in color equivalent to Gray Scale Step 3.

Grade 2.5—change in color equivalent to Gray Scale Step 2-3.

Grade 2—change in color equivalent to Gray Scale Step 2.

Grade 1.5—change in color equivalent to Gray Scale Step 1-2.

Grade 1—change in color equivalent to Gray Scale Step 1.

10.3 Rate the staining on each fiber type of the multifiber, and the undyed original fabric if used, by means of the Gray Scale for Staining or the 9-step AATCC Chromatic Transference Scale. (Usage of these scales is discussed in AATCC Evaluation Procedures 2 and 8, respectively.)

Grade 5—negligible or no color transfer.

Grade 4.5—color transfer equivalent to Step 4-5 on the Gray Scale for Staining or Row 4.5 on the 9-step AATCC Chromatic Transference Scale.

Grade 4—color transfer equivalent to Step 4 on the Gray Scale for Staining or Row 4 on the 9-step AATCC Chromatic Transference Scale.

Grade 3.5—color transfer equivalent to Step 3-4 on the Gray Scale for Staining or Row 3.5 on the 9-step AATCC Chromatic Transference Scale.

Grade 3—color transfer equivalent to Step 3 on the Gray Scale for Staining or Row 3 on the 9-step AATCC Chromatic Transference Scale.

Grade 2.5—color transfer equivalent to Step 2-3 on the Gray Scale for Staining or Row 2.5 on the 9-step AATCC Chromatic Transference Scale.

Grade 2—color transfer equivalent to Step 2 on the Gray Scale for Staining or Row 2 on the 9-step AATCC Chromatic Transference Scale.

Grade 1.5—color transfer equivalent to Step 1-2 on the Gray Scale for Staining or Row 1.5 on the 9-step AATCC Chromatic Transference Scale.

Grade 1—color transfer equivalent to Step 1 on the Gray Scale for Staining or Row 1 on the 9-step AATCC Chromatic Transference Scale.

11. Report

11.1 Report the color change grade and the staining grades for each fiber type in the multifiber test sample and state which scale (Gray Scale for Staining or 9-step AATCC Chromatic Transference Scale) was used in the staining evaluation (see 13.4).

12. Precision and Bias

12.1 *Precision*. Precision for this test method has not been established. Until a precision statement is generated for this test method, use standard statistical techniques in making any comparisons of test results for either *within-laboratory* or

between-laboratory averages.

12.2 *Bias*. The colorfastness to perspiration can be defined only in terms of a test method. There is no independent method for determining the true value. As a means of estimating this property, the method has no known bias.

13. Notes

13.1 Background information on the committee's work and decision to eliminate the alkaline test was published in two articles in *Textile Chemist and Colorist*: "Colorfastness to Perspiration and Chemicals" (October 1974) and "Evaluating Colorfastness to Perspiration: Laboratory Test vs. Wear Test" (November 1974). Although the alkaline test has been eliminated from this method, there may be certain instances in foreign trade or special end-uses that require the alkaline test. In these instances the alkaline test should be run as in AATCC Method 15-1973. For convenient reference the composition of the alkaline solution is as follows: Alkaline Solution—10 g sodium chloride; 4 g ammonium carbonate, USP; 1 g sodium phosphate, dibasic, anhydrous (Na_2HPO_4); 0.25 g *l*-histidine monohydrochloride. Make up to one liter with distilled water. This solution should give a pH of 8.0.

13.2 The AATCC Perspiration Tester is available from SDL Atlas L.L.C., 1813A Associate Lane, Charlotte NC 28217; tel: 704/329-0911; fax: 704/329-0914; e-mail: info@sdlatlas.com. The Perspirometer is available from The Orange Machine and Mfg. Co., 1503 Bay Ave., Point Pleasant NJ 08742;

tel: 908/295-2262. Purchase an adequate number of plates with either unit for routine testing needs.

13.3 Multifiber test fabric is available from Testfabrics Inc., P.O. Box 26, 415 Delaware St., W. Pittston PA 18643; tel: 570/603-0432; fax: 570/603-0433; e-mail: testfabric@aol.com. Multifiber test fabric is also available from Textile Innovators Corp., div. of SDL Atlas L.L.C., P.O. Box 8, 101 Forest St., Windsor NC 27983; tel: 252/794-9703; fax: 252/794-9704; e-mail: tic@sdlatlas.com. The six fiber test fabric #10 or FA without fused edges should be used in this method.

13.4 The 9-step AATCC Chromatic Transference Scale, Gray Scale for Staining, Gray Scale for Color Change and White AATCC Blotting Paper are available from AATCC, P.O. Box 12215, Research Triangle Park NC 27709; tel: 919/549-8141; fax: 919/549-8933; e-mail: orders@aatcc.org.

13.5 A suitable wringer is the Atlas Motorized Laboratory Wringer available from SDL Atlas L.L.C., 1813A Associate Lane, Charlotte NC 28217; tel: 704/329-0911; fax: 704/329-0914; e-mail: info@sdlatlas.com.

13.6 *l*-Histidine monohydrochloride can be purchased from Fisher Scientific; tel: 800-766-7000.

13.7 Committee RR52 established that fungi begin to grow in the acid perspiration solution and that the pH gradually rises after three days of storage under ambient room temperatures, even when kept in a stoppered solution bottle.

13.8 For very critical evaluations and in the case of arbitration, ratings must be based on the geometric Gray Scale for Staining.