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Standard Terminology Relating to Forensic Psychophysiology¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This is a compilation of terms and corresponding definitions used in forensic psychophysiology. Legal or scientific terms that generally are understood or defined adequately in other readily available sources may not be included.

1.2 A definition is a single sentence with additional information included in notes. It is reviewed every five years, and the year of the last review or revision is appended.

1.3 Definitions identical to those published by another standards organization or ASTM committee are identified with the abbreviation of the name of the organization or the identifying document and ASTM committee; for example, ASME is the American Society of Mechanical Engineering.

1.4 Definitions of terms specific to a particular field are identified with an abbreviation.

2. Significance and Use

2.1 These terms have particular application to the scientific discipline of forensic psychophysiology. In addition, a hierarchy of sources of definitions are used in the development of this terminology. The hierarchy is as follows: Webster's New World Dictionary, Third College Edition; technical dictionaries; and, the Compilation of ASTM Standard Definitions. The subcommittee developed a suitable definition after all of the sources in the hierarchy are found wanting.

3. Terminology

3.1 Terms and Definitions:

artifact, *n*—a change in a PDD tracing that is not attributable to a review test question, stimulus, recovery, or homeostasis.

cardiovascular tracing, *n*—a display of physiological patterns of the subject's relative blood volume and pulse rate. The cardiograph component records this activity.

comparison question, *n*—a test question wherein the response is used in a comparative process in comparison question test formats.

electrodermal tracing, *n*—the display of physiological patterns of either skin resistance or skin conductance obtained

through exosomatic recording with a galvanograph component.

deception indicated (DI), *n*—deception indicated is a conventional term for a PDD outcome. A decision of DI means that the physiological data are stable and interpretable and that the evaluation criteria used by the examiner concluded that the examinee was not being completely truthful to the relevant issue. Deception indicated corresponds to the term "Significant Physiological Responses," or SPR.

forensic psychophysiology, *n*—the scientific discipline dealing with the relationship and applications of PDD tests within the legal system. It encompasses the academic discipline that provides the student, the practitioner, and the researcher with the theoretical and applied psychological, physiological, and psychophysiological fundamentals for a thorough understanding of PDD tests, and the skills and qualifications for conducting PDD examinations. The modifier "forensic" delineates and delimits this discipline from the broader discipline of psychophysiology.

homeostasis, *n*—a complex interactive regulatory system by which the body strives to maintain a state of internal equilibrium.

irrelevant question, *n*—An irrelevant question is designed to be a non-emotion provoking question. Also referred to as "norms" or "neutral questions."

no deception indicated (NDI), *n*—no deception indicated is a conventional term for a PDD outcome. A decision of NDI means that the physiological data are stable and interpretable and that the evaluation criteria used by the examiner concluded that the examinee was being completely truthful to the relevant issue. No deception indicated corresponds to the term "No Significant Physiological Responses," or NSR.

phasic response, *n*—a response, typically of short duration, where the level of physiological arousal returns to its pre-arousal state.

relevant question, *n*—a question that pertains directly to the matter under investigation or to the issue(s) for which the examinee is being tested.

response, *n*—a physiological change that occurs following, and is attributable to, the presentation of an applied stimulus (for example, reviewed test question).

PDD examination, *n*—a process that encompasses all activities that take place between a PDD examiner and an

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