



Standard Terminology of Building Constructions¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation E631; 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.

1. Scope

1.1 This Terminology consists of terms and definitions pertaining to the subject field of buildings and building construction, and in particular, terms related to the standards generated by ASTM Committee E06 on Performance of Buildings.

1.2 The purpose of this Terminology is to provide preferred and admitted designations along with the meanings and explanations of technical concepts applied in the subject field of buildings and construction, written for both the non-expert and the expert user.

1.3 This comprehensive Terminology standard contains all ASTM standardized definitions generated in ASTM Committee E06 that are considered general in nature. Beyond this comprehensive terminology, there are also separate terminology standards that have been developed within Committee E06 by a number of technical subcommittees.

1.3.1 These separate general terminologies are created relative to specific subject fields and the terminological entries have been grouped for convenient use (see Section 2 and Appendix X1). Some terminology data contained in those other subsidiary terminology standards also appear in this comprehensive standard.

1.3.2 The following standards are separate terminologies that have been developed within specific E06 Subcommittees whose term entry lists are provided in Appendix X1:

E833 Terminology of Building Economics
E1480 Terminology of Facility Management (Building-Related)
E1481 Terminology of Railing Systems and Rails for Buildings
E1605 Terminology Relating to Lead in Buildings
E1749 Terminology Relating to Rigid Wall Relocatable Shelters
E2110 Terminology for Exterior Insulation and Finish Systems (EIFS)
E2151 Terminology of Guides for Specifying and Evaluating Performance of Single Family Attached and Detached Dwellings
E2265 Terminology for Anchors and Fasteners in Concrete and Masonry

1.4 Terms are listed in alphabetical sequence. Compound terms appear in the natural spoken order. To show the relation-

ships in certain families of concepts, groups of narrower terms and their definitions are grouped under the definition of the broader term. Each such sub-entry is listed also (*in italics*) with a cross-reference to the special class.

1.5 Certain standard definitions herein are adopted from other sources. Each is an exact copy. The source is identified at the right margin following the definition, and is listed in Section 2.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

C168 Terminology Relating to Thermal Insulation
C755 Practice for Selection of Water Vapor Retarders for Thermal Insulation
E73 Practice for Static Load Testing of Truss Assemblies
E96/E96M Test Methods for Water Vapor Transmission of Materials
E456 Terminology Relating to Quality and Statistics
E546 Test Method for Frost/Dew Point of Sealed Insulating Glass Units
E564 Practice for Static Load Test for Shear Resistance of Framed Walls for Buildings
E621 Practice for Use of Metric (SI) Units in Building Design and Construction (Committee E06 Supplement to E380) (Withdrawn 2008)³
E774 Specification for the Classification of the Durability of Sealed Insulating Glass Units (Withdrawn 2006)³
E779 Test Method for Determining Air Leakage Rate by Fan Pressurization
E859 Test Method for Air Erosion of Sprayed Fire-Resistive Materials (SFRMs) Applied to Structural Members
E997 Test Method for Evaluating Glass Breakage Probability Under the Influence of Uniform Static Loads by Proof Load Testing
E998 Test Method for Structural Performance of Glass in Windows, Curtain Walls, and Doors Under the Influence of Uniform Static Loads by Nondestructive Method

¹ This terminology is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee E06 on Performance of Buildings and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee E06.94 on Terminology and Editorial.

Current edition approved March 1, 2015. Published April 2015. Originally approved in 1978. Last previous edition approved in 2014 as E631 – 14. DOI: 10.1520/E0631-15.

Those terms formerly contained in Definitions E540 – 77 are now contained in this terminology.

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