



~~Designation: D5255-97^{ε1}~~ **Designation: D 5255 – 01 (Reapproved 2008)**

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 reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

~~^{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 ~~p~~Practice D 3740. Certification of personnel is one means of meeting personnel qualifications given in ~~p~~Practice D 3740.

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:

~~D3740~~ Practice for Minimum Requirements For Agencies Engaged In the Testing Of Soil and Rock As Used In Engineering, Design, and Construction.²

D 3740 Practice for Minimum Requirements for Agencies Engaged in Testing and/or Inspection of Soil and Rock as Used in Engineering Design and Construction

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.

¹ This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee ~~D-18~~D18 on Soil and Rock and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D18.99 on Quality Control. Current edition approved ~~May 10, 1997~~ July 1, 2008. Published ~~November 1997~~ July 2008. Originally published as ~~D5255-92~~ approved in 1992. Last previous edition ~~D5255-92~~ approved in 2001 as D 5255 – 01.

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*, Vol 04.08, volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

3.2.2 *certification*—an action which determines and announces that an individual has fulfilled the pre-established 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 as having soil and rock testing expertise.

3.2.9 *specifying entity*—the organization requiring the certification through provisions in contracts, standards, regulations, codes, and legislation.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 This practice provides basic criteria for the development and operation of a certification organization, selection of examination material for a written examination, and the scope and details of a performance test. The qualifications of the examiner and limitations on the relationship between the examiner and the examinee are given in this practice.

4.2 The basic criteria provided by this practice is intended to be supplemented by more specific criteria serving the requirements of the certification organization.

4.3 It is unrealistic and unintended that each individual be certified for every test that the employing agency performs. Rather it should be a goal of an agency that a majority of personnel normally performing a given test are certified. Depending on the purpose of the testing, it may be appropriate for the client to specify whether or not a certified technician should perform a given test.

4.4 Although this practice calls for certification specific to a single ASTM test method, it is not intended that the certification organization avoid grouping related test methods in the interest of efficiency.

5. Certification Organization

5.1 Structure:

5.1.1 The certification organization shall be administratively independent in matters pertaining to certification. Administratively independent means that all policy decisions relating to certification matters are the sole decision of the certifying organization and not subject to approval by any other body and that all financial matters related to the operation of the certifying organization are segregated from those of the parent or affiliated organization.

5.1.1.1 A certifying organization that is not a legal entity in and of itself shall provide proof that the organization's governing body is administratively independent in certification matters from the organization of which it is part.

5.1.2 The certification organization shall disclose, through publication of a publicly available document, rules and procedures that describe how the certificant, the employer, and the specifying entity have input into the policies and decisions of the organization.

5.2 Resources:

5.2.1 The certification organization shall disclose, through publication of a publicly available document, evidence that the organization has the financial resources to properly conduct the certification activities.

5.2.2 The certification organization shall disclose, through publication of a publicly available document, evidence that its staff possesses the knowledge and skill necessary to conduct the certification activities or has available and makes use of non-staff consultants and professionals to sufficiently supplement staff knowledge and skill.

5.3 Responsibilities:

5.3.1 The certification organization shall disclose, through publication of a publicly available document, evidence that the mechanism used to evaluate individual competence is objective, fair, and based on the knowledge and skills needed to properly perform the test method(s).

5.3.2 The certification organization shall publish, at least annually, a summary of certification activities to include number tested, number passing the examinations, number certified, and, when applicable, number re-certified.

5.3.3 The certification organization shall provide a mechanism for responding to inquiries from individuals and organizations wanting to verify that a particular certificant has a specific certification.

5.4 Records:

5.4.1 The files of the certification organization should contain at least the following:

5.4.1.1 Examination identity and date administered,

5.4.1.2 Examination question source,

5.4.1.3 Identity and qualifications of written examination proctor,

5.4.1.4 Identity and qualifications of performance examination examiner, and

5.4.1.5 Examination question performance statistics.