

ASTM International **(American Society for Testing and Materials)**

ASTM technical committees are made up of professionals from around the globe who develop ASTM standards. There are over 130 ASTM technical committees covering diverse industry areas ranging from metals to the environment.

They are broken down into Committees that are responsible for their area of expertise. Examples are:

- F24 Amusement Rides and Devices
- F27 Snow Skiing
- D20 Plastics
- D11 Rubber

ASTM Committee D20 on Plastics was formed in 1937. D20 meets twice a year in April and November with about 180 members attending three days of technical meetings. The Committee, with a membership of approximately 700, currently has jurisdiction of over 475 standards, published in the Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Section 8 on Plastics. D20 has 23 technical subcommittees that maintain jurisdiction over these standards.

Each main committee in ASTM International is composed of subcommittees that address specific segments within the general subject area covered by the technical committee.

Examples of some sub-committees within D20 are:

- D20.10 Mechanical Properties
- D20.20 Plastic Products
- D20.50 Durability of plastics

Standard, *n*—*as used in ASTM International*, a document that has been developed and established within the consensus principles of the Society and that meets the approval requirements of ASTM procedures and regulations.

DISCUSSION—the term “standard” serves in ASTM International as a nominative adjective in the title of documents, such as test methods or specifications, to connote specified consensus and approval. The various types of standard documents are based on the needs and usages as prescribed by the technical committees of the Society.

Classification, *n*—a systematic arrangement or division of materials, products, systems, or services into groups based on similar characteristics such as origin, composition, properties, or use.

Guide, *n*—a compendium of information or series of options that does not recommend a specific course of action.

DISCUSSION—A guide increases the awareness of information and approaches in a given subject area.

Practice, *n*—a definitive set of instructions for performing one or more specific operations that does not produce a test result.

DISCUSSION—Examples of practices include, but are not limited to: application, assessment, cleaning, collection, decontamination, inspection, installation, preparation, sampling, screening, and training.

Specification, *n*—an explicit set of requirements to be satisfied by a material, product, system, or service.

DISCUSSION—Examples of specifications include, but are not limited to, requirements for; physical, mechanical, or chemical properties, and safety, quality, or performance criteria. A specification identifies the test methods for determining whether each of the requirements is satisfied.

Terminology standard, *n*—a document comprising definitions of terms; explanations of symbols, abbreviations, or acronyms.

Test method, *n*—a definitive procedure that produces a test result.

DISCUSSION—Examples of test methods include, but are not limited to: identification, measurement, and evaluation of one or more qualities, characteristics, or properties. A precision and bias statement shall be reported at the end of a test method.

Approval date, *n*—the date assigned by ASTM International through the Committee on Standards, which indicates that a new standard, revision or re-approval has successfully completed the balloting and appeals process in accordance with the *Regulations Governing ASTM Technical committees*

Publication date, n—the month/year that an approved standard is made publicly available in either electronic or hardcopy form.

In order to be certain an ASTM standard is current, we need to know how ASTM tracks a standard. The number after the standard designation is the year the standard was issued. No standard *should* have a date more than 8 years from the current year.

ASTM Dxxxx-99 means the standard has not been up-dated since 1999.

ASTM Dxxxx-99(2005) means the standard was re-issued in 2005 with no changes. The 1999 version is the latest

ASTM Dxxxx-05^e means the standard was issued in 2005 with an editorial change.

ASTM Dxxxx-05a means that the standard had a technical change made after it was issued in 2005. In other words, the 05 version is not the latest, valid edition but the 2005a version is.

ASTM Dxxxx-05b means a second technical change was made during the year

ASTM Dxxxx-05a^e means that a technical change was made during the year followed by an editorial change.

Interpreting an ASTM Standard

- A note in an ASTM standard is non-mandatory. It is there for information purposes only. However, a note in a mandatory table is considered mandatory information.
- An Annex in an ASTM standard is considered mandatory; it becomes part of the standard and is therefore an auditable point.
- An Appendix is considered non-mandatory, it is for information only.

ISO

International Organization for Standardization

The US Technical Advisory Group (US TAG) to ISO/TC 61 on Plastics provides US representation in all of the ISO/TC 61 activities. The US TAG has assembled a network of technical experts in the plastics industry to review ISO/TC 61 documents and formulate US positions as they relate to standardization efforts within ISO. US participation in ISO/TC 61 is essential as it provides the US input to ISO standards that impact the global plastics industry. The US TAG sends a delegation of US experts to the annual ISO/TC 61 meeting.

WD = working draft

DIS = draft international standard

FDIS = final DIS

Standard = complete

In ISO, they use Annexes and then sub divide these into two.

A Normative Annex is mandatory information – it is an auditable point.

An Informative Annex is for information purposes only – it is not an auditable point.