



Standard Terminology Relating to Conformity Assessment¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This standard defines terms related to conformity assessment.² It includes terms used in those standards under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee E-36. When definitions are those used by other ASTM committees, the committee designation is given in parentheses after the definition. When definitions are based on those used by other organizations, the symbol or abbreviation of the name of the organization is given. In either case, a postscript letter is used to indicate the degree of correspondence between the definition given herein and that in the citation. Postscript “A” indicates the definition is identical to the definition cited by the organization indicated. Postscript “B” indicates the given definition is a modification of that cited, though the essential meaning differs little. Postscript “C” indicates the given definition differs substantially from the one cited.

1.2 Since conformity assessment is being carried out by many accrediting bodies in several fields of testing and numerous product areas, usage of descriptive terms varies considerably. There is no attempt to include all conformity assessment terms in this standard, but to concentrate on those most commonly encountered.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:

E 10 Test Method for Brinell Hardness of Metallic Materials³

E 18 Test Methods for Rockwell Hardness and Rockwell Superficial Hardness of Metallic Materials³

E 92 Test Method for Vickers Hardness of Metallic Materials³

E 384 Test Method for Microhardness of Materials³

E 699 Practice for Criteria for Evaluation of Agencies Involved in Testing, Quality Assurance, and Evaluating

Building Components in Accordance with Test Methods Promulgated by ASTM Committee E-16⁴

E 1267 Guide for ASTM Standard Specification Quality Statements⁵

2.2 ANSI Standard:

A3-1987 Quality Systems Terminology⁶

2.3 ISO Standard:

ISO/Guide 2 General Terms and Their Definitions Concerning Standardization, Certification and Testing Laboratory Accreditation⁷

2.4 Other Document:

Laboratory Accreditation—Principles and Practice, Collected Reports 1979-1983 (ILAC Task Force C Reports)⁸

3. Terminology : Terms and Their Definitions

accreditation—procedure by which an authoritative body gives formal recognition that a body or person is competent to carry out specific tasks, (ISO Guide 2).

accreditation criteria, *for laboratory accreditation*, *n*—set of requirements used by an accrediting body which a testing laboratory must meet to be accredited, (ISO Guide 2, A).

accredited laboratory—testing laboratory to which accreditation has been granted, (ISO Guide 2, A).

accredited laboratory test report—test report that includes a statement by the testing laboratory that it is accredited for the test reported and that the test has been performed in accordance with the conditions prescribed by the accrediting body, (ISO Guide 2, A).

accrediting body—governmental or non-governmental body that conducts and administers a laboratory accreditation system and grants accreditation, (ISO Guide 2, A).

assessment, *of a laboratory*—the activity of evaluating a laboratory's compliance with accreditation criteria.

¹ This terminology is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee E-36 on Criteria for the Evaluation of Testing and Inspection Agencies and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee E36.50 on Support Operations.

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² There were numerous other sources consulted, but not specifically used, to formulate definitions for the above terms.

³ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 03.01.

⁴ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 04.07.

⁵ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 14.02.

⁶ Available from American National Standards Institute, 1430 Broadway, NY, NY 10018.

⁷ Available from ISO, 1 rue de Varembe, Case Postale 56, Crt 1221. Geneve 20, Switzerland.

⁸ Available from American Association for Laboratory Accreditation, 656 Quince Orchard Rd.-704, Gaithersburg, MD 20878.