
**Fine ceramics (advanced ceramics,
advanced technical ceramics) —
Vocabulary**

Céramiques techniques — Vocabulaire

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

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The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 206, *Fine ceramics*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 20507:2003), which has been technically revised.

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Fine ceramics (advanced ceramics, advanced technical ceramics) — Vocabulary

1 Scope

This International Standard is a vocabulary, which provides a list of terms and associated definitions typically used for fine ceramic (advanced ceramic, advanced technical ceramic) materials, products, applications, properties, and processes. This International Standard contains, in separate lists, those abbreviations which have found general acceptance in the scientific and technical literature; they are given together with the corresponding terms and definitions or descriptions.

In this International Standard, the terms are defined using the term “fine ceramic”. The definitions apply equally to “advanced ceramics” and “advanced technical ceramics”, which are considered to be equivalent.

This International Standard does not include terms which, though used in the field of fine ceramics, are of a more general nature and are also well known in other fields of technology.

NOTE Terms and definitions of a more general nature are available in ASTM C 1145,^[1] EN 14232,^[2] and JIS R 1600.^[3] A list of some International Standards and draft International Standards of ISO/TC 206 “Fine ceramics” containing terms defined in this International Standard is given in the Bibliography.

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2 Terms and definitions (standards.iteh.ai)

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

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2.1 General terms

2.1.1

advanced ceramic

advanced technical ceramic

fine ceramic

highly engineered, high performance, predominately non-metallic, inorganic, ceramic material having specific functional attributes

Note 1 to entry: The use of fine ceramic, advanced ceramic, and advanced technical ceramic is interchangeably accepted in business, trade, scientific literature, and International Standards.

2.1.2

antibacterial ceramic

fine ceramic that reveals surface antibacterial activity, usually associated with an antibacterial agent or photocatalytic behaviour, and is widely used for sanitary ware, tiles, and various kinds of apparatus

2.1.3

bio-sourced ceramic

fine ceramic produced from bio-sourced material

2.1.4

bioceramic

fine ceramic employed in or used as a medical device which is intended to interact with biological systems

Note 1 to entry: Bioceramics typically comprise products to repair or replace bone, teeth, and hard tissue, or to support soft tissue and/or control its function.

Note 2 to entry: Implants require a degree of biocompatibility.

Note 3 to entry: Bioceramics that are intended to interact actively with biological systems are often based on crystalline hydroxy(l)apatite; also, partially crystallized glass or glass-bonded ceramic is used.

2.1.5

carbon-carbon composite

fine ceramic composed of a carbon matrix containing carbon fibre reinforcement

Note 1 to entry: A carbon-carbon composite is mainly used for airplane breaks, and can also be used as furnace parts or heat resistant tiles for aerospace applications.

Note 2 to entry: The reinforcement is generally continuous.

2.1.6

ceramic

pertaining to the essential characteristics of a ceramic and to the material, product, manufacturing process, or technology

2.1.7

ceramic

essentially inorganic and non-metallic material

Note 1 to entry: The concept “ceramic” comprises products based on clay as raw material and also materials which are typically based on oxides, nitrides, carbides, silicides, borides, carbon etc.

2.1.8

ceramic armor

armor uses by armor vehicle and personnel for its attenuative properties

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2.1.9

ceramic capacitor

capacitor in which the dielectric material is a ceramic

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EXAMPLE BL (boundary layer) capacitor, multilayer ceramic capacitor.
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2.1.10

ceramic catalyst carrier

nonreactive ceramic substrate to support a catalyst

Note 1 to entry: A ceramic catalyst carrier is typically made with a thin wall, has a large surface area and is used in contact with fluid matter.

2.1.11

ceramic coating

layer of oxide ceramic and/or non-oxide ceramic adhering to a substrate

Note 1 to entry: Ceramic coatings are produced by a variety of processes, e.g. dipping, plasma spraying, sol-gel coating, physical vapour deposition or chemical vapour deposition coating.

Note 2 to entry: Ceramic coatings are usually subdivided into thin ceramic coatings (<10 µm) and thick coatings (>10 µm).

2.1.12

ceramic cutting tool

tool for machining operations, consisting of a fine ceramic having excellent wear, damage, and heat resistance

Note 1 to entry: Machining includes operations such as turning, drilling, and milling.

