



Standard Specification for Projectiles Used in the Sport of Paintball¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation F1979; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

INTRODUCTION

This specification sets forth a set of guidelines and testing procedures for the manufacturing of common calibers and types of paintball. The goal is to provide paintball manufacturers with a specification that promotes safety in the sport of paintball.

1. Scope

1.1 This specification establishes testing procedures and critical characteristics for projectiles, which define whether they are suitable for use in the sport of paintball. Furthermore, the specification establishes minimum warning and package labeling requirements to help ensure that the paintballs are used in a safe manner and that the risk of injury is reduced.

1.2 This specification does not cover non-recreational paintballs, for example, those used by law enforcement, scientific, military, or theatrical entities.

1.3 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as the standard. The values given in parentheses are for information only.

1.4 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety, health, and environmental practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

1.5 *This international standard was developed in accordance with internationally recognized principles on standardization established in the Decision on Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations issued by the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

F2272 Specification for Paintball Markers

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F08 on Sports Equipment, Playing Surfaces, and Facilities and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F08.24 on Paintball and Equipment.

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² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.1.1 *caliber, n*—the term used to refer to the size of a paintball projectile. Related to the measurement of the diameter of the paintball.

3.1.2 *cubic centimeter, n*—commonly used unit of volume extending the derived SI-unit cubic meter and corresponding to the volume of a cube measuring $1 \times 1 \times 1$ cm.

3.1.2.1 *Discussion*—The mass of one cubic centimeter of water is approximately equal to 1 g.

3.1.3 *fill material, n*—liquid inside of a paintball.

3.1.4 *paintball, n*—a projectile designed to be expelled from a paintball marker meeting the requirements of Specification F2272.

3.1.4.1 *spherical paintball, n*—a round projectile, with a diameter and weight as defined in Table 1, comprised of a shell and a fill material, and designed to be expelled from a paintball marker.

3.1.4.2 *shaped paintball, n*—non-spherical cylindrical shaped projectile with a hemispherical front surface, and a diameter, length, and weight as defined in Table 2, comprised of a shell and a fill material, and designed to be expelled from a paintball marker most commonly with a magazine style feed.

3.1.5 *paintball marker, n*—device specifically designed to discharge paintballs which conforms to Specification F2272.

3.1.6 *shell*—rigid to semi-rigid frangible material (generally of gelatin) that encapsulates or contains the fill material of a projectile used in the sport of paintball.

4. General Requirements

4.1 *pH of Fill Material*—The pH of the fill material used in all paintballs shall measure between 4.0 and 8.0 as measured using a 10 % solution of the fill in distilled water. Measurements shall be made using a properly calibrated pH meter. See Fig. 1 for the pH scale and pH levels for some common items.

TABLE 1 Calibers of Spherical Paintballs with Minimum and Maximum Diameter and Maximum Weight

	68 Caliber 18 mm	43 Caliber 11 mm	50 Caliber 13 mm	55 Caliber 14 mm	62 Caliber 16 mm
Min (mm) Diameter	16.5	10.43	12.13	13.34	15
Max (mm) Diameter	18	11.39	13.24	14.56	16.42
Min (in) Diameter	0.65	0.41	0.47	0.52	0.59
Max (in.) Diameter	0.709	0.448	0.521	0.573	0.646
Weight (g) Maximum	3.5	0.9	1.4	1.7	2.5
Weight (oz) Maximum	0.123	0.032	0.049	0.06	0.088

TABLE 2 Calibers of Shaped Paintballs with Minimum and Maximum Diameter, Length and Maximum Weight

	68 Caliber 18 mm	43 Caliber 11 mm	50 Caliber 13 mm	55 Caliber 14 mm	62 Caliber 16 mm
Min (mm) Diameter	16.5	10.43	12.13	13.34	15
Max (mm) Diameter	18	11.39	13.24	14.56	16.42
Min (in.) Diameter	0.65	0.41	0.47	0.52	0.59
Max (in.) Diameter	0.709	0.448	0.521	0.573	0.646
Min (in.) Length	0.65	0.41	0.47	0.52	0.59
Max (in.) Length	0.709	0.448	0.521	0.573	0.646
Weight (g) Maximum	3.5	0.9	1.4	1.7	2.5
Weight (oz) Maximum	0.123	0.032	0.049	0.06	0.088

