



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

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D 5255; 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 reappraisal. A superscript epsilon (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reappraisal.

^{ε1} NOTE—Paragraph 1.5 was added editorially October 1998.

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 and health 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.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:

D 3740 Practice for Minimum Requirements For Agencies Engaged In the Testing Of Soil and Rock As Used In Engineering, Design, and Construction.²

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions:

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

3.1.2 *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.

3.1.3 *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 *certificant*—the individual who has been certified by the certification organization.

3.2.2 *certification*—an action which determines and announces that an individual has fulfilled the preestablished requirements and is competent to perform the designated task(s) associated with a single ASTM test method.

3.2.3 *certification organization*—an independent body engaged in the evaluation and credentialing of the knowledge and abilities of individuals performing specified tasks.

3.2.4 *examinee*—certification applicant involved in the examination process.

3.2.5 *examiner*—a qualified professional who administers and evaluates the performance examination component of the certification process.

3.2.6 *personnel*—employees of inspection and testing agencies who perform soil and rock tests.

3.2.7 *proctor*—the individual responsible for administering the written examination component of the certification process.

3.2.8 *qualified professional*—a professional engineer or similar professional who is recognized by peers and associates

¹ This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D-18 on Soil and Rock and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D18.99 on Quality Control. Current edition approved May 10, 1997. Published November 1997. Originally published as D 5255 – 92. Last previous edition D 5255 – 92.

² *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 04.08.