2.1.13

ceramic filter

2.1.13.1**electrical**

filter using a piezoelectric ceramic as a resonator

2.1.13.2**porous**

porous ceramic matter to be used in filtering a gas or a liquid

2.1.14**ceramic for electrical applications**

DEPRECATED: electrical ceramics

ceramic for electronic applications

DEPRECATED: electronic ceramic

DEPRECATED: electroceramic

fine ceramic used in electrical and electronic engineering because of intrinsic, electrically related properties

Note 1 to entry: These intrinsic properties include electrical insulation, mechanical strength, and corrosion resistance.

Note 2 to entry: This term includes ceramics for passive electrical applications, i.e. a ceramic with no active electrical behaviour, having a high electrical resistivity, used for electrical insulation functions.

Note 3 to entry: This term may apply to silicate ceramics such as steatite and electrical porcelain.

2.1.15**ceramic for nuclear applications**

DEPRECATED: nuclear ceramic

fine ceramic having specific material properties required for use in nuclear environment

Note 1 to entry: Ceramics for nuclear applications include materials for nuclear fuels, neutron absorbers, burnable neutron poisons, diffusion barrier coatings, and inert container elements; structural application like “fuel cladding” or “assembly duct”.

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2.1.16**ceramic for optical applications**

DEPRECATED: optical ceramic

fine ceramic used in optical applications because of its intrinsic properties

EXAMPLE Transparent alumina is used for high-pressure sodium lamp envelopes.

Note 1 to entry: Optical ceramics are tailored typically to exploit transmission, reflection, and absorption of visible and near-visible electromagnetic radiation.

2.1.17**ceramic heating resistor**

heater making use of an electric conductive or a semi-conductive property of ceramics

2.1.18**ceramic honeycomb**

fine ceramic body having multiple channels typically arranged in a honeycomb structure

Note 1 to entry: A ceramic honeycomb is typically used as a ceramic catalyst carrier, a filter or a heat exchanger regenerator, and is typically made of cordierite, mullite, or aluminium titanate.

2.1.19**ceramic ionic conductor**

electroceramic in which ions are transported by an electric potential or chemical gradient

2.1.20

ceramic matrix composite

CMC

fine ceramic composed of a ceramic matrix containing reinforcement

Note 1 to entry: The reinforcement is often continuous, i.e. ceramic filaments, distributed in one or more spatial directions, but this term is also used for discontinuous reinforcement, e.g. short ceramic fibres, ceramic whiskers, ceramic platelets, or ceramic particles.

Note 2 to entry: C/C composites are included in CMC composites.

2.1.21

ceramic optical waveguide

optical waveguide formed on the surface of a ceramic substrate

Note 1 to entry: Optical single crystal of LiNbO₃ is typically used as a substrate for a ceramic optical waveguide.

2.1.22

ceramic sensor

sensor making use of semi-conductive, piezoelectric, magnetic, or dielectric properties of a fine ceramic

2.1.23

ceramic substrate

ceramic body, sheet, or layer of material on which some other active or useful material or component may be deposited or laid

EXAMPLE An electronic circuit laid on an alumina ceramic sheet. In catalysis, the formed, porous, high-surface-area carrier on which the catalytic agent is widely and thinly distributed for reasons of performance and economy.

2.1.24

ceramic varistor

ceramic material having high electrical resistivity at low voltage but high electrical conductivity at high voltage

Note 1 to entry: A zinc oxide varistor can be used as a protector in an electronic circuit.

2.1.25

cermet

composite material consisting of at least one distinct metallic and one distinct ceramic phase, the latter normally being present at a volume fraction greater than 50 %

Note 1 to entry: The ceramic phase, typically, has high hardness, high thermal strength, good corrosion resistance, and the metallic phase has good toughness and elastoplastic behaviour.

Note 2 to entry: The term "cermet" is a contracted form of ceramic metal.

Note 3 to entry: Materials containing typically less than 50 % by volume of ceramic phase are commonly called "metal matrix composites".

2.1.26

continuous fibre ceramic composite

CFCC

ceramic matrix composite in which one or more reinforcing phases consists of continuous fibres

2.1.27

diamond-like carbon

DLC

form of carbon made by a CVD or PVD process, having hardness much higher than graphite but lower than diamond

Note 1 to entry: Diamond-like carbon is typically used as a hard coat material for engineering components or memory disks.

