



# Technical Data Sheet

## 3M™ Thermal Transfer Polyester Label Material 7873



Additional Info



Regulatory Info/SDS

### Product Description

3M™ Thermal Transfer Polyester Label Material 7873 is a gloss polyester label material that offers premium durability and moisture resistance. This label product utilizes 3M™ High Performance Acrylic Adhesive 350, it offers excellent chemical resistance and holding strength even at high temperatures.

### Product Features

- Adhesive can permanently bond to high surface energy (HSE) and low surface energy (LSE) plastics, textured and contoured surfaces, powder coatings, and slightly oily metals.
- Thick adhesive caliper provides for stronger bond on textured surfaces.
- Facestock is topcoated for thermal transfer printing. Resin ribbons are recommended for optimum durability. The topcoat also provides improved ink anchorage for traditional forms of press printing.
- UL recognized (File MH16411) and CSA accepted (File 99316). See the UL and CSA listings for details.
- UL listing includes approval for use on powder coated surfaces.

### Technical Information Note

The following technical information and data should be considered representative or typical only and should not be used for specification purposes.

### Typical Physical Properties

| Attribute Name       | Value                             |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Adhesive Type        | 350 Acrylic                       |
| Facestock            | Bright Silver Polyester Gloss TC  |
| Adhesive Coat Weight | 2.70 — 3.24 g/100 in <sup>2</sup> |

| Attribute Name      | Value               |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Adhesive Thickness  | 0.046 mm (1.8 mil)  |
| Facestock Thickness | 0.051 mm (2 mil)    |
| Liner               | 55# Densified Kraft |
| Liner Thickness     | 0.081 mm (3.2 mil)  |

| Attribute Name | Value  |
|----------------|--|
| Convertability | In order to capture the superior performance properties of 3M™ High Holding Acrylic Adhesive 350, thicker calipers are utilized for LSE or textured substrates. Its higher caliper, while desirable for the end use applications, may require extra care during processing. Please refer to the die cutting/converting section of this data page or the “Guide to Converting and Handling Label Products” technical bulletin for additional information. |

## Typical Performance Characteristics

### 180° Peel Adhesion

Temperature: 23 °C (73 °F)

Dwell Time: 72 h

Test Method: ASTM D3330

| Substrate          | Value                             |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Polycarbonate (PC) | 10.3 N/cm (94 oz/in) <sup>1</sup> |
| Polypropylene (PP) | 9.1 N/cm (83 oz/in) <sup>1</sup>  |
| Stainless Steel    | 10.5 N/cm (96 oz/in) <sup>1</sup> |

<sup>1</sup> 300 mm/min (12 in/min)

Temperature: 23 °C (73 °F)

| Attribute Name | Test Method | Value                                      |
|----------------|-------------|--|
| Liner Release  | TLMI        | 1 – 13.7 g/cm (5 – 70 g/2 in) <sup>1</sup> |

<sup>1</sup> 180° removal, 300 in/min

| Attribute Name                           | Value                        |
|--|------------------------------|
| Minimum Application Temperature          | 10 °C (50 °F)                |
| Long Term Temperature Resistance         | 149 °C (300 °F) <sup>1</sup> |
| Minimum Long Term Temperature Resistance | -40 °C (-40 °F) <sup>1</sup> |

<sup>1</sup> Long Term (day, weeks)

| Attribute Name | Value                       |
|----------------|-----------------------------|
| Note           | Calipers are nominal values |

## Typical Environmental Characteristics

### Humidity Resistance

24 hours at 100°F (38°C) and 100% relative humidity: no significant change in appearance or adhesion

### Temperature Resistance

When applied to stainless steel. Other substrates should be tested per application.

300°F (149°C) for 24 hours: no significant visual change

0.4% MD shrinkage

0.6% CD shrinkage

-40°F (-40°C) for 10 days: no significant visual change

## Printing

Facestock is topcoated for improved ink receptivity and is designed for thermal transfer printing. It is printable by all standard roll processing methods including flexography, hot stamp, letterpress, and screen printing. Refer to UL Listing for specific ribbons.

## Converting

Rotary die cutting is recommended. Fanfolding of labels is not recommended. Small labels should be evaluated carefully. Winding tensions should be kept at a minimum to help prevent the adhesive from oozing.

## **Handling/Application Information**

### **Application Examples**

- Barcode labels and rating plates
- Property identification and asset labeling
- Warning, instruction, and service labels for durable goods
- Nameplates and durable goods

### **Application Techniques**

For maximum bond strength, the surface should be clean and dry. Typical cleaning solvents are heptane and isopropyl alcohol.\*

For best bonding conditions, application surface should be at room temperature or higher. Low temperature surfaces, below 50°F (10°C), can cause the adhesive to become so firm that it will not develop maximum contact with the substrate. Higher initial bonds can be achieved through increased rubdown pressure.

\*When using solvents, read and follow the manufacturer's precautions and directions for use.

## **Industry Specifications**

UL Recognized (File MH16411)  
CSA Accepted (File 99316)

## **Storage and Shelf Life**

Store under normal conditions of 16° to 27°C (60° to 80°F) and 40 to 60% relative humidity in the original packaging, out of direct sunlight. For best performance, use this product within 24 months from date of manufacture.

## **Available Sizes**

| <b>Attribute Name</b> | <b>Value</b>                                      |
|-----------------------|---|
| Packaging             | Finished labels should be stored in plastic bags. |

## **Information**

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## **ISO Statement**

This product was manufactured under a 3M quality system registered to ISO 9001 standards.

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