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Designation: E 284 – 01

Standard Terminology of Appearance[1]

This standard is issued under the fixed designation E 284; 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

Appearance, including the appearance of objects, materials, and light sources, is of importance in many arts, industries, and scientific disciplines. Appearance terms are used in a wide range of ASTM standards as well as other documents of concern in standardization, testing, and specification. The purpose of this terminology standard is to define terms relating to the description of appearance.

Definitions are of two distinctly different kinds. A *descriptive* definition reports existing usage, whereas a *prescriptive* definition is an invitation to use a term in a specific way. By agreement of ASTM Committee E12 on Appearance, the definitions in this terminology standard are taken to be *prescriptive* in nature. Committee E12 thereby assumes a position of leadership in usage.

Terms and definitions in several terminology standards and vocabularies other than ASTM (see References), as well as other ASTM terminology standards, have been considered for inclusion in this terminology standard. An effort has been made to achieve greater accuracy, brevity, clarity, precision, and internal consistency, and to draw distinctions that are useful in the practical measurement and specification of appearance.

Suggestions for additions or revisions to this terminology standard are welcome.

1. Scope

1.1 This terminology standard defines terms used in the description of appearance, including but not limited to color, gloss, opacity, scattering, texture, and visibility of both materials (ordinary, fluorescent, retroreflective) and light sources (including visual display units).

1.2 It is the policy of ASTM Committee E12 on Appearance that this terminology standard include important terms and definitions explicit to the scope, whether or not the terms are currently used in an ASTM standard. Terms that are in common use and appear in common-language dictionaries (see Refs **(1–4)**[2]) are generally not included, except when the dictionaries show multiple definitions and it seems desirable to indicate the definitions recommended for E12 standards.

1.3 The usage of terms describing appearance varies considerably. In some cases, different usage of a term in different fields has been noted.

2. Significance and Use

2.1 This terminology standard contains definitions of appearance terms applicable to the work of many ASTM technical committees. Its use by committees other than Committee E12 on Appearance, and its citation in the standards of such committees, is encouraged.

2.2 In this terminology standard, definitions of terms used in other ASTM standards are indicated by placing the designation of that standard in parentheses at the end of the definition. Definitions used by other organizations (see Refs **(5–7)**) are indicated similarly by placing in parentheses at the end of the definition the acronym of the organization, occasionally with the date of its terminology standard quoted. In either case, a superscript letter may be used to indicate the degree of correspondence between the definition given herein and that in the citation. Superscript *A* indicates that the two are identical; *B* that the given definition is a modification of that cited, with little difference in essential meaning; and *C* that the two differ substantially.

2.3 A further parenthetical inclusion at the end of the definition gives the revision, if after 1981, in which the definition was added to this terminology standard or last revised. An appendix at the end of this terminology standard lists changes in it since its last previous revision published in the *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*.

2.4 Where appropriate, symbols or acronyms are listed for terms in this terminology standard. Since usage varies, these listings should be considered as recommendations, not as mandatory. If a different symbol or acronym is used in another ASTM standard, this should be indicated in that standard.

2.5 In the 1990 edition of this terminology standard, a great

[1] These definitions are under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee E12 on Color and Appearance and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee E12.01 on Terminology.

Current edition approved June 10, 2001. Published August 2001. Originally published as E 284 – 66 T. Last previous edition E 284 – 00.

[2] The boldface numbers in parentheses refer to a list of references at the end of text.

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