



Designation: E284 – 17

Standard Terminology of Appearance¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation E284; 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 Color and 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 Color and 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 (1–2)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.

¹ This terminology is 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 May 1, 2017. Published July 2017. Originally approved in 1966. Last previous edition approved in 2013 as E284 – 13b. DOI: 10.1520/E0284-17.

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

1.4 *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:³

C242 Terminology of Ceramic Whitewares and Related Products

C286 Terminology Relating to Porcelain Enamel and Ceramic-Metal Systems

C460 Terminology for Asbestos-Cement (Withdrawn 2001)⁴

D16 Terminology for Paint, Related Coatings, Materials, and Applications

D123 Terminology Relating to Textiles

D156 Test Method for Saybolt Color of Petroleum Products (Saybolt Chromometer Method)

D883 Terminology Relating to Plastics

³ 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.

⁴ The last approved version of this historical standard is referenced on www.astm.org.

*A Summary of Changes section appears at the end of this standard