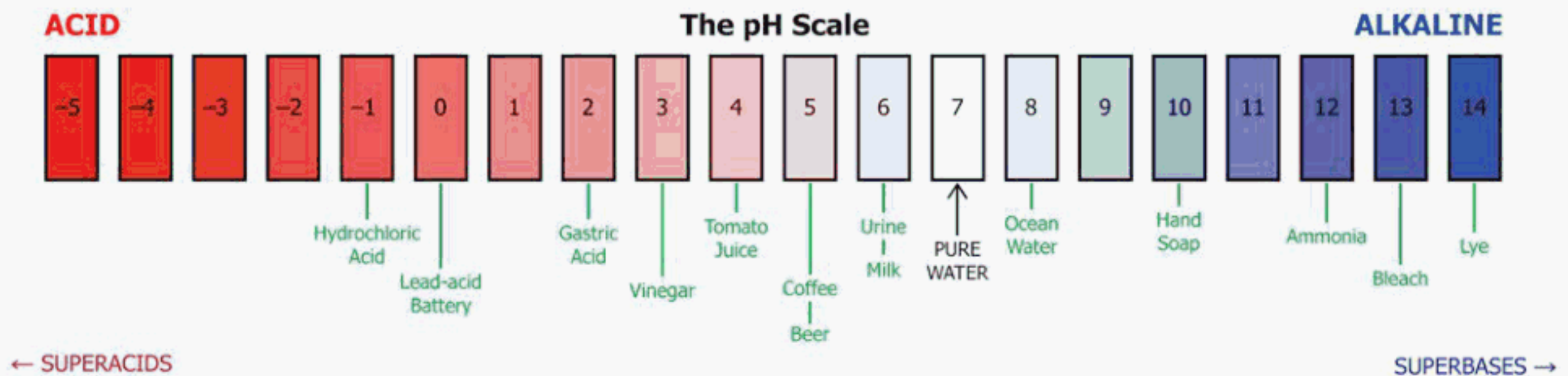


FIG. 1 The pH Scale

4.2 Paintball Fill Compatibility With Polycarbonate—When tested in accordance with Section 5, no more than one of the three polycarbonate tensile bars exposed to the fill material shall develop a visible crack that is greater than 6.5 mm (0.256 in.) in length.

4.3 Maximum Weight—A paintball shall not weigh more than as defined in Table 1 and Table 2 based on the caliber and type of the paintball.

4.4 Fill Color Limitations—A paintball shall not contain fill material with a color mimicking that of human blood.

4.5 Diameter of a Spherical Paintball—The diameter of a spherical paintball shall be measured around both the polar axis and seam; both measurements shall be within the minimum and maximum range as defined in Table 1, based on the caliber of the paintball.

4.6 Diameter of Shaped Paintball—The diameter of a shaped paintball as measured around the largest section of the

cylinder of the sample shall measure within the minimum and maximum range as defined in Table 2 based on the caliber of the shaped paintball.

4.7 Length of Shaped Paintball—The length of the shaped paintball as measured along the overall length of the object shall measure within the minimum and maximum range as defined in Table 2 based on the caliber of the shaped paintball.

4.8 Impact Breakage—The impact breakage of the paintball shall be tested in accordance with Section 6. All ten of the paintballs that impact the target shall break upon impact.

4.9 *Environmental Safety*—Paintballs shall not contain environmentally hazardous or toxic substances as defined in CERCLA³ Regulations 40CFR302.4; SARA Toxic Chemical List⁴ Section 313; Clean Air Act⁵, Section 112B; and RCRA Regulations⁶ 40FRR261.24 through 40CFR261.33.

TEST METHODS

5. Paintball Compatibility with Polycarbonate

5.1 *Scope*—This test method is intended to determine the compatibility of the paintball fill with polycarbonate, the plastic material currently universally used for protective eye-wear lenses in paintball.

5.2 *Summary of Test Method*—This test method involves bending polycarbonate tensile bars in a test fixture while these bars are exposed to the paintball fill material and observing how these tensile bars react to the fill. A control test is also conducted using tap water in place of the paintball fill material.

5.3 *Significance and Use*—This test method provides a means to help determine the suitability of specific paintball fill material for use in the sport of paintball. This test method provides a relative indicator of the reaction that a polycarbonate lens would have to the paintball fill material being tested.

