UL 746B

STANDARD FOR SAFETY

Polymeric Materials – Long Term Property Evaluations

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UL Standard for Safety for Polymeric Materials – Long Term Property Evaluations, UL 746B

Fifth Edition, Dated August 15, 2018

SUMMARY OF TOPICS

This revision of ANSI/UL 746B dated July 28, 2026 includes the following changes in requirements:

> ***– Revisions to Enhance the Clarity of Long-Term Thermal Aging Protocols so they are in Alignment with Tables 9.1 and 9.2 of UL 746A: 20.1.1, 20.2.1, 20.2.1A (new), 20.2.2, 20.2.2A (new), 20.2.3 – 20.2.7, 20.2.9 – 20.2.11, 20.2.13 – 20.2.14, 20.3.2, and Table 20.1.***

Text that has been changed in any manner or impacted by ULSE's electronic publishing system is marked with a vertical line in the margin.

The new and revised requirements are substantially in accordance with Proposal(s) on this subject dated February 6, 2026 and June 19, 2026.

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Fifth Edition

August 15, 2018

This ANSI/UL Standard for Safety consists of the Fifth Edition including revisions through July 28, 2026.

The most recent designation of ANSI/UL 746B as an American National Standard (ANSI) occurred on July 28, 2026. ANSI approval for a standard does not include the Cover Page, Transmittal Pages, and Title Page.

Comments or proposals for revisions on any part of the Standard may be submitted to ULSE at any time. Proposals should be submitted via a Proposal Request in the Collaborative Standards Development System (CSDS) at https://csds.ul.com.

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CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

1 Scope 5
2 References 5
3 Supplementary Test Procedures 5
4 Characteristics of Polymeric Materials 5
5 Use of Polymeric Materials 6

DETERMINATION OF THE RELATIVE THERMAL INDICES OF POLYMERIC MATERIALS

6 General 6
7 Relative Thermal Index – Based Upon Historical Record 7
8 Relative Thermal Index – Based Upon Long-Term Thermal-Aging Programs 10
9 Apparatus 11
9.1 Ovens 11
10 Scope of Test Programs 11
10.1 Selection of test properties 11
11 Property-Evaluation Tests 13
11.1 General 13
11.2 Choice of end-point 13
12 Sampling Programs 13
13 Selection of Oven Temperatures 14
14 Selection of Control Material 15
15 Specimens 15
16 Thermal Aging 16
17 End-of-Life 18
17.1 Primary properties 18
17.2 Secondary or thermally-durable properties 19
17.3 Thermally-durable materials 19
18 Proof Testing 19
19 Analysis and Evaluation 20
20 Related Material – Coverage of Variations in Material Composition 25
20.1 General 25
20.2 Thermoplastic materials 25
20.3 Thermosetting molded materials 29
21 Aging, Specimen, and Check-Test Schedules 31
21.1 General 31
21.2 Polypropylene 31
21.3 Coating powders 32
21.4 Heat aging of polymeric films and thin sheets 38
22 Fixed Time Sampling Method 38
22.1 General 38
22.2 Screening procedure 39
22.3 Remainder of Fixed Time sampling method 39

DETERMINATION OF THE TEMPERATURE INDICES OF POLYMERIC MATERIALS

22A General 40
22B Temperature Index – Based Upon Long-Term Thermal-Aging Programs 40
22C Ovens 41
22D Test Program 41
22D.1 Scope, thicknesses 41
22D.2 Sampling programs 41

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22D.3 Selection of oven temperatures 42
22E Specimens and Thermal Aging 42
22F Analysis and Evaluation 42
22G Reporting Temperature Indices 43

RELATIVE THERMAL INDEX CLASS

23 Assignment of Temperature Classifications 44

MARKING

24 General 44

SUPPLEMENT SA – FOLLOW-UP INSPECTION INSTRUCTIONS

INTRODUCTION

SA1 Scope 45
SA2 Glossary 45
SA3 Responsibility of the Manufacturer 46
SA4 Responsibility of the Field Representative 46
SA5 Selection of Samples for Follow-Up Testing 47
SA6 Follow-Up Test Program 47

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INTRODUCTION

1 Scope

1.1 These requirements cover long-term test procedures to be used for the evaluation of materials used for parts intended for specific applications in end products.