2.1.28**dielectric ceramic
ceramic dielectric**

electroceramic having controlled dielectric properties

2.1.29**discontinuous fibre-reinforced ceramic composite**

ceramic matrix composite material reinforced by chopped fibres

2.1.30**electro-optic ceramic**

fine ceramic with a refractive index which changes in response to an applied electric field

Note 1 to entry: An electro-optic ceramic is a type of non-linear optical ceramic, used for optical shutters, optical modulating devices, optical memory devices, etc. Transparent ferroelectrics are used as electro-optic ceramics, LiNbO₃ single crystals, or PLZT polycrystals with low light scattering. The term “electro-optic” is often erroneously used as a synonym for “optoelectronic”.

2.1.31**environmental barrier coating
EBC**

ceramic coating possibly multilayered used to protect fine ceramics of environmental aggression

2.1.32**far-infrared radiative ceramic**

fine ceramic with specific property to radiate in the far-infrared

Note 1 to entry: Far-infrared radiative ceramics are typically used as heaters for industrial and domestic applications.

2.1.33**ferrite**

fine ceramic with ferrimagnetic behaviour, having ferric oxide as a major constituent

Note 1 to entry: Magnetic ceramic is used as a synonym of ferrite, but encompasses non-oxide containing materials as well.

2.1.34**ferroelectric ceramic**

non-linear polarizable electroceramic, generally with a high level of permittivity, exhibiting hysteresis in the variation of the dielectric polarization as a function of the electric field strength and in the temperature dependence of the permittivity

Note 1 to entry: Polarization results in electrostrictive, piezoelectric, pyroelectric, and/or electro-optic properties, which disappear above the transition or Curie temperature.

2.1.35**ferromagnetic ceramic**

fine ceramic that exhibits a spontaneous magnetization without an applied external magnetic field, in which unpaired electrons with a small magnetic field of their own, align with each other and show a large net magnetic moment

Note 1 to entry: Most ferrites that contain iron oxide as the main constituent show ferromagnetism.

2.1.36**functional ceramic**

fine ceramic, the intrinsic properties of which are employed to provide an active function

EXAMPLE Electronic or ionic conductor, component with magnetic, chemical, or mechanical sensing function.

2.1.37

functionally graded ceramic

fine ceramic, the properties of which are deliberately varied from one region to another through spatial control of composition and/or microstructure

2.1.38

geopolymer

inorganic polymeric ceramics formed from both aluminium and silicon sources

2.1.39

glass-ceramic

fine ceramic derived from bulk glass or glass powder by controlled devitrification

Note 1 to entry: The glass is thermally treated to induce a substantial amount of crystallinity on a fine scale.

2.1.40

hard ferrite

ferrite having strong magnetic anisotropy and high coercivity

EXAMPLE Barium hexaferrite, used as permanent magnets in loudspeakers; strontium hexaferrite, used as permanent magnet segments in electric motors.

2.1.41

high-temperature superconductor

HTS

HTSC

superconducting ceramic having superconducting properties at temperatures above 77 K, the boiling point of liquid nitrogen

Note 1 to entry: Superconducting ceramics typically comprise certain combinations of oxides of copper, rare earths, barium, strontium, calcium, thallium, and/or mercury.

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2.1.42

hybrid photocatalyst

photocatalyst (material) combined with other functional materials in order to complement and enhance the photocatalytic function

EXAMPLE Photocatalytic air purifying materials combined with an adsorbent and antibacterial material, in turn combined with an antibacterial agent, to continue to function in the absence of light.

2.1.43

indoor-light-active photocatalyst

substance that carries out many functions based on oxidization and reduction reactions produced by an artificial light source for general lighting service, including decomposition and removal of air and water contaminants, deodorization, and antibacterial, antifungal, self-cleaning, and antifogging actions

2.1.44

in-plane reinforced (2D) ceramic matrix composite

ceramic matrix composite with continuous reinforcement, which is distributed principally in two directions

2.1.45

low emission ceramic

ceramic matrix composite with continuous reinforcement, which is distributed principally in two directions

2.1.46

machinable ceramic

ceramic that, after the last consolidation heat treatment, can be machined to tight tolerances using conventional hardmetal or abrasive tools

EXAMPLE Boron nitride, glass-ceramics, and porous aluminas.