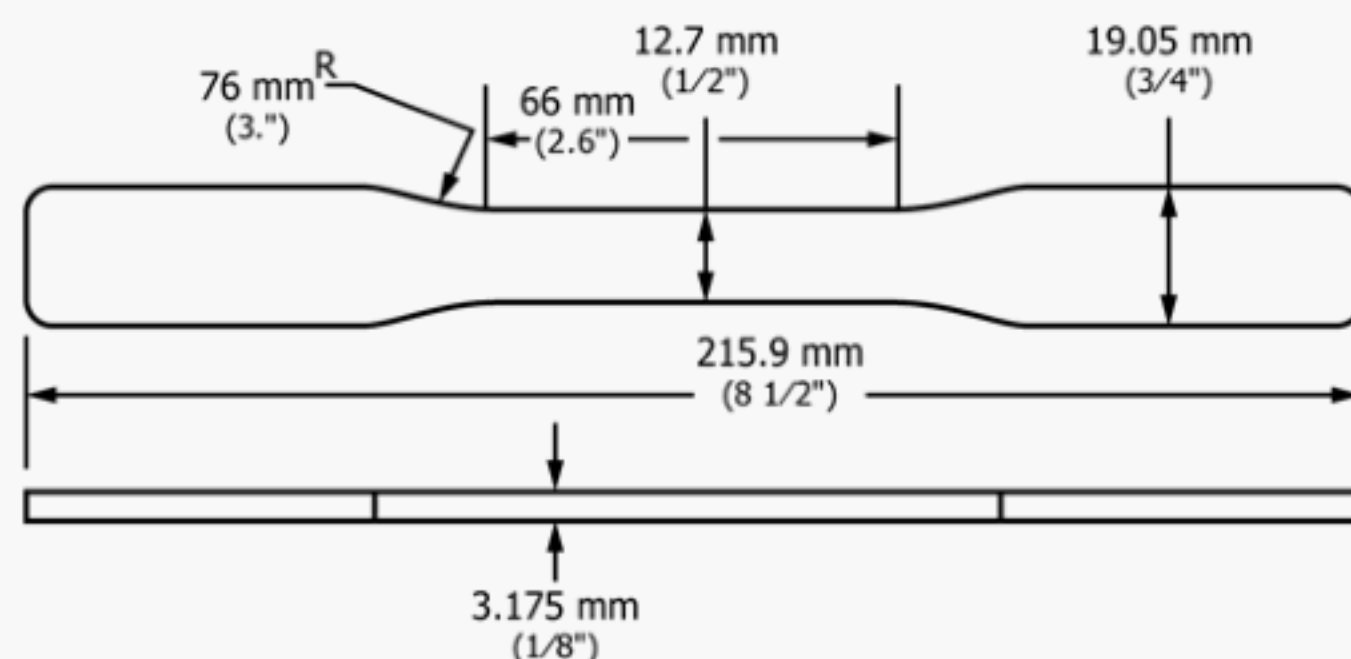


FIG. 3 Tensile Bar

5.4 *Apparatus*—This test method shall be conducted using a test fixture as shown in Fig. 2. The tensile bars⁷ used in the test shall be molded of clear 121 grade Lexan⁸, polycarbonate (3).

5.5 Procedure:

5.5.1 Test 3 separate tensile bars for each type of paint being tested. Test a total of 2 tensile bars in the control test using tap water.

5.5.2 Place the fill from 4 paintballs of the tested paint into a polyethylene bag, (the zip-lock variety works well), along with one tensile bar. Place 15 mL (1/2 oz) of tap water, along with one tensile bar into each of the two control sample polyethylene bags. Wrap each bag around the bar so that the fill or water is in contact with the center of the bar, and seal the bag to prevent fill leakage or evaporation.

5.5.3 Bend the bagged tensile bars between the two stops on the test fixture (Fig. 2), which induces a 1.0 % strain or approximately 175.75 k/cm² (2500 psi). Store the bent tensile bars in the test fixture at room temperature 23 ± 2°C (73 ± 3.5°F) for 7 days. During the entire 7-day period, the paintball fill material shall be in contact with the center of the tensile bars. Inverting the test fixture is one method of ensuring this contact. Wrapping the bag snugly around the tensile bars is another proven method.

5.5.4 After 7 days, remove the tensile bars from the test fixture and rinse with clean tap water. Dry the tensile bars and inspect for cracks.

5.6 *Report*—Inspect the tensile bars for cracks by holding the bars vertically facing either direct sunlight or a bright light source. Tilt the bars slightly to highlight any cracks. Record and report the length of the longest crack on each tensile bar. If either of the tensile bars used in the control test exhibit a crack of 3 mm (0.112 in.) in length, and cracks longer than 6.5 mm have also been found in two of the three tensile bars exposed to the fill material, the test may be considered invalid and performed again using a different batch of tensile bars.

⁷ The sole source of supply of the apparatus known to the committee at this time is Hi Tech Mold and Tool Inc., 1520 East St., Pittsfield, MA 01201. If you are aware of alternative suppliers, please provide this information to ASTM International Headquarters. Your comments will receive careful consideration at a meeting of the responsible technical committee,¹ which you may attend.

