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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.

1.2 The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as standard. The values given in parentheses are for information only.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards*:²

F2417 Specification for Fire Safety for Candles

2.2 *NFPA Standard*:³

NFPA 909 Code for the Protection of Cultural Resources

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard*:

3.1.1 *base material, n*—intended fuel source for candle flame.

3.1.2 *burn cycle, n*—length of time the candle is burned during one test day. For this test, a burn cycle is 4 h (see Specification F2417).

3.1.3 *burn period, n*—total time the candle is burned over the duration of the test. For this test, the burn period will be 16 h.

3.1.4 *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.

3.1.4.1 *altar candle, n*—candle that is constructed, packaged, and labeled as an altar candle.

3.1.4.2 *Discussion*—The candle is used in a place of worship in close proximity to the altar during the religious service or ceremony.

3.1.4.3 *birthday candle, n*—candle whose sole purpose is to be used on a birthday cake.

3.1.4.4 *Easter, Paschal, sacramental candle, n*—candle that is constructed, packaged, and labeled as an Easter, Paschal, or sacramental candle (or some combination of these names, for example, Easter/Paschal), generally 43.2 cm (17.0 in.) or more in length.

3.1.4.5 *Discussion*—The candle shall be displayed and burned in the place of worship as the focal candle during Easter or with the celebration of various sacraments. The candle is adorned with symbols and ornamentation as required and deemed appropriate.

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

3.1.4.7 *freestanding candle, n*—a rigid candle (for example, pillar-shaped, column-shaped, or figurine) that is intended to be burned only on a heat-resistant, noncombustible surface or on a heat-resistant, noncombustible candle accessory.

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

3.1.4.9 *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

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

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

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

3.1.6 *candle flashover, n*—condition where the base material's vapors ignite over the entire fuel pool.

¹ This guide is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F15 on Consumer Products and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F15.45 on Candle Products.

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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.

³ Available from National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02269-9101.