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Standard Terminology Relating to Analytical Chemistry for Metals, Ores, and Related Materials¹

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^{ε1}Note – Editorial corrections were made in Section 4 in April 2008.

1. Scope

1.1 This is a compilation of terms commonly used in analytical chemistry for metals, ores, and related materials. Terms that are generally understood or defined adequately in other readily available sources are either not included or their sources are identified.

1.2 A definition is a single sentence with additional information included in a discussion.

1.3 Definitions identical to those published by another standards organization or ASTM committee are identified with the name of the organization or the identifying document and ASTM committee.

1.4 Definitions specific to a particular field (such as *emission spectrometry*) are identified with an italicized introductory phrase.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

E 1914 Practice for Use of Terms Relating to the Development and Evaluation of Methods for Chemical Analysis

E 2437 Practice for Designing and Validating Performance-Based Test Methods for the Analysis of Metals, Ores, and Related Materials

E 2438 Practice for Implementing Standard Performance Based Test Methods for the Analysis of Metals, Ores, and Related Materials

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¹ This terminology is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee E01 on Analytical Chemistry for Metals, Ores and Related Materials and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee E01.23 on Terminology and Editorial.

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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.

2.2 *ISO Standard*.³

ISO Guide 30 Terms and Definitions Used in Connection with Reference Materials

3. Significance and Use

3.1 Definitions given in Section 4 are intended for use in all standards on analytical chemistry for metals, ores, and related materials. The definitions should be used uniformly and consistently. The purpose of this terminology is to promote clear understanding and interpretation of the standards in which definitions are used.

4. Terminology Definitions

accuracy, *n*—of methods of chemical analysis, a characteristic manifested by agreement. **E 1914**

aim interlaboratory uncertainty, *n*— the maximum deviation (95 % confidence) to be allowed in the design of the total interlaboratory uncertainty of a test method, beginning with the preparation of a homogeneous sample and ending with a final report value to the client. **E 2437**

aim total intralaboratory uncertainty, *n*—the maximum deviation (95 % confidence) to be allowed in the design of the total intralaboratory uncertainty of a test method, beginning with the preparation of a homogeneous sample and ending with a final report value to the client. **E 2438**

aim uncertainty budget, *n*—during the development of a standard performance-based test method, the target allocation of interlaboratory measurement uncertainty among specific components of a measurement process that contribute significantly to the overall deviation. The target allocation is made by the task group and serves as guidance for interlaboratory test participants during method testing. **E 2437**

analytical curve— see **calibration curve**.

analyte, *n*—in methods of chemical analysis, the component determined by a method. **E 1914**

analytical gap, *n*— in atomic emission spectrometry, the region between two electrodes in which the specimen is excited and from which radiant energy is used for analysis.

analytical line, *n*— in atomic spectrometry, the particular wavelength of electromagnetic radiation used in determining the presence or concentration of an element.

arc, condensed— see **discharge, triggered capacitor**.

continuous dc arc, *n*—a self-maintaining dc discharge.

noncapacitive ac arc, *n*—in atomic emission spectrometry, a series of separate electrical discharges, individually self-initiating or initiated separately by another means, in which each current pulse has a polarity that is reversed from the previous one.

arc line—not recommended, see **atom line**.

atom line, *n*—in atomic emission spectrometry, a spectral line resulting from radiation emitted during electron transition as an excited atom returns to a lower energy level.

atomic emission spectrometry (AES), *n*— pertaining to emission spectrometry in the ultraviolet, visible, or infrared wavelength regions of the electromagnetic spectrum.

b-value, *n*—in statistics, the difference between the mean of a set of results on a material and its accepted reference value. (Compare **error**.) **E 1914**

between-laboratory standard deviation, s_R , *n*—the standard deviation of results obtained on the same material in different laboratories (synonym: **reproducibility**). **E 1914**

buffer, *n*—in spectrometric analysis, a substance that tends to minimize the effects of one or more elements on the emission of other elements.

burn, *n*—in atomic emission spectrometry, that portion of a solid specimen from which atoms were volatilized or sputtered.

burn, *vt*—in atomic emission spectrometry, to vaporize, or sputter, and excite a specimen with sufficient energy to generate spectral radiation.

calibrant, *n*—a reference material used for a calibration.

calibrate, *vt*—(1) to establish the relationship between the response of an instrument and the concentration or mass of the analyte; (2) to establish a table of corrections to improve the accuracy of equipment used to measure physical properties such as mass, volume, temperature, and so forth.

calibration, *n*—the act, process, or result of establishing: (1) the relationship between the response of an instrument and the concentration or mass of the substance determined; (2) a table of corrections to improve the accuracy of equipment used to measure physical properties such as mass, volume, temperature, and so forth.

calibration curve, *n*—the graphical or mathematical representation of the relationship between the response of an instrument and the concentration or mass of the analyte.

condensed arc— see under **discharge, triggered capacitor**.

continuous dc arc— see under **arc**.

³ Available from American National Standards Institute (ANSI), 25 W. 43rd St., 4th Floor, New York, NY 10036, <http://www.ansi.org>.