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Standard Guide for Addressing Variability in Exposure Testing ~~on~~ of Nonmetallic Materials¹

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INTRODUCTION

No experimental procedure is exactly repeatable or reproducible. Exposure testing is susceptible to poor test reproducibility because of many contributing factors. These include the type of material and its homogeneity, the complexity and variability of the outdoor environment, difficulty in precisely controlling the laboratory testing environment, and the variability in the measurement of performance. It is extremely difficult to compare “absolute data,” that is, color shift, gloss, tensile, and elongation, and so forth, from different exposure tests. This is true for natural and accelerated exposures conducted outdoors or for accelerated exposure tests conducted at different times in one laboratory or comparing results between laboratories. The purpose of this guide is to provide the user with background information on test variability and guidance to conduct an exposure test that will provide valid and useful durability information.

1. Scope

1.1 This guide covers information on sources of variability and strategies for its reduction in exposure testing, and for taking variability into consideration in the design, execution, and data analysis of both exterior and laboratory accelerated exposure tests.

1.2 The values stated in ~~either inch-pound or~~ SI units are to be regarded separately as the standard. The inch-pound values given in parentheses are for information only.

1.3 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

¹ This guide is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee ~~G-3~~ G03 on Durability of Nonmetallic Materials and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee G03.93 on Statistics.

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