

INDA NEWS

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Technical Update

COMPARISON OF ASTM/CEN TENSILE TESTS INDICATES HARMONIZATION

Back in the spring of 2002, there had been a debate among members of INDA's Standard Test Methods committee as to whether there was any correlation between an ASTM and a CEN strip tensile methods. The methods in question were ASTM D 5035-95, Standard Test Method for Breaking Force and Elongation of Textile Fabrics (also known as IST 110.4) and CEN 20973, Part 3, Tensile Methods for Nonwovens, Determination of Tensile Strength and Elongation (also known as ISO 9073-3:1989 and ERT 20.2-2001).

Behind the debate is the fact that many nonwoven producers are multinational, doing business in all parts of the world. This means that, more often than not, labs in the different regions are using one or the other test method to determine tensile properties. If the test results can't be correlated, then it is extremely difficult to compare results and ultimately product performance among the various facilities.

Debate turned to action when the STM decided to actively investigate whether there is correlation or not. At first glance, there are six major differences between ASTM 5035 and CEN 29073-3. However, there are three that really stand out:

- Rate of extension (crosshead speed) ... (ASTM 5035: 300mm/min and CEN 29073-3: 100mm/min)
- Sample size ... (ASTM 5035: 25mm by 150mm and CEN 29073-3: 50mm by 200mm; ASTM 5035 does, however, have the option of using a 50mm by 150mm sample size)

- Gage length ... (ASTM 5035: 75mm and CEN 29073-3: 200mm)

These, then, would become the variables of interest during the investigation.

An initial limited round-robin test more or less confirmed the perception that there was no similarity of results between the two methods. However, Carl Palenske, INDA's consultant to the STM committee, and Mike Thomason, our STM Chairman, were not completely convinced.

Developing A Plan

It was obvious that there were many variables inherent in round robin testing and these could all contribute to the variability between test methods. So Carl developed a plan to eliminate as many of these variables as possible. He devised a study that would be done on one piece of test equipment, at one location, using one technician and completed in one day. Each test method procedure would be followed as closely as possible. Testing would be done on four fabric samples, two nonwovens and two woven. The variables would include three sample dimensions (25mm x 150mm, 50mm x 150mm and 50mm x 250mm), two crosshead speeds (100mm/min and 300mm/min) and two gage lengths (75mm and 200mm). With a sample size of 20, there would be over 500 individual tests!

There was a wealth of information gleaned from this study — too much to go through in this article. The one very important result was that if both test methods are performed just as they're written and the optional

50mm by 150mm sample size is used for ASTM 5035, there is no significant difference in the results from both test methods! This means that an international company could compare tensile results from both methods if the 50mm sample size is used for both methods. This would give us two harmonized test procedures for measuring tensile!

One other piece of knowledge gained from this experience has to do with round robin testing. On a second round of testing, each lab was asked to record the test equipment being used, load cell size, the software being used, the lab conditions, conditioning procedure and any deviations from each test procedure. It was clear from the results that there is considerable variation from lab to lab, even within the same company, including a number of alterations or short cuts to the test procedures. All of these variables, not to mention calibration history of the equipment and sample preparation, contribute to the variability of the test results.

In summary, CEN 29073-3 and ASTM 5035 will give the same results if each method is followed precisely as written and ASTM 5035 is conducted with a 50mm wide sample. Also, validity of results is in jeopardy if test methods are not followed precisely. Labs should take care to audit procedures in order to eliminate modifications that can creep into day-to-day operations.

If you would like a complete copy of the study results, as well as a Powerpoint presentation, contact Cos Camelio at ccamelio@inda.org; or 919-233-1210 x114.

The Spring 2003 issue of the INTERNATIONAL NONWOVENS JOURNAL
is now available on-line at www.inda.org

INDA Meetings Update

New: Nonwoven Enhancements Conference

In conjunction with AATCC, INDA will offer a new learning opportunity this summer with its Nonwoven Enhancements Conference. Designed for both the nonwoven and textile industries, this conference will focus on the techniques and technologies used to dye, print and color nonwovens. It is set for June 17-19, 2003 at the North Raleigh Hilton, Raleigh, North Carolina.

IDEA 2004: 'He Who Hesitates Is Lost!'

Is your company one of the several INDA member companies that has not yet reserved booth space for the IDEA 2004 International Engineered Fabrics Exposition, April 27-29, 2004 in Miami, Florida? Well, what are you waiting for?

This winter we have been receiving as many as 15 booth inquiries a day and very soon good locations will become even more scarce. Don't hesitate any longer, and don't get lost on the IDEA floor! Contact Marilyn Bellinger at mbellinger@inda.org and reserve a prime location today.

INTC 2003

Preparations are being made for INTC 2003, the leading nonwovens technical event of the year. It is sponsored by INDA and by TAPPI Nonwovens and this year it is being held September 16-18, 2003 at the Renaissance Harborplace Hotel in Baltimore.

Best INTC Papers Announced

Four technical papers presented by both industry and academia have been recognized as the Best Papers at the International Nonwovens Technical Conference (INTC), held last September in Atlanta, GA.