1.2 Together with the Standards mentioned in Supplementary Test Procedures, Section 3, these investigations provide data with respect to the physical, electrical, flammability, thermal, and other properties of the materials under consideration and are intended to provide guidance for the material manufacturer, the molder, the end-product manufacturer, safety engineers, and other interested parties.

2 References

2.1 Any undated reference to a code or standard appearing in the requirements of this standard shall be interpreted as referring to the latest edition of that code or standard.

3 Supplementary Test Procedures

3.1 The Standard for Tests for Flammability of Plastic Materials for Parts in Devices and Appliances, UL 94, covers flammability of polymeric materials used for parts in devices and appliances. The Standard for Polymeric Materials – Short Term Property Evaluations, UL 746A, contains short-term test procedures to be used for the evaluation of materials used for parts intended for specific applications in electrical end products. The Standard for Polymeric Materials – Fabricated Parts, UL 746D, contains requirements for traceability and performance of parts molded and fabricated from polymeric materials.

3.2 Programs for the investigation of material part modifications, such as the plating of plastics or the use of flame-retardant paints, are contained in the Standard for Polymeric Materials – Use in Electrical Equipment Evaluations, UL 746C.

3.3 Data concerning the effect of various environments and contaminants upon the properties of materials can also be obtained through standard test procedures. The more commonly used procedures are briefly described in the Standard for Polymeric Materials – Short Term Evaluations, UL 746A.

3.4 Test procedures are provided in the Standard for Polymeric Materials – Use in Electrical Equipment Evaluation, UL 746C, for the evaluation of polymeric materials in specific applications in end products. These test procedures include references to the data obtained from the standard property tests as well as other practical means of evaluation.

3.5 Requirements for materials that have been modified to match the requirements of a specific application, including the use of recycled and regrind materials, the use of additives and colorants, and the blending of two or more materials, are described in the Standard for Polymeric Materials – Fabricated Parts, UL 746D.

3.6 A method and tool for the statistical analysis of long term property evaluation data and including the determination of a temperature index (TI) is described in Sections 22A – 22J based on the Standard for Electrical insulating materials – Thermal endurance properties – Part 3: Instructions for calculating thermal endurance characteristics, IEC 60216-3.

4 Characteristics of Polymeric Materials

4.1 Polymeric materials include thermoplastic, thermosetting, and elastomeric materials. A thermoplastic material can be easily softened and resoftened by repeated heating. A thermosetting material cures by

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chemical reaction and, when cured, cannot be resoftened. An elastomeric material is capable of being stretched at room temperature to at least twice its length under low stress and recovers to its original length when released from the stress.

4.2 Characteristics of polymeric materials that necessitate additional consideration include:

a) Mold stresses

b) Insulating quality

c) Resistance to ignition

d) Extinguishing characteristics

e) Production of smoke and gases

f) Mechanical Strength

g) Compatibility with solvents

h) Melting or distortion

i) Cold flow, if under stress

j) Fuel contribution

k) Dimensional stability

5 Use of Polymeric Materials

5.1 The reduction to an acceptable level of the risks of electric shock, fire, and personal injury from electrical equipment depends upon the selection of materials, design, and processing of parts as well as the assembly, mounting, and relative positions of these parts.

5.2 The properties needed by individual parts are defined by the function or functions of the part. An enclosure, for example, must ordinarily be designed to withstand mechanical abuse. Accordingly, a material known to have substantial impact strength would normally be used although a material that has a lower impact strength, but is reinforced, might also be acceptable.

5.3 Electrical equipment of necessity employs many materials that usually have divergent properties. The ability to match the demands of the application with the characteristics of a material as well as the ability to compare the properties of one material with those of another can lead to an acceptable selection of materials.

5.4 The information gained from the data obtained from these tests can be used as an aid in the evaluation of electrical equipment using parts made of polymeric materials. Knowledge of materials can be obtained from an analysis of data from standard tests conducted on small specimens.

DETERMINATION OF THE RELATIVE THERMAL INDICES OF POLYMERIC MATERIALS

6 General

6.1 A relative thermal index of a material (RTI) is an indication of the material's ability to retain a particular property (physical, electrical, etc.) when exposed to elevated temperatures for an extended period of time. It is a measure of the material's thermal endurance. For each material, a number of relative

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