Note 1 to entry: The natural mineral talc and pyrophyllite, machined, and heat-treated, are sometimes also referred to as machinable ceramics.

2.1.47

metallized ceramic

fine ceramic product with a coherent, predominantly metal layer applied to its surface

Note 1 to entry: Processes for metallization include painting, printing, electrolytic deposition, and physical vapour deposition.

Note 2 to entry: Metallization is carried out for specific modification of surface properties or to produce an interlayer for promoting the formation of a high integrity bond with another material (often metallic).

2.1.48

monolithic ceramic

fine ceramic which has undergone consolidation through sintering to obtain a microstructure consisting predominantly of ceramic grains of one or more phases which are homogeneously distributed on a scale which is small compared to the dimensions of the part

Note 1 to entry: Ceramic parts with low or moderate porosity are included, whereas ceramic matrix composites with ceramic filaments are excluded.

Note 2 to entry: A secondary phase can also be non-ceramic.

2.1.49

multiferroic ceramic

fine ceramic that exhibits more than one ferroic characteristic, i.e. ferromagnetism, ferroelectricity, and ferroelasticity, simultaneously

Note 1 to entry: Multiferroic ceramics consist of two categories, i.e. single-phase multiferroics, and composites or heterostructures exhibiting more than one ferroic characteristic. Typical single-phase multiferroics are TbMnO₃, BiFeO₃, etc.

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2.1.50

multidirectional ceramic matrix composite

ceramic matrix composite with continuous reinforcement which is spatially distributed in at least three directions

2.1.51

multilayered ceramic matrix composite

ceramic matrix composite where the matrix is composed of layers of different chemical compositions

2.1.52

nanocomposite ceramic

composite with highly designed microstructure in which fine particles of nanometric size are dispersed in a ceramic matrix

Note 1 to entry: See particulate reinforced ceramic matrix composite ([2.1.57](#)).

2.1.53

nanostructured ceramic

ceramic material for which at least one of its structural or microstructural elements has one of its dimension is between 1 nm to 100 nm

2.1.54

non-oxide ceramic

fine ceramic produced primarily from substantially pure metallic carbides, nitrides, borides, or silicides or from mixtures and/or solid solutions thereof

2.1.55

optoelectronic ceramic

electroceramic, typically a ferroelectric ceramic in which the optical properties are controlled by electrical means

2.1.56

oxide ceramic

fine ceramic produced primarily from substantially pure metallic oxides or from mixtures and/or solid solutions thereof

Note 1 to entry: This term may also be applied to ceramics other than fine ceramics.

2.1.57

particulate reinforced ceramic matrix composite

ceramic matrix composite in which the reinforcing components are particles of equiaxed or platelet geometry (in contrast to whiskers or short fibres)

Note 1 to entry: See nanocomposite ceramic ([2.1.52](#)).

2.1.58

piezoelectric ceramic

piezoceramic

electroceramic, typically a ferroelectric ceramic in which the elastic and dielectric properties are coupled, with practically linear dependence, between the magnitude and direction of mechanical force applied and the electric charge created, or conversely, between the strength and direction of an electric driving field and the elastic deformation obtained

Note 1 to entry: Typical piezoelectrics are barium titanate and lead zirconium titanate.

Note 2 to entry: Elastic deformation under the influence of an electric driving field is termed the inverse piezoelectric effect.

Note 3 to entry: Piezoelectric ceramics are capable of transforming mechanical energy into electrical energy or signals and vice versa.

2.1.59

photocatalyst

substance that performs one or more catalytic functions based on oxidation or reduction reactions under photoirradiation

Note 1 to entry: The functions include decomposition and removal of air and water contaminants, deodorization, antibacterial, self-cleaning, and antifogging actions. A photocatalyst can also be used for light energy conversion.

2.1.60

photocatalytic material

material in which or on which the photocatalyst is added by coating, impregnation, mixing, etc

Note 1 to entry: Materials include ceramic, metal, plastic, paper, cloth, etc. for general purposes.

2.1.61

relaxor dielectric

class of perovskite ferroelectric that shows significant changes in permittivity, ϵ , and loss tangent, $\tan \delta$, with frequency

2.1.62

semiconducting photocatalyst

substance that displays photocatalytic action based on its electronic band structure

Note 1 to entry: This applies to metal oxides like titanium dioxide, and sulfides. Photocatalysts which are not semiconducting includes metal complexes.