INTC, the premier industry conference for nonwovens and related technology, is co-sponsored each fall by INDA and the TAPPI Nonwovens Division. INTC 2003 is scheduled for September 16-18, 2003 in Baltimore, Maryland.

The four recipients of the INTC 2002 Best Paper Awards are:

- James Barry, Creare, Inc., "Computational Modeling of Protective Clothing." Session: Process Modeling.

ANNUAL MEETING 2003:

THE PLACE TO BE NEXT MONTH

Mark your calendar. This year's Annual Meeting will be held May 1-3 at the Harbor Court Hotel in Baltimore, Maryland. This is your one opportunity to network and do business with a Who's Who in the nonwovens industry in 2003.

More information about this exclusive opportunity for members only will be sent to you soon, but for now if you have any questions about the Annual Meeting don't hesitate to contact INDA.

And if there is someone you know who should be included on the invitee list, pass that name along to Misty Ayers, INDA Membership Services Coordinator, at 919-233-1210 ext. 112; mayers@inda.org.

The conference will focus on the following areas: Automotive Interiors, Barriers, Binders/Additives, Building and Industrial Mat, Filtration, Finishes, Insulation, Polymers and Fibers, Hydroentangling, Thermal Bonding, Spunbonding and Meltblowing, Nanofibers, Properties and Performance and Wipes.

A New Technology Showcase and tabletop event will be part of the many networking opportunities during INTC 2003.

- Behnam Pourdeyhimi, Nonwovens Cooperative Research Center, North Carolina State University, "In-Plane Liquid Distribution in Nonwoven Fabrics." Session: Absorbents

- Randall Bresee, University of Tennessee, "Fiber Formation During Meltblowing." Session: Process Technology

- Stephen Michielsen, Georgia Institute of Technology, "Surface Modification of Fibers via Graft-Site Amplifying Polymers." Session: Finishes & Surfaces

During INTC 2003, each of the four recipients will receive a \$250 award along with a certificate to acknowledge their achievement.

For more information on INTC 2003: INDA, 919-233-1210; info@inda.org.

Filtration 2003 Returning To Chicago in November

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After a successful – although a bit snowy – Filtration 2002 in Washington, DC last December, Filtration 2003 exhibit sales have already taken off for its return to Navy Pier in Chicago, November 18-20, 2003.

2003, the World's Largest Filtration Event! This is your chance to meet more than 1700 current and potential customers from all over the world, so don't miss out on this great opportunity.

For more information on exhibiting, contact Tracey Barefoot at INDA, 919-233-1210; Ext. 129; or email tbarefoot@inda.org.

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Government Relations Update

U.S. PROPOSES IMMEDIATE TARIFF ELIMINATION FOR ROLL GOODS

The Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) announced early last month that it is proposing the immediate elimination of duties on nonwoven roll goods traded throughout North, Central and South America as part of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) negotiations. If this proposal is accepted, and the negotiations are ultimately successful, duties on roll goods would be eliminated no later than December 31, 2005.

Under the U.S. proposal, duties on most other apparel and textile items would be phased out within five years of the trade pact's effective date, and all hemispheric tariffs on consumer and industrial products would be eliminated by 2015.

INDA supports the USTR proposal for nonwovens because it would level the playing field that has been tilted in favor of our trading partners since the mid-1990's when the U.S. unilaterally eliminated its duties on nonwoven roll goods under the most recent round of global trade negotiations. The result is countries in the Western Hemisphere such as Brazil, Argentina and Venezuela continue to charge hefty duties on U.S. exports of roll goods, but can send the same product to the U.S. duty free. For more: www.ustr.gov.

INDA MEETS WITH HOUSE CONGRESSIONAL TEXTILE CAUCUS

Moving forward with its effort to introduce the nonwovens industry to every member of the U.S. Senate and House of Representative before the 108th Congress adjourns in late 2004, INDA's Government Affairs staff has already visited the offices of several members of the Congressional Textile Caucus, including a personal meeting with Rep. John Spratt

(D-SC), who co-chairs the Caucus. To date, INDA staff has also met with the offices of Rep. Sue Myrick (R-NC), Rep. Robin Hayes (R-NC), and Rep. Charles Norwood (R-GA).

In the course of these meetings, INDA has provided an overview of the nonwovens industry and discussed our industry's views on legislative issues such as international trade. In each of these meetings INDA staff has also sought an opportunity for the entire Textile Caucus to visit with members of the nonwovens industry who are willing to travel to Washington, D.C. this spring. The idea is to arrange an event where Congressional representatives could meet informally with members of the nonwovens industry so that both groups could gain a better understanding of each other. While Caucus members are receptive to this idea, details have not yet been formalized.

If you or your company is interested in attending this event, please contact either Peter Mayberry or Jessica Franken at 703-538-8805; pgmayberry@aol.com or jfranken@aol.com.

DEVELOPMENT OF FLAMMABILITY STANDARDS CONTINUES

In separate developments, the California Bureau of Home Furnishings has released draft standards for mattress flammability requirements, and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has released a new briefing package on its efforts to establish a national standard for upholstered furniture flammability regulations. Both of these releases were made in mid-February.

