

News and Updates

Busy Week for Standards Work

The April ASTM Committee Week, which just took place at the end of March to avoid Easter, was the first meeting that D01 Paint, and G03 Weathering joined up with D20 Plastics. It was our efforts in Committee G03 that drove this schedule change. When we first started G03 in 1965, we were tied with D01 on Paints. We met when they met, we went where they went. Up until 20 years ago, D01 was big enough to host a meeting by itself. G03 and E12 (Color and Appearance) were the wingmen.

In the recent few years, D01 has lost a lot of active participation. Even though the total number of members has remained fairly constant, the quantity of people coming to the meeting has dwindled. We took a decision two years ago to move our two committees to try and get more participation.

Standards are the Best Training

“WHEN I FIRST STARTED IN WEATHERING, I WAS TOLD THAT LEARNING THE STANDARDS WAS THE BEST WAY TO ADVANCE MY CAREER. I WOULD UNDERSTAND WHY THE TESTS WERE BEING RUN, I COULD HELP OUR CUSTOMERS, AND I COULD LEARN TO MAKE THE TEST BETTER.”

D20 on Plastics is one of the larger ASTM Committees, and has Durability working groups, such as D20.50. Committee G01 which has a lot of common issues with D01, meets with this group in November, and E12 on Color and Appearance always had good interest from D01 and G03 in the past.

I have high hopes for this move, as I see a lot of crossover opportunities. We recently had a virtual workshop for G03 and many of the topics would be of interest to any materials committee with durability subcommittees. The first meeting resulted in a busy week with a lot of overlapping meetings, but we expected this. We will take time to study the schedule and move some of the meetings around a bit. Initially, G03 took the brunt of a changed schedule and we tried to leave the other committees on the same plan they were

before. Now that we have gone through one cycle we can see if other changes can be made. It is clear though that G03 is the committee with the most common overlap to all the others.

The busy week had many highlights, and we enjoyed several receptions and lunches that were not available on our last schedule. I was able to go to a couple of meetings I have been unable to attend for a while, which made up for those I missed. I took on a number of work items to revise standards, some of which I will use the guidance of the G228 standard on 5-year Editorial Review of ASTM Standards. This was recently adopted by G03 and we were able to promote it to other committees. My next projects at ASTM will be revisions to G7 on Outdoor Weathering, D4141 on Accelerated Outdoor Weathering, C1442 Weathering of Sealants, D3170 on the Gravelometer, and D542 on Refraction Index for Plastics, which is the oldest method in the D20 Committee. Lots of work and it will continue to be busy for me with standards.

SAE Lighting Materials Committee

I have been asked to be the new Vice Chair of the SAE Lighting Materials Committee. I have accepted and now I am waiting on the official recognition. The SAE J576 test has been successfully revised and is now published as SAE J576-26, so I am not sure what else this committee has planned, but I am ready to help as needed.

Looking for the Exposure Site in Kalahari

We have two major test sites in Arizona for the hot, dry exposure testing of materials. One is for Q-Lab and one for Atlas. They are both advertised and easy to find, send specimens to, or go visit. Both sites are world class locations for testing in the Arizona desert, and for performing the interior automotive testing. Some European car manufacturers also specify the Kalahari Desert as a hot dry desert location for testing. Question though is “where is the site?” I can’t find it, and I have been looking for a while now. The site has been owned by several organizations over the years and is currently owned by IMAT in Germany. The address they give is for a house where shipments can be sent, but no location for the site and no photos. That’s a red flag for me, so I would stick with the known test sites in Arizona.

The Unified Testing Equation

I have just posted on Benchmark, my first draft of the Unified Testing Equation. I have been working on this project for a couple of years and though it is by no means finished, I thought it was time to put out the first draft. The Unified Testing Equation is intended to bring together all the common-sense ideas about running or contracting a weathering test. The equation answers questions such as “am I paying too much for this test?” or “is this the right test for me?” What about evaluations, or which cycle is right, or which equipment should I buy? Look on the website under Technical.

Standards Information

ASTM D8599 Standard Practice for Reporting Results of Weathering Tests on Paints has just been finalized and published. I have been pushing this standard which codifies the ASTM 10 to 0 scale, and provides basic instructions on how to report weathering degradation, for about 25 years. When I partially retired, I had time to really work on the project. It started as an attempt to reinstate D1150 which had expired a couple of years before I took over D01.25.

Benchmark is the name of our website, and is derived from the basis that “**Florida outdoor weathering is the Benchmark by which all other weathering tests are compared.**” You can find **BENCHMARK** at either of these URLs bestweathertest.com or bestcorrosiontest.com

CALENDAR

ASTM May Committee Week
A01, B08, E28, G02
Dallas, TX
May 3 to 8, 2026

SAE Lighting Materials Meeting
Tampa, FL
May 4 to 7, 2026

FGIA Southeast Region Meeting
Tampa, FL
May 5 to 6, 2026

ISO TC35 SC9 Paint
Copenhagen, Denmark
June 12, 2026

BENCH**MARK**