

# TEST REPORT

WARRES NO. 59398

BS 476: PART 6: 1989

METHOD OF TEST FOR  
FIRE PROPAGATION FOR PRODUCTS

SPONSORED BY

**SMYTH PLASTICS LIMITED**

Panmure Industrial Estate, Carnoustie, Tayside, DD7 7NP



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**METHOD OF TEST FOR**  
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**PURPOSE OF TEST**

To determine the performance of a product when it is subjected to the conditions of the test specified in British Standard 476: Part 6: 1989 'Fire tests on building materials and structures, method of test for fire propagation for products'.

**SCOPE OF TEST**

BS 476: Part 6: 1989 specifies a method of test, the result being expressed as a fire propagation index, that provides a comparative measure of the contribution to the growth of fire made by an essentially flat material, composite or assembly. It is primarily intended for the assessment of the performance of internal wall and ceiling linings.

**DESCRIPTION OF TEST SPECIMENS**

The description of the specimens given below has been prepared from information provided by the sponsor of the test. All values quoted are nominal, unless tolerances are given.

The product was a 3.5 mm thick coated laminate referenced "Coloured Phenolic Laminate".

The sponsor requested that details of the composition of the product should not be included in the test report, however, composition details have been provided and are held on our confidential file relating to this investigation.

The specimens were supplied by the sponsor. Warrington Fire Research Centre was not involved in any selection or sampling procedure.

### **CONDITIONING OF SPECIMENS**

The specimens were received on 22nd March 1993.

Prior to testing the specimens were conditioned to constant mass at a temperature of  $23 \pm 2^{\circ}\text{C}$  and a relative humidity of  $50 \pm 10\%$ .

### **DATE OF TEST**

The test was performed on 3rd, 5th and 8th April 1993.

### **TEST PROCEDURE**

The test was performed in accordance with the procedure specified in BS 476: Part 6: 1989 and this report should be read in conjunction with that British Standard.

### **FORM IN WHICH THE SPECIMENS WERE TESTED**

The specimens were tested in the form of a composite..

### **EXPOSED FACE**

The coated face of the specimens was exposed to the heating conditions of the test.

### **TEST RESULTS**

The test results relate only to the behaviour of the test specimens of the product under the particular conditions of test, they are not intended to be the sole criterion for assessing the potential fire hazard of the product in use.

The test results relate only to the specimens of the product in the form in which they were tested. Small differences in the composition or thickness of the product may significantly affect the performance during the test and may therefore invalidate the test results. Care should be taken to ensure that any product which is supplied or used is fully represented by the specimens which were tested.

A total of three specimens was tested. The laboratory record sheet relating to each of the test specimens is appended to this report.

Throughout the test on each specimen careful observation was made of the product's behaviour within the apparatus and special note was taken of any of the phenomena listed in clause 10.2 of the Standard. None of the listed phenomena was observed and the test results on all three specimens tested were valid.

The following test results were obtained for the product.

Fire propagation index, I	=	6.1
subindex, i <sub>1</sub>	=	0.6
subindex, i <sub>2</sub>	=	3.0
subindex, i <sub>3</sub>	=	2.5

Note: If a suffix 'R' is included in the above fire propagation index, I, then this indicates that the results should be treated with caution.

**INTERPRETATION OF TEST RESULTS**

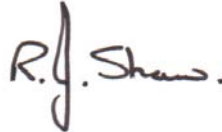
Attention is drawn to Appendix 1 entitled "Effect of thermal characteristics on the performance of assemblies".

**Responsible Officer**



**J. COAKLEY**  
Technical Officer –  
Fire Performance of  
Materials and Components

**Approved**



**R. J. SHAW**  
Director  
for and on behalf of  
**WARRINGTON FIRE RESEARCH CENTRE**

Date of issue: 20th April 1993

(LIN8022)

## APPENDIX 1

### Effect of Thermal Characteristics on the Performance of Assemblies

The result of a test in accordance with BS 476: Part 6: 1989 is applicable only to the specimens in the form in which they were tested. Small differences in the composition or thickness of the product may significantly affect the performance during the test and may therefore invalidate the test result. It is important that the specimens which are tested fully represent the product which is supplied and the manner in which it will be used. This may require a product to be tested in a number of different ways to determine the classification which will be achieved in its different methods of use.

A surface coating, for example, may be applied to a selected substrate using a particular method and application rate. The test classification which is achieved for that set of specimens will be applicable only to that situation. If the substrate or method and rate of application in a particular practical situation are different from that which was tested, then it will be necessary to determine the classification which will be achieved for that situation. Similarly, specimens incorporating a wallcovering must be fully representative of the situation which occurs in practice and will normally consist of the wallcovering bonded to a chosen substrate with a chosen adhesive; the test result will apply only to that composite system. The same principle applies to any composite or assembly which is being investigated.

It is sometimes possible to assume a 'worst case' situation which will enable a chosen set, or sets, of specimens to be constructed and tested to provide a foundation for the assessment of the probable performance of variations within the system. Similarly, it is sometimes possible to formulate a series of exploratory tests to investigate the effect of variations within a product or system, usually culminating in a series of formal tests to provide the basis for a composite assessment of pre-determined variables. In such cases, however, it is essential that careful planning of the programmes is undertaken by suitably qualified fire safety practitioners.

The following is re-produced from Appendix B of BS 476: Part 6: 1989:

With thin materials or composites, particularly those with a high thermal conductivity, the presence of an air gap and the nature of any underlying construction may significantly affect the ignition performance of the exposed surface. Increasing the thermal capacity of the underlying construction increases the "heat sink" effect and may delay ignition of the exposed surface. Any backing provided to the test specimen and in intimate contact with it, such as the non-combustible packing pieces, may alter this "heat sink" effect and may be fundamental to the test result itself. The influence of the underlying layers on the performance of the assembly should be understood and care should be taken to ensure that the result obtained on any assembly is relevant to its use in practice.

