

# Standard Classification System for Fiberboards — SAE J1323 AUG80

SAE Recommended Practice  
Approved August 1980

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# STANDARD CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM FOR FIBERBOARDS—SAE J1323 AUG80

## SAE Recommended Practice

Report of the Nonmetallic Materials Committee, approved August 1980.

**1. Scope**—This classification system provides a means for specifying or describing the pertinent properties of fiberboards for automotive applications. The materials normally specified by this standard are defined in SAE J947, Glossary of Fiberboard Terminology. The test methods commonly used for fiberboards are defined in SAE J315, Fiberboard Test Procedure.

**2. Purpose**—The purpose of this classification system is to provide guidance to the engineer in the selection of a practical, commercially available fiberboard and further provide a method for specifying the fiberboard and its critical properties by use of a standard line call-out.

### 3. Numbering System

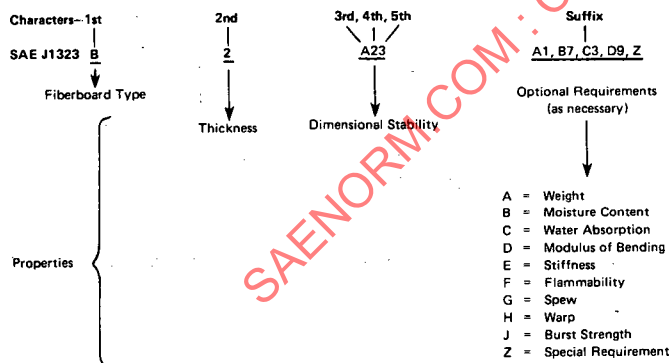
**3.1 The Basic Five Characters**—This classification establishes alpha-numeric characters for various performance levels of each fiberboard property or characteristic. In specifying or describing fiberboard materials, each line call-out shall include the number SAE J1323, followed by a sequence of alpha-numerics to describe the fiberboard and its properties. The first five alpha-numeric characters of the call-out after SAE J1323 are mandatory, since they identify the material and specify the critical fiberboard properties, thickness, fiberboard type, and dimensional stability.

**3.2 Suffix Letters**—To further specify or describe the fiberboard, each line call-out may include one or more suffix—alpha-numeric symbols as listed in Section 5. These suffix letters, when appended to the basic number, specify additional physical or mechanical property requirements. Suffix symbols may be used singly or in combination to describe the properties desired in the fiberboard.

**3.3 Special Numbers**—The numeral 0 is used when the description of any characteristic is not desired. The numeral 9 is used when the description of any characteristic (or test related thereto) is specified by some supplement to this classification system, such as notes on engineering drawings.

**3.4 Special Letter**—To identify other characteristics not covered by the existing suffix symbols, the letter Z shall be used. The Z characteristics shall be specified in detail on the engineering drawing or other supplement to this classification. If more than one Z characteristic is specified, they should be identified by subnumeral, for example, Z<sub>1</sub>, Z<sub>2</sub>, Z<sub>3</sub>, etc.

**3.5 Example**—The line call-out SAE J1323 B2A23A1B7C3D9Z would be broken down to indicate the type of fiberboard and properties as follows:



By using the breakdown in paragraph 3.5 and the tables in paragraphs 4.1 through 4.5, the example line call-out specifies a hardboard, 0.203 mm thick, with a 0.5% maximum expansion and a 0.75% maximum contraction after humidity exposure. The optional requirements include a weight of  $1 \pm 0.05 \text{ kg/m}^2$ , a moisture content of 5–9%, water absorption of 30% maximum, and a special modulus bending requirement.

**4. Basic Fiberboard Characteristics**—Fiberboards identified by this classification system shall have the following three basic characteristics indicated by the first five alpha-numeric symbols.

**4.1 Fiberboard Type**—The first character of the line call-out specifies the type of fiberboard as defined in SAE J947, and listed below:

First Character	Fiberboard Type
A	None Specified
B	Hardboard
C	Paperboard—Laminated
D	Paperboard—Single Ply
E	Paperboard—Wet Machine Board
F	Molded Cellulosic Fiber Pulp Product
G	Kraft Paper
H	Paperboard—Corrugated
Z	Special Requirements, as Necessary

**4.2 Thickness**—The second character of the line call-out specifies the fiberboard thickness in millimeters as determined in SAE J315, and listed below. The thickness tolerance for paperboard is  $\pm 5\%$  from the average panel thickness; however, the thickness variation within a hardboard panel (in the range of 1.65–3.18 mm thick) is  $\pm 0.25 \text{ mm}$  from the average panel thickness.

