



Designation: D5255 – 15 (Reapproved 2023)

Standard Practice for Certification of Personnel Engaged in the Testing of Soil and Rock¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D5255; 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 practice provides a guide for evaluation and certification procedures for personnel engaged in testing soil and rock in accordance with ASTM test methods and is intended for use by independent organizations providing certification services.

1.2 Qualifications for certification candidates, qualifications of those administering the certification examinations, methods of administering the certification tests, and certain certification organization operating requirements are given.

1.3 Certification is specific to a single ASTM test method. A monitored written examination and a monitored performance examination are normally required.

NOTE 1—Personnel certification may be an important aspect of a quality system as described in Practice D3740. Certification of personnel is one means of meeting personnel qualifications given in Practice D3740.

1.4 *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, health, and environmental practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

1.5 *This practice offers a set of instructions for performing one or more specific operations. This document cannot replace education or experience and should be used in conjunction with professional judgment. Not all aspects of this practice may be applicable in all circumstances. This ASTM standard is not intended to represent or replace the standard of care by which the adequacy of a given professional service must be judged, nor should this document be applied without consideration of a project's many unique aspects. The word "Standard" in the title of this document means only that the document has been approved through the ASTM consensus process.*

1.6 *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:*²

D653 [Terminology Relating to Soil, Rock, and Contained Fluids](#)

D3740 [Practice for Minimum Requirements for Agencies Engaged in Testing and/or Inspection of Soil and Rock as Used in Engineering Design and Construction](#)

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions:*

3.1.1 For definitions of common technical terms, refer to Terminology D653.

3.1.2 *agency*—an organization, or part of an organization, engaged in activities of technically oriented testing or inspection, or both.

3.1.3 *inspection*—the process of measuring, examining, testing, gaging, or using other procedures to ascertain the quality or state, detect errors or defects or otherwise appraise materials, products, services, systems, or environments to a pre-established standard.

3.1.4 *testing*—the determination by technical means of properties, performance, or elements of materials, products, services, systems, or environments that may involve application of established scientific principles and procedures.

3.2 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

3.2.1 *administratively independent*—all policy decisions relating to certification matters are the sole decision of the certifying organization and not subject to approval by any other body and that all financial matters related to the operation of the certifying organization are segregated from those of the parent or affiliated organization.

3.2.2 *certification*—an action which determines and announces that an individual has fulfilled the pre-established

¹ This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D18 on Soil and Rock and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D18.99 on Quality Control.

Current edition approved Nov. 1, 2023. Published November 2023. Originally approved in 1992. Last previous edition approved in 2015 as D5255 – 15. DOI: 10.1520/D5255-15R23.

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.