The following advice is offered on the construction and preparation of test specimens:

- (a) Where the thermal properties of the product are such that no significant heat loss to the underlying layers can occur, e.g. a material/composite greater than approximately 6 mm thick of high thermal capacity and/or low thermal conductivity, then the product should be tested backed only by the specimen holder.
- (b) Where the product is normally used as a free-standing sheet and the characteristics noted in (a) do not apply, then an airspace should be provided at the back of the product by testing over asbestos cement perimeter battens 20 mm wide and 12.5 mm thick.
- (c) Where the product is to be used over a low density non-combustible substrate and the characteristics noted in (a) do not apply, then the product should be tested in conjunction with that substrate.
- (d) Where the product is to be used over a combustible substrate and the characteristics noted in (a) do not apply, then the product should be tested in conjunction with that substrate.

LABORATORY RECORD SHEET

FIRE PROPAGATION TEST - B.S.476: PART 6:1989

SPONSOR : SMYTH PLASTICS LTD.

SPECIMEN No : 1

DATE : 3/4/93

TIME mins  t	SPECIMEN TEMPERATURE Deg C Ts	CALIBRATION TEMPERATURE Deg C Tc	Ts - Tc/10t	SUB INDEX OF PERFORMANCE
0.50	10.00	12.00	0.00	0.23
1.00	17.00	17.00	0.00	
1.50	23.00	22.50	0.03	
2.00	28.00	26.50	0.07	
2.50	33.00	31.00	0.07	
3.00	37.00	35.00	0.06	
4.00	63.00	58.50	0.11	3.39
5.00	106.00	93.50	0.25	
6.00	132.00	122.00	0.16	
7.00	174.50	145.50	0.41	
8.00	214.50	165.00	0.61	
9.00	252.50	179.50	0.81	
10.00	296.00	191.50	1.04	
12.00	313.00	207.00	0.88	1.82
14.00	285.00	218.50	0.47	
16.00	269.50	228.50	0.25	
18.00	261.50	234.50	0.15	
20.00	256.50	241.00	0.07	
TOTAL INDEX OF PERFORMANCE S =				5.44

SUBINDEX S<sub>1</sub> = 0.23

SUBINDEX S<sub>2</sub> = 3.39

SUBINDEX S<sub>3</sub> = 1.82

INDEX OF PERFORMANCE S = 5.44

LABORATORY RECORD SHEET

FIRE PROPAGATION TEST - B.S.476: PART 6:1989

SPONSOR : SMYTH PLASTICS LTD.

SPECIMEN No : 2

DATE : 5/4/93

TIME mins  t	SPECIMEN TEMPERATURE Deg C Ts	CALIBRATION TEMPERATURE Deg C Tc	Ts - Tc/10t	SUB INDEX OF PERFORMANCE
0.50	11.00	12.00	0.00	0.40
1.00	16.00	17.00	0.00	
1.50	23.00	22.50	0.03	
2.00	29.00	26.50	0.12	
2.50	34.00	31.00	0.12	
3.00	39.00	35.00	0.13	
4.00	66.00	58.50	0.18	2.42
5.00	103.00	93.50	0.19	
6.00	134.50	122.00	0.20	
7.00	153.00	145.50	0.10	
8.00	184.00	165.00	0.23	
9.00	239.00	179.50	0.66	
10.00	278.00	191.50	0.86	
12.00	344.00	207.00	1.14	3.38
14.00	349.00	218.50	0.93	
16.00	329.50	228.50	0.63	
18.00	308.50	234.50	0.41	
20.00	296.50	241.00	0.27	
TOTAL INDEX OF PERFORMANCE S =				6.20

SUBINDEX S<sub>1</sub> = 0.40

SUBINDEX S<sub>2</sub> = 2.42

SUBINDEX S<sub>3</sub> = 3.38

INDEX OF PERFORMANCE S = 6.20

LABORATORY RECORD SHEET

FIRE PROPAGATION TEST - B.S.476: PART 6:1989

SPONSOR : SMYTH PLASTICS LTD.

SPECIMEN No : 3

DATE : 8/4/93

TIME mins  t	SPECIMEN TEMPERATURE Deg C Ts	CALIBRATION TEMPERATURE Deg C Tc	Ts - Tc/10t	SUB INDEX OF PERFORMANCE
0.50	11.00	9.50	0.30	1.26
1.00	18.00	15.50	0.25	
1.50	24.00	20.00	0.26	
2.00	29.00	25.50	0.17	
2.50	34.00	30.00	0.15	
3.00	38.00	34.00	0.13	
4.00	63.00	59.00	0.10	3.25
5.00	98.00	91.00	0.14	
6.00	134.50	116.00	0.30	
7.00	170.50	137.00	0.47	
8.00	212.00	155.50	0.70	
9.00	239.50	170.00	0.77	
10.00	257.50	180.00	0.77	
12.00	274.00	196.50	0.64	2.05
14.00	280.00	212.00	0.48	
16.00	282.00	217.00	0.40	
18.00	280.50	222.50	0.32	
20.00	275.00	232.50	0.21	
TOTAL INDEX OF PERFORMANCE S =				6.56

SUBINDEX S<sub>1</sub> = 1.26

SUBINDEX S<sub>2</sub> = 3.25

SUBINDEX S<sub>3</sub> = 2.05

INDEX OF PERFORMANCE S = 6.56