Second Character	G (Paper) mm	D and E (Single Ply Paperboard) mm	C (Laminated Paperboard) mm	B and F (Hardboard or Molded Fiberboard) mm	H (Corrugated Fiberboard) <sup>a</sup> mm
0	0.025	0.25	1.02	1.65	2.26 (E flute)
1	0.051	0.64	1.65	2.03	3.00 (B flute)
2	0.076	0.76	1.78	2.54	4.19 (C flute)
3	0.102	1.02	2.03	3.18	5.13 (A flute)
4	0.127		2.54		
5	0.152		3.05		
6	0.178		3.18		
7	0.203				
8					
9					

<sup>a</sup>The corrugated fiberboard thickness values are based upon the use of 42/1000 ft<sup>2</sup> (195 g/m<sup>2</sup>) kraft paper. The flute designations indicate the following construction:

A flute	= 118 ± 10 flutes/m
B flute	= 164 ± 10 flutes/m
C flute	= 138 ± 10 flutes/m
E flute	= 308 ± 13 flutes/m

**4.3 Dimensional Stability**—The third, fourth, and fifth characters of the line call-out specify the maximum<sup>1</sup> percent expansion and contraction of the fiberboard for both the machine and a cross-machine direction, as determined in SAE J315, and listed below. The third character denotes the method of test in SAE J315, the fourth character specifies the maximum expansion, and the fifth character specifies the maximum contraction.

Third Character	Test Method
A	Method A (humidity)
B	Method B (water immersion)

<sup>1</sup>The maximum dimensional movement on fiberboards will occur in the across-machine direction. Paper and paperboards will usually have only half the dimensional movement in the machine direction, due to linear fiber orientation during manufacture.

**Fourth and Fifth Characters**      **Expansion or Contraction % max**

0	None specified
1	0.25
2	0.50
3	0.75
4	1.0
5	1.5
6	2.0
7	3.0
8	4.0
9	Special Requirement, as Necessary

5. **Supplementary Characteristics**—Additional fiberboard requirements can be included by adding one or more of the following suffixes:

**Suffix Letter A**      Weight determined in accordance with SAE J315. Specify the weight in kg/m<sup>2</sup>. The tolerance unless otherwise specified shall be ±5%.

Suffix Number	Weight/m <sup>2</sup>
A1	1 ± 0.05 kg/m <sup>2</sup>
A1.5	1.5 ± 0.075 kg/m <sup>2</sup>
A9	Special Requirement

**Suffix Letter B**      Moisture Content determined in accordance with SAE J315. Specify the moisture content in percent with a range of ±2%.

Suffix Number	% Moisture Content
B1	0–3
B2	0–4
B3	1–5
B4	2–6
B5	3–7
B6	4–8
B7	5–9
B8	6–10
B9	Special Requirement

**Suffix Letter C**      Water Absorption determined in accordance with SAE J315.

Suffix Number	Water Absorption % max
C1	10
C2	20
C3	30
C4	60
C5	10
C6	20
C7	30
C8	60
C9	Special Requirement

**Suffix Letter D**

Stiffness (modulus of bending) determined in accordance with SAE J949a.

First Suffix Number—machine direction stiffness min  
Second Suffix Number—across-machine direction stiffness min

Suffix Number	Stiffness
D1	350 kPa
D2	700 kPa
D3	2000 kPa
D4	3500 kPa
D5	6000 kPa
D9	Special Requirement

Example:

D21 = 700 kPa M.D. min and 350 kPa A.M.D. min

**Suffix Letter E**

Stiffness (cantilever beam) determined in accordance with ASTM D 747.

First Suffix Number—M.D. stiffness min  
Second Suffix Number—A.M.D. stiffness min

Suffix Number	Stiffness
E1	500 kPa
E2	1000 kPa
E3	1500 kPa
E4	2000 kPa
E9	Special Requirement

**Suffix Letter F**

Flammability determined in accordance with SAE J369.

Suffix Number	Burn Rate max
F1	Does Not Ignite
F2	Self-Extinguishing
F3	Burn Rate—25 mm/min
F4	Burn Rate—51 mm/min
F5	Burn Rate—76 mm/min
F6	Burn Rate—101 mm/min
F9	Special Requirement

**Suffix Letter G**

Spew determined in accordance with SAE J315 and AATCC Evaluation Procedure 2 (Gray Scale for Staining).

Suffix Number	Gray Scale Rating
G1	No. 1 Very Heavy Stain
G2	No. 2 Heavy Stain
G3	No. 3 Moderate Stain
G4	No. 4 Slight Stain
G5	No. 5 Unstained
G9	Special Requirement