

# SOUTHWEST RESEARCH INSTITUTE®

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INSULWEB  
ASTM E84 Report

**INVESTIGATION OF THE SURFACE BURNING  
CHARACTERISTICS OF A 0.006 IN. THICK 100%  
NON-WOVEN POLYPROPYLENE SHEET (TESTED  
"LOOSE LAY" OVER WIRE AND RODS)**

## FINAL REPORT

Consisting of 6 Pages

SwRI® Project No.: 01.06058.01.173

Test Date: May 21, 2003

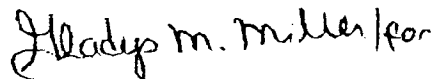
Report Date: June 2, 2003

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## INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of an ASTM E 84 test on a specimen submitted by the Client, tested at Southwest Research Institute's (SwRI's) Department of Fire Technology, located in San Antonio, Texas. The test is conducted in accordance with the procedure outlined in ASTM E 84-01, "Standard Test Method for Surface Burning Characteristics of Building Materials" (NFPA 255, ANSI/UL 723 and UBC 8-1).

This test method for the comparative surface burning behavior of building materials is applicable to exposed surfaces, such as ceilings or walls, provided that the material or assembly of materials, by its own structural quality or the manner in which it is tested and intended for use, is capable of supporting itself in position or being supported during the test period. These tests are conducted with the material in the ceiling position.

The purpose of this test method is to determine the relative burning behavior of the material by observing the flame spread along the specimen. Flame Spread and Smoke Developed index are reported. However, there is not necessarily a relationship between these two measurements.

For each test, a specimen measuring at least 21 in. wide x 24 ft long is required. The specimen may consist of a continuous, unbroken length, or of sections joined end-to-end. When requested by the Client, specimens are prepared at SwRI following the Client's instructions. Unless otherwise indicated by the Client, test specimens are conditioned as appropriate in an atmosphere maintained between 68 and 78°F and 45 to 55% relative humidity.

Immediately prior to the test, the specimen is mounted in the furnace with the side to be tested facing the test flame. Sometimes, because of the nature of the material undergoing testing, additional support (e.g. wire, wire and rods, rods, and/or bars) is used to ensure that the specimen will remain in position during the test. The use of supporting materials on the underside of the test specimen may lower the Flame Spread Index from that which might be obtained if the specimen could be tested without such support, and the test results do not necessarily relate to indices obtained by testing materials without such support.

The flame front position and light obscuration are recorded throughout the 10-minute test and used to calculate the Flame Spread and Smoke Developed indices. The temperature at 23 ft is also recorded.

The Flame Spread and Smoke Developed indices reported herein are relative to the results obtained for mineral fiber-reinforced cement board and select grade red oak (moisture content between 6 and 8%). The mineral fiber-reinforced cement board is the calibration material used to obtain 0 values for Flame Spread and Smoke; red oak decks are used to obtain 100 values for Flame Spread and Smoke.

The results apply specifically to the specimens tested, in the manner tested, and not to the entire production of these or similar materials, nor to the performance when used in combination with other materials.

**This standard should be used to measure and describe the response of materials, products, or assemblies to heat and flame under controlled conditions and should not be used to describe or appraise the fire-hazard or fire-risk of materials, products, or assemblies under actual fire conditions. However, results of the test may be used as elements of a fire-hazard assessment or a fire-risk assessment which takes into account all of the factors which are pertinent to an assessment of the fire hazard or fire risk of a particular end use.**

**This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.**

APPENDIX VI-E

1997 UNIFORM FIRE CODE

**TABLE 8-A---FLAME-SPREAD CLASSIFICATION**

<b>Class</b>	<b>Flame-spread Index</b>
I	0-25
II	26-75
III	76-200

## ASTM E 84-01 REPORT

TEST DATE: MAY 21, 2003

### DESCRIPTION OF SPECIMEN

DATE RECEIVED: 20-May-2003 (received ready-to-test)

DESCRIPTION:\* Non-woven polypropylene sheet

COMPOSITION:\* 100% polypropylene

THICKNESS: 0.006 in. (nominal), \*9.5 mils

UNIT WEIGHT: 1.22 oz/yd<sup>2</sup>

COLOR:\* Natural (white)

SPECIMEN SIZE: One section, 24.0 in. wide x 300.0 in long

CONDITIONING TIME:\* 1 day at 70°F and 50% relative humidity

SUPPORT USED: 2.0 in. hexagonal wire mesh with 0.25 in. diameter steel rods every 24.0 in.