⁸ Lexan is a trademark of GE Plastics.

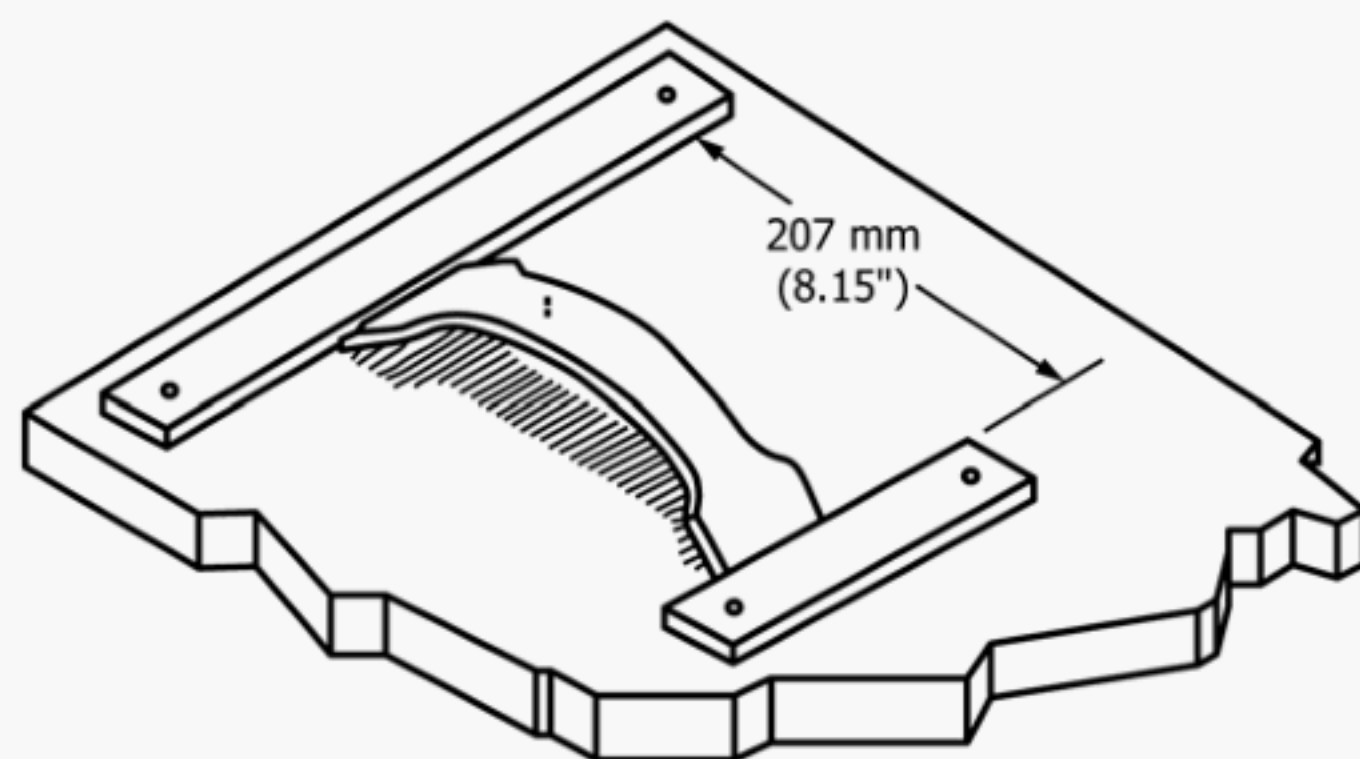


FIG. 2 Tensile Bar Shown Without Wrapping

³ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, "Designation of Hazardous Substances List of Hazardous Substances and Reportable Quantities," *Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liabilities Act*, Bureau of Federal Affairs, 40CFR302.4, April 4, 1985.

⁴ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, "Superfund Amendment and Reauthorization Act," *Environmental Protection Agency Regulation*, Bureau of Federal Affairs, Title III, 1986.

⁵ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, "National Emission Standards for Air Pollutants List of Hazardous Air Pollutants," *Clean Air Act*, Bureau of Federal Affairs, Section 112B, 1967.

⁶ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, "Definition of Characteristic and Listed Hazardous Waste, Identification and Listing of Hazardous Waste," *Resource Conservation and Recovery Act*, Bureau of Federal Affairs, 40CFR261, May 19, 1980.



5.7 Precision and Bias—No information is presented about either the precision or bias of this test method since this test method is nonquantitative.

