

New AATCC test method designations for transparency



Pic: AATCC

[American Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists \(AATCC\)](#), not-for-profit professional association, has changed the test methods and procedures in the 2020 AATCC technical manual. In 2019, AATCC's executive committee on research approved a new format for numeric designations and titles to offer users greater visibility to changes in the standards.

All AATCC standards now clearly specify the type of standard in each title. AATCC TM8 is now test method for colorfastness to crocking; crockmeter; AATCC ep1 is evaluation procedure for gray scale for color change.

The descriptive words have been removed from the designation and replaced by letters.

AATCC test method 8 is now AATCC tm8. The concise alpha-numeric designation allows quick reference and easy searching of digital media. It also avoids confusion among various types of standards; AATCC tm8 and AATCC ep8 are not the same document. References to AATCC standards should always include "AATCC" the one- or two-letter code (tm, lp, ep, m), and a number. There is no space between the code and number.

Standard dates will now include significantly more information. Instead of one date to indicate a revision or reaffirmation, the first date will always be the year of the most recent technical changes. If the standard is subsequently reaffirmed with no changes, that year will appear in parentheses after the first date. A small letter "e" indicates editorial changes and a small letter "t" indicates additional technical changes in the same year.

Some of the new dates are a bit messy, but they provide more information and will be simplified as standards are gradually revised.

No.292 Feb, 2020

For example, AATCC tm17-1999e2 (2018)e was last updated in 1999. There were two editorial changes between then and the most recent reaffirmation. The standard was last reaffirmed (with no technical changes) in 2018. One additional edit has been made after the 2018 version.

The history portion of [AATCC standards](#) is being reorganised, expanded, and moved to the end of each document. History has traditionally appeared at the very top of AATCC standards as a compiled list of revision and reaffirmation dates. As standards are revised, this information will be moved to a separate history section. The section begins with a brief description (and date) of the most recent revision, then lists previous versions in reverse chronological order, ending with the date it was first developed and the responsible committee. A few standards already have this format in the 2020 AATCC technical manual. The reorganised history makes it easier for users to identify when changes were made. The summary of changes for each year has appeared as a section in the front of the technical manual for many years, but was not included in the individual standards, and was replaced by new changes each year. Now, the description or reason for revisions will be preserved directly in the standard until it is revised again.

AATCC standards are used around the world in textile and related industries-and some unrelated industries. The formatting changes are intended to make it easier for anyone to find and use AATCC standards. Plans are also underway to provide more visibility to ongoing committee projects and create multimedia tools to explain and demonstrate [AATCC test methods](#) and procedure.

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No.292 Feb, 2020