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\* From Client's material description and/or instructions

## ASTM E 84-01 REPORT

TEST DATE: MAY 21, 2003

### TEST RESULTS (ROUNDED TO NEAREST 5)

FLAME SPREAD INDEX (FSI): 5  
SMOKE DEVELOPED INDEX (SDI): 40

### TEST DATA

UNROUNDED FSI: 3.8  
UNROUNDED SDI: 39.1  
FS\*TIME AREA (Ft\*Min): 7.4  
SMOKE AREA (%\*Min): 27.2  
FUEL AREA (°F\*Min): 4917.1

### OBSERVATIONS DURING TEST

IGNITION TIME (Min:Sec): 0:45  
MAXIMUM FLAME FRONT ADVANCE (Ft.): 1.0  
TIME TO MAXIMUM ADVANCE (Min:Sec): 2:30  
MAXIMUM TEMP. AT EXPOSED TC (°F): 559  
TIME TO MAXIMUM TEMP. (Min:Sec): 10:00  
TOTAL FUEL BURNED (Cu. Ft.): 53.0  
DRIPPING (Min:Sec): 0:20  
FLAMING ON FLOOR (Min:Sec): 0:50  
AFTERFLAME TOP (Min:Sec): None  
AFTERFLAME FLOOR (Min:Sec): None

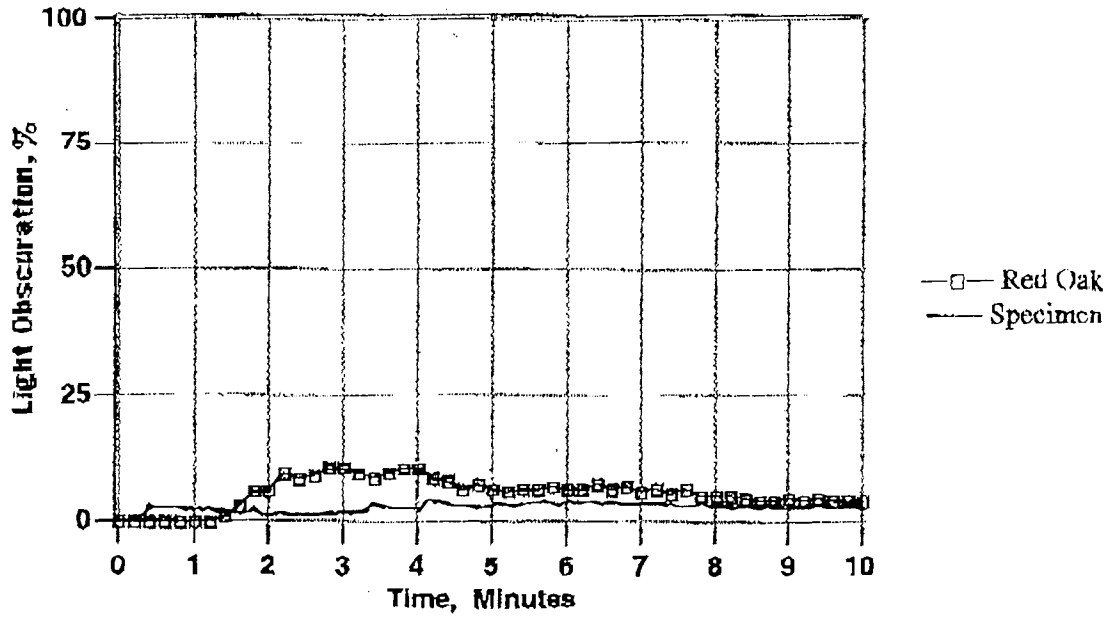
### CALIBRATION DATA (LAST RED OAK)

RED OAK SMOKE AREA (%\*Min): 57.3  
RED OAK FUEL AREA (°F\*Min): 8073.0  
GRC BOARD FUEL AREA (°F\*Min): 5058.4

# ASTM E 84-01 REPORT

TEST DATE: MAY 21, 2003

## LIGHT OBSCURATION



## FLAMESPREAD