6. Paintball Impact Breakage Test

6.1 Scope—This test method is intended to determine the ability of the paintballs to burst upon impact.

6.2 Summary of Test Method—This test method involves shooting paintballs from a propelling device at a target, within the parameters of this specification, to test for the breakage of the paintballs upon the target.

6.3 Significance and Use—In the sport of paintball, a player who is marked with fill of a paintball is eliminated from the game, and thus it is desirable that a paintball be designed within parameters such that its outer shell can split open and allow its fill to mark the player. This test method provides a means of identifying the breakage ability of paintballs within parameters that reasonably approximate conditions common in the game of paintball. This test method provides a means of identifying the breakage of paintballs by impacting a target at a velocity common in the game of paintball.

6.4 Sampling—Select 30 paintballs at random from the lot of paintballs being tested.

6.5 Apparatus:

6.5.1 A paintball marker capable of hurling paintballs horizontally at a speed of 85.3 ± 6 m/s (280 ± 20 ft/s) that complies with Specification **F2272**. Each shot's muzzle velocity shall be measured and if not within tolerance, that impact is not valid.

6.5.2 In the case of a laboratory environment this test may be performed using an air cannon to launch the paintballs, as long as the velocity specification of **6.5.1** and barrel specifications of Specification **F2272** are met.

6.5.3 Equipment employed to measure the speed of the test paintball shall be accurate to within ± 0.5 m/s (± 20 ft/s) muzzle velocity and will be set up and used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions supplied with the unit.

6.6 Conditioning:

6.6.1 All impact testing shall be done using paintballs manufactured within the previous 8 months.

6.6.2 Paintball storage and the non-test handling shall be done at a relative humidity below 65 % and a temperature between 19°C (66°F) and 27°C (80°F).

6.6.3 Paintballs shall be conditioned in their original sealed container for at least 4 h at the humidity and temperature specified in **6.6.2**.

6.6.4 The testing shall be conducted at the temperatures specified in **6.6.2** and shall be completed within 10 min after removal of the paintball from the sealed container. The paintball container shall be resealed immediately after each group of paintballs is removed.

6.7 Procedure:

6.7.1 Secure a plywood target with a minimum thickness of 10-mm vertically at a distance of 24.4 ± 0.3 -m (80 ± 1 -ft)

linear ground distance from the muzzle of the paintball marker. Width and length of the target to be of a size that the laboratory determines necessary to hit the target.

6.7.2 Measure the velocity of the paintball within 1.0 m (3.3 ft) of the muzzle of the propelling device. Paintball velocity shall be 85.3 ± 6 m/s (280 ± 20 ft/s).

6.7.3 Impact the plywood target with ten paintballs at an angle nominally normal to the target and at the distance in accordance with **6.7.1**. Only those shots that are within the velocity tolerance in accordance with **6.7.2** shall be used in this test method.

6.8 Precision and Bias—No information is presented about either the precision or bias of this test method since this test method is nonquantitative.

7. Product Marking

7.1 General Instructions:

7.1.1 Warnings, instructions, caliber, type, quantity contained in the container, and the name and address of the manufacturer or distributor shall appear on the exterior of each point of sale container in which a manufacturer packages its paintballs.

7.1.2 The lot number of paintballs shall appear on each point of sale container containing 500 or more paintballs.

7.1.3 The size of the print for warnings, instructions, and manufacturer's information shall be of a type size of at least 8 points. The add letters in the word WARNING shall be at least 50 % larger than the letters in the other words in the cautionary statement.

7.2 Warning Information—The following warning information or its equivalent shall appear as defined in **7.1**.

7.2.1 These paintballs are intended only for use in the sport of paintball; follow all rules for safe paintball play.

7.2.2 Goggles, facemasks, and ear protection designed specifically for use in paintball games are mandatory at all times for all persons who are within paintball marker range.

7.2.3 Failure to follow the rules for safe paintball play, and the instructions and recommendations in this specification, may result in bodily injury including face, eye, and ear injury, blindness, or deafness.

7.2.4 Do not shoot paintballs at a speed in excess of 300 ft/s (92 m/s).

7.2.5 Do not ingest.

7.3 Instruction Information: The following instruction information or its equivalent shall be in accordance with **7.1**.

7.3.1 Failure to follow these storage instructions may adversely affect performance and quality and increase the possibility of injury.

7.3.2 Instructions on how to properly store paintballs including: temperature and humidity ranges for storage and packaging requirements.

8. Keywords

8.1 caliber; frangible; magazine style feed; paintball; paintball marker; paintball sports; shaped paintball; spherical paintball



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