



# COMMERCIAL TESTING COMPANY

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Standard Method of Test for  
Surface Burning Characteristics of Building Materials

ASTM E 84-03b

Powdercoated NailUp Tin Ceiling

Report Number 05-12141

Test Number 3726-8426

December 5, 2005

The American Tin Ceiling Co.  
Bradenton, Florida

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(Authorized Signature)

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## INTRODUCTION

This report is a presentation of results of a surface flammability test on a material submitted by The American Tin Ceiling Co., Bradenton, Florida.

The test was conducted in accordance with the ASTM International fire test response standard E 84-03b, *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 technically identical to 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 **Powdercoated NailUp Tin Ceiling**, tin ceiling panels with a metal thickness of 0.022 inch. Twelve ceiling tiles, each measuring 24 inches by 24 inches, were received. They were physically self-supporting and required no additional sample preparation. The 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 to make up the necessary 24-foot test sample 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 on Page 4 of this report.

Test Specimen	Flame Spread Index	Smoke Developed Index
Fiber-Reinforced Cement Board, Grade II	0	0
Red Oak Flooring	100	100
Powdercoated NailUp Tin Ceiling	15	35

## OBSERVATIONS

Specimen ignition over the burners occurred at 0.25 minute. Surface flame spread was observed to a maximum distance of 3.06 feet beyond the zero point at 0.82 minute. The maximum temperature recorded during the test was 551°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 such as SBCCI, BOCA, and ICBO. They do not preclude a material being otherwise classified by the authority of jurisdiction.

## ASTM E 84 TEST DATA

Client: The American Tin Ceiling Company  
Test Number: 3726-8426  
Material Tested: Powdercoated NailUp Tin Ceiling Panel  
Date: December 5, 2005

### Test Results:

Time to Ignition = 00.25 minutes  
Maximum Flamespread Distance = 03.06 feet  
Time to Maximum Spread = 00.82 minutes

Flame Spread Index = 15  
Smoke Developed Index = 35

