



# COMMERCIAL TESTING COMPANY

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## Standard Method of Test for Surface Burning Characteristics of Building Materials

ASTM E 84-09a

Elitis/Natives #VP 625-629

Report Number 09-09212

Test Number 4100-7809  
September 23, 2009

Elitis, Inc.  
Miami, Florida

Commercial Testing Company

(Authorized Signature)

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## INTRODUCTION

This report is a presentation of results of a surface flammability test on a material submitted by Elitis, Inc., Miami, Florida.

The test was conducted in accordance with the ASTM International fire test response standard E 84-09a, *Surface Burning Characteristics of Building Materials*, sometimes referred to as the Steiner tunnel test. This test is applicable to exposed surfaces such as walls and ceilings. The test is conducted with the specimen in the ceiling position with the surface to be evaluated exposed face down to the ignition source. The ASTM E 84 test method is the technical equivalent of NFPA No. 255 and UL No. 723.

This standard is used to measure and describe the response of materials, products, or assemblies to heat and flame under controlled conditions, but does not by itself incorporate all factors required for fire-hazard or fire-risk assessment of materials, products, or assemblies under actual fire conditions.

## PURPOSE

The purpose of the test is to provide only the comparative measurements of surface flame spread and smoke development of materials with that of select grade red oak and fiber-reinforced cement board, Grade II, under specific fire exposure conditions. The test exposes a nominal 24-foot long by 20-inch wide test specimen to a controlled air flow and flaming fire adjusted to spread the flame along the entire length of a red oak specimen in 5.50 minutes. During the 10-minute test duration, flamespread over the specimen surface and density of the resulting smoke are measured and recorded. Test results are calculated relative to red oak, which has an arbitrary rating of 100, and fiber-reinforced cement board, Grade II, which has a rating of 0.

The test results are expressed as Flame Spread Index and Smoke Developed Index. The Flame Spread Index is defined in ASTM E 176 as "a number or classification indicating a comparative measure derived from observations made during the progress of the boundary of a zone of flame under defined test conditions." The Smoke Developed Index, a term specific to ASTM E 84, is defined as "a number or classification indicating a comparative measure derived from smoke obscuration data collected during the test for surface burning characteristics." There is not necessarily a relationship between the two measurements.

The method does not provide for measurement of heat transmission through the surface tested, the effect of aggravated flame spread behavior of an assembly resulting from the proximity of combustible walls and ceilings, or classifying a material as noncombustible solely by means of a Flame Spread Index.

The zero reference and other parameters critical to furnace operation are verified on the day of the test by conducting a 10-minute test using 1/4-inch fiber-reinforced cement board, Grade II. Periodic tests using NOFMA certified 23/32-inch select grade red oak flooring provide data for the 100 reference.

## TEST SAMPLE

The test sample, selected by the client, was identified as Elitis/Natives #VP 625-629, a vinyl wallpaper with a total weight of 11.3 ounces per square yard. Three test panels, each measuring two feet wide by eight feet in length, were prepared by adhering the material to 1/4-inch thick fiber-cement board complying with ASTM Specification C 1186 (Grade II) and passing ASTM Test Method E 136, using Gardner-Gibson Dynamite 111 Heavy Duty Wallcovering Adhesive. The adhesive was applied with a roller to the back of the wallpaper, booked 5 to 7 minutes, the material placed onto the smooth side of the cement board, and smoothed with a brush and roller. This method of sample preparation is described in ASTM E 2404-08, *Standard Practice for Specimen Preparation and Mounting of Textile, Paper or Vinyl Wall or Ceiling Coverings to Assess Surface Burning Characteristics*, Section 8.2, Wall or Ceiling Coverings Intended to be Applied Directly to a Noncombustible Wall or Ceiling Surface. After dead-stacking overnight, the prepared panels were transferred to storage racks and conditioned to equilibrium in an atmosphere with the temperature maintained at  $71 \pm 2^\circ\text{F}$  and the relative humidity at  $50 \pm 5$  percent. For testing, the panels were placed end-to-end on the ledges of the tunnel furnace and the test conducted with no auxiliary support mechanism.

### TEST RESULTS

The test results, calculated on the basis of observed flame propagation and the integrated area under the recorded smoke density curve, are presented below. The Flame Spread Index obtained in E 84 is rounded to the nearest number divisible by five. Smoke Developed Indices are rounded to the nearest number divisible by five unless the Index is greater than 200. In that case, the Smoke Developed Index is rounded to the nearest 50 points. The flame spread and smoke development data are presented graphically at the end of this report.

| Test Specimen                           | Flame Spread Index | Smoke Developed Index |
|---|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Fiber-Reinforced Cement Board, Grade II | 0                  | 0                     |
| Red Oak Flooring                        | 100                | 100                   |
| Elitis/Natives #VP 625-629              | 20                 | 45                    |

### OBSERVATIONS

Specimen ignition over the burners occurred at 0.28 minute. Surface flame spread was observed to a maximum distance of 4.54 feet beyond the zero point at 2.15 minutes. The maximum temperature recorded during the test was 563°F.

### CLASSIFICATION

The Flame Spread Index and Smoke Developed Index values obtained by ASTM E 84 tests are frequently used by code officials and regulatory agencies in the acceptance of interior finish materials for various applications. The most widely accepted classification system is described in the National Fire Protection Association publication NFPA 101 *Life Safety Code*, where:

|         |          |                    |         |                       |
|---------|----------|--------------------|---------|-----------------------|
| Class A | 0 - 25   | Flame Spread Index | 0 - 450 | Smoke Developed Index |
| Class B | 26 - 75  | Flame Spread Index | 0 - 450 | Smoke Developed Index |
| Class C | 76 - 200 | Flame Spread Index | 0 - 450 | Smoke Developed Index |

Class A, B, and C correspond to Type I, II, and III respectively in other codes. They do not preclude a material being otherwise classified by the authority of jurisdiction.

**ASTM E 84 TEST DATA**

Client: Elitis, Inc.  
Test Number: 4100-7809  
Material Tested: Elitis / Natives # VP 625-629  
Date: September 23, 2009

**Test Results:**

Time to Ignition = 00.28 minutes  
Maximum Flamespread Distance = 04.54 feet  
Time to Maximum Spread = 02.15 minutes  
  
Flame Spread Index = 20  
Smoke Developed index = 45

