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Standard Specification for Physical Characteristics of Nonconcentrator Terrestrial Photovoltaic Reference Cells¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation E1040; 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.

1. Scope

1.1 This specification describes the physical requirements for primary and secondary terrestrial nonconcentrator photovoltaic reference cells. A reference cell is defined as a device that meets the requirements of this specification and is calibrated in accordance with Test Method E1125 or Test Method E1362.

1.2 Reference cells are used in the determination of the electrical performance of photovoltaic devices, as stated in Test Methods E948 and E1036.

1.3 Two reference cell physical specifications are described:

1.3.1 *Small-Cell Package Design*—A small, durable package with a low thermal mass, wide optical field-of-view, and standardized dimensions intended for photovoltaic devices up to 20 by 20 mm, and

1.3.2 *Module-Package Design*—A package intended to simulate the optical and thermal properties of a photovoltaic module design, but electric connections are made to only one photovoltaic cell in order to eliminate problems with calibrating series and parallel connections of cells. Physical dimensions are not standardized.

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1.4 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as standard. No other units of measurement are included in this standard.

1.5 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety problems, 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.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*²

E772 [Terminology Relating to Solar Energy Conversion](#)

E948 [Test Method for Electrical Performance of Photovoltaic Cells Using Reference Cells Under Simulated Sunlight](#)

E1036 [Test Methods for Electrical Performance of Nonconcentrator Terrestrial Photovoltaic Modules and Arrays Using Reference Cