

## **ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials) Refsheet**

### **ASTM Publications**

ASTM publishes ASTM Standards as well as the ASTM Special Technical Publication series.

### **ASTM Standards Overview**

ASTM Standards are used worldwide. Product labels often state "Complies with ASTM . . . .". Researchers who are currently developing products are interested in current ASTM standards in order that the product they design will be in compliance. Lawyers in the midst of litigation are often interested in older ASTM standards that were in effect at the time the product was manufactured. Individual standards, perhaps around 10% of the total collection, are updated annually, with approximately 70 volumes in the set. Individual volumes are received throughout the year as they are published. Each volume covers a specific subject area and contains the ASTM standards relevant to its subject, such as:

Section 4 - Construction: Volume 04.01 Cement; Lime; Gypsum

Section 4 - Construction: Volume 04.06 Thermal Insulation; Environmental Acoustics.

Section 00, Volume 00.01 is the Index to the set. It is the first volume in the set and the last to be published. It contains a Subject Index and an Alphanumeric List.

Each ASTM standard is designated by an alphanumeric code such as:

D 2609-93

E 571-92

The letter prefix designates a general classification such as ferrous metals, nonferrous metals, etc. The serial number, such as 2609 or 571, identifies the standard, and the two digits following the dash show the year of last revision.

### **Finding a standard**

When the standard number is known, use the Alphanumeric List in the Index to look up the standard number and find what volume contains the needed standard.

When only the subject is known, use the Subject Index to locate relevant standards.

### **ASTM Standards at Virginia Tech**

Virginia Tech orders the complete set of print ASTM standards every third or fourth year. The Addison entry is the *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, and has call # TA401 A653

During the year in which we purchase a new set, the complete set from a previous year, as well as the scattered volumes being received for the current year will be in the reference area on the fourth floor of Newman.

When the newest set is completely received, the previous complete set is moved to the stacks. Sets in the stacks are circulating. Standards are updated infrequently and it is very likely that an older circulating volume of the ASTM set will contain the needed version of the standard. If the newest ASTM standard is

not in our print collection and is needed, it can be obtained through Interlibrary Loan, just as other standards are.

### **ASTM Special Technical Publication (STP) Overview**

This series is published on an irregular basis and covers everything from vehicle road interaction to safety in ice hockey. Frequently the publications are a collection of conference papers presented at an ASTM sponsored conference.

### **Forms of Special Technical Publication citations**

Citations to STPs vary in form:

- Sometimes they only cite the number of the publication: ASTM SP 1218 or ASTM STP 1218.
- Sometimes they cite only the name of the STP: *Safety in ice hockey*.
- Sometimes they cite the STP number and the paper title.

### **ASTM STPs at Virginia Tech**

Virginia Tech does not have a standing order for ASTM STPs. Therefore our holdings are scattered. STPs are cataloged separately and generally classified as a set at Virginia Tech. However, some are not classified with the set.

### **Finding an STP if you have the title**

Because all STPs are cataloged separately it should be possible to enter the STP title into Addison and determine if we have the item in our collection.

### **Finding an STP if you only have the publication #**

The call # for the set is TA410 A43 no. \*\*\*\* . Theoretically, a patron should be able to go to the stacks to see if we have the item, but some titles are at Art and Architecture, and there are the odd titles that are not classified with the set.

A good way to determine our holdings when only the publication # is known is to go to [www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org) and search on the STP #, find the title, and search in Addison by title to determine if we have the publication in our collection.

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