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Standard Guide for Terminology Relating to Candles and Associated Accessory Items¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This guide defines standard terms used to describe candles and associated accessory products.

2. Terminology

2.1 *candle, n*—one or more combustible wicks supported by a material that constitutes a fuel which is solid, semi-solid, or quasi-rigid at room temperature, 68° to 80°F (20 to 27° C); it can also contain additives that are used for color, odor, stability, or to modify the burning characteristics; the combined function of which is to sustain a light-producing flame.

2.1.1 *filled candle, n*—a candle produced and used within the same vessel.

2.1.2 *freestanding candle, n*—a rigid candle (that is, pillar-shaped, column-shaped, or figurine) recommended to be used on a heat-resistant, nonflammable surface or on a candle accessory.

2.1.3 *taper candle, n*—a slender candle produced to be used with a candle accessory for support.

2.1.4 *tealight candle, n*—a cylindrical filled candle produced with a diameter and height of approximately 1.5 in. (38 mm) and 0.75 in. (19 mm) respectively

2.1.5 *votive candle, n*—a candle produced for use fully within a candle accessory, specifically, a votive holder.

2.2 *candle accessory, n*—an object designed for use with a candle.

2.2.1 *votive holder, n*—a small open vessel designed to hold a votive candle during use; the votive holder shall be capable of containing the melted candle.

2.3 *gel type candle, n*—a candle where the primary fuel is a liquid, such as mineral oil, terpene type chemicals, or modified hydrocarbons that are not mineral oil based, which may or may not contain organic functional groups; it also contains a chemical agent to increase the viscosity (thicken) to a point where the candle has a quasi-rigid property.

2.4 *wax, n*—a solid or semi-solid material consisting of a mixture of hydrocarbons or hydrocarbon derivatives, or both.

2.5 *wax candle, n*—a candle that contains animal wax, insect wax, petroleum wax, synthetic wax, or vegetable wax as the primary fuel.

2.6 *wick, n*—an object that delivers fuel to a flame through the process of capillary action.

3. Significance and Use

3.1 This guide is used to establish a set of definitions that allows manufacturers, consumers, retailers, and the scientific community to use a common language to define candles and associated accessory items.

4. Keywords

4.1 candle; flame; wick

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