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.

Designation: D1535 – 14 (Reapproved 2018)

Standard Practice for Specifying Color by the Munsell System[1]

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D1535; 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.

This standard has been approved for use by agencies of the U.S. Department of Defense.

1. Scope

1.1 This practice provides a means of specifying the colors of objects in terms of the Munsell color order system, a system based on the color-perception attributes hue, lightness, and chroma. The practice is limited to opaque objects, such as painted surfaces viewed in daylight by an observer having normal color vision. This practice provides a simple visual method as an alternative to the more precise and more complex method based on spectrophotometry and the CIE system (see Practices E308 and E1164). Provision is made for conversion of CIE data to Munsell notation.

1.2 *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.*

1.3 *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]

D1729 Practice for Visual Appraisal of Colors and Color Differences of Diffusely-Illuminated Opaque Materials

D3134 Practice for Establishing Color and Gloss Tolerances

E284 Terminology of Appearance

E308 Practice for Computing the Colors of Objects by Using the CIE System

E1164 Practice for Obtaining Spectrometric Data for Object-Color Evaluation

3. Terminology

3.1 Terms and definitions in Terminology E284 are applicable to this practice.

3.2 *Definitions:*

3.2.1 *Munsell notation, n*—(*1*) the Munsell hue, value, and chroma assigned to the color of a specimen by visually comparing the specimen to the chips in the *Munsell Book of Color*;[3] (*2*) a notation in the Munsell color system, derived from luminous reflectance factor *Y* and chromaticity coordinates *x* and *y*, in the CIE system for standard illuminant *C*, by the use of scales defined by the Optical Society of America Subcommittee on the Spacing of the Munsell Colors(**1**).[4]

3.2.1.1 *Discussion*—The Munsell notation is written as a combination of letters and numbers by which the color of an opaque object may be specified with respect to Munsell hue *H*, Munsell value *V*, and Munsell chroma *C*, written in the form *H V/C*.

3.2.2 *hue, n*—the attribute of color perception by means of which a color is judged to be red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple, or intermediate between adjacent pairs of these, considered in a closed ring (red and purple being an adjacent pair).

3.2.3 *Munsell hue, n*—an attribute of color used in the Munsell color system to indicate the hue of a specimen viewed in daylight.

3.2.3.1 *Discussion*—Two systems of designating Munsell hue are shown in Fig. 1, a letter-number system and an all-number system. The two systems are equivalent, but the letter-number system is preferred, because it requires no prior knowledge or memory of the correspondence of numbers to hues. The hue circle is graduated in steps judged visually to be approximately equal.

3.2.4 *lightness, n*—the attribute of color perception by which a non-self-luminous body is judged to reflect more or less light.

3.2.5 *Munsell value, n*—an attribute of color used in the Munsell color system to indicate the lightness of a specimen

[1] This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee E12 on Color and Appearance and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee E12.07 on Color Order Systems.

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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] Available from Munsell, 4300 44th Street SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49512, www.munsell.com.

[4] The boldface numbers in parentheses refer to a list of references at the end of this standard.

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