With regard to California, the Bureau notes that its proposed standard will not have an "adverse long term economic impact" on mattress manufacturers because they will be able to meet the

standard through use of "flame-blocking barriers, fire retardant threads, and encasement of core fillings with fire retardant materials."

The Bureau also notes that there is "adequate availability" of these materials, and that "the cost of these supplies [does] not constitute a significant cost to [mattress] manufacturers." The California Bureau is required by state law to have mattress flammability standards in place by early next year. While the Bureau is also in the process of updating California flammability for upholstered furniture, this effort is taking a backseat to the mattress standards due to the legislated deadline for action on sleep products.

For information on how to obtain copies of either document, contact Peter Mayberry, pgmayberry@aol.com; 703-538-8804.

EPA PROPOSAL COULD REQUIRE USE OF FABRIC FILTERS

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published proposed rules on January 12 that, if eventually adopted, would require industrial/commercial/institutional boilers and process heaters to significantly reduce their emissions of hazardous air pollutants such as hydrochloric acid and heavy metals.

The proposed emission requirements are so stringent, in fact, that facilities deemed to be "major sources" of these emissions would likely have to utilize fabric filtration devices. Because nonwovens are often incorporated into these types of filtration devices, INDA has formally offered to assist EPA as the rulemaking process moves forward.

For information regarding the proposed standard contact Jim Eddinger, EPA's Combustion Group, 919-541-5426; edding.jim@epa.gov.

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Vision 2003 Conference Sets Attendance Records

It was quite a three days in New Orleans in January as the second annual Vision Consumer Products Conference attracted record attendance and nationally known speakers who challenged attendees to continue to “follow their vision” in a difficult economic environment.

More than 500 people attended the Vision 2003 Consumer Products Conference, sponsored by INDA, a 30% increase in attendance from the inaugural event a year earlier.

“The incredible growth of the Vision Consumer Products Conference is testament to the role nonwoven fabrics and related technologies play in the development of consumer products,” said INDA President Ted Wirtz. “In just two years Vision has become one of the largest, most important gatherings of nonwovens and consumer products executives in the world.”

Wirtz emphasized that the Vision Conference is organized by the industry, for the industry. “All proceeds from this event are immediately reinvested into programs that benefit the industry and INDA members,” he said.

Among the presentations at Vision 2003:

- Carol Berning (*photo below left*), Research Fellow at Procter & Gamble,



led attendees on a hands-on consumer research study into the stores of New Orleans. “The consumer is our boss,” Dr. Berning said, “and to keep the boss happy you have to know what she is thinking.”

• A challenge was made by John Bouda, a board member of the National Association for Continence (NAFC), who urged the assembled personal products companies to develop better, more

FMJ ChemBio Receives 2003 Visionary Award

One of the highlights of Vision 2003 was the presentation of the prestigious 2003 Visionary Award to FMJ ChemBio, San Diego, for its Civilian Quick Escape Mask. The FMJ product was selected by Vision attendees after presentations by all six finalists.

The Visionary Award identifies and honors recently introduced consumer products for their innovative use of nonwoven fabrics and technology.

FMJ was selected over five other finalists for this prestigious award, including Purolator for its Puropleat Ultra home air filter; ThermaSilk Intensive Conditioning Heat-Activated Hair Wrap, Helene Curtis; Huggies Supreme Diapers, Kimberly-Clark; The Neat Sheet, Kimberly-Clark; and ThermaCare, Procter & Gamble.

INDA will be announcing the exact January, 2004 dates and location for the Vision 2004 Consumer Products Conference shortly.

The 2003 Visionary Award finalists (from left): Visionary Award recipient Fred Jameson, FMJ ChemBio; Jim Leet, Purolator; Sarah Freiberg-er, Kimberly-Clark; Ken Edelman, Procter & Gamble; Dan Pyles, Unilever/Helene Curtis; and Charlie Cooke, Kimberly-Clark.



targeted products for the many types of incontinence sufferers.

- “The Business Case for Diversity,” an insightful exploration by Procter & Gamble’s Darrel Hodnet and George Hill, of Adhesives Solutions, explained how all businesses benefit by increasing the diversity of their employees and their suppliers as well.

- A timely look at Globalization was provided by Dr. James Smith, Professor of Economics at University of North Carolina. On the morning following President Bush’s State of the Union address, he challenged attendees to look beyond their own borders for growth possibilities.

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GOOD START FOR NEW MEMBERS IN 2003

If the winter months of January and February are any indication, 2003 looks like it will be another banner year for membership recruitment. And, of course, as membership numbers increase, more membership services are close behind. The entire industry benefits from new companies joining the association. With that in mind, please welcome our newest INDA members:

AstenJohnson,
Specialty Fabrics

Avgol Nonwoven Industries

Fox Converting, Inc.

Ford, Trimble & Associates, Inc.

FMJ ChemBio, Inc.

Fulflex Inc.

Graf Metallic of America, Inc.

LymTech Scientific

Martin Automatic Inc.

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