



Designation: E253 – 17

Standard Terminology Relating to Sensory Evaluation of Materials and Products¹

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1. Referenced Documents

1.1 *ASTM Standards*:²

E284 Terminology of Appearance

2. Terminology

absolute judgment, *n*—an evaluation of a stimulus made without direct comparison to other stimuli. (2007)

acceptability/unacceptability, *n*—degree to which a stimulus is judged to be favorable or unfavorable. (2006)

acuity, *n*—the ability to detect or discriminate sensory stimuli. (2007)

adaptation, sensory, *n*—a decrease in sensitivity to a given stimulus which occurs as a result of exposure to that stimulus. (2006)

affective test, *n*—any method to assess acceptance, liking, preference, or emotions for a stimulus or stimuli. (2008)

after effects, *n*—total array of sensations that occur after removal of the stimulus from the sensing field (for example, with foods) or after application of the stimulus (for example, with non-foods). (2008)

after feel, *n*—feel of the skin after application of a sample, with or without touching, usually measured at a specified time point. (2008)

aftertaste, *n*—the oral or nasal sensations that occur after the stimulus has been removed from the oral cavity. See **after effects**. (2007)

agusia, *n*—lack of sensitivity to taste stimuli. (1996)

alternative forced choice (AFC), *n*—method in which 2, 3, or more stimuli are presented, and assessors are given a criterion by which they are required to select one stimulus. (2008)

DISCUSSION—Typical examples include 2-AFC (directional different test) and 3-AFC (selecting the one stimulus among a set of three that differs in a defined attribute).

α (alpha) risk, *n*—the probability of concluding that a perceptible difference exists when, in reality, one does not. (2014)

DISCUSSION— α risk also is known as Type 1 Error or significance level.

alternative forced choice (AFC) test, *n*—method in which 2, 3, or more stimuli are presented, and assessors are given a criterion by which they are required to select one stimulus. (2008)

DISCUSSION—Typical examples include 2-AFC (directional difference test) and 3-AFC (selecting the one stimulus among a set of three that differs in a defined attribute).

anchoring point, *n*—a reference point against which other items are judged. (1996)

anosmia, *n*—lack of sensitivity to odor stimuli. (1996)

A-not-A test, *n*—a method of discrimination testing comprised of at least two samples; at least one sample is a previously identified sample (“A”) and at least one is a test sample. All samples are presented blindly, and the assessor’s task is to assign the label “A” or “not-A” to each of the samples. (2001)

antagonism, *n*—joint action of two or more stimuli whose combination elicits a level of sensation lower than that expected from combining the effects of each stimulus taken separately. (1996)

aroma, *n*—perception resulting from stimulating the olfactory receptors; in a broader sense, the term is sometimes used to refer to the combination of sensations resulting from stimulation of the entire nasal cavity. (1996)

DISCUSSION—Aroma, odor, and smell have the same basic meaning; however, in common usage they may have different connotations.

aromatic, *n*—perception resulting from stimulating the olfactory receptors retronasally. (2010)

assessor, *n*—a general term for any individual responding to stimuli in a sensory test. (2006)

DISCUSSION—The terms *assessor*, *judge*, *panelist*, *panel member*, and *respondent* all have the same basic meaning, although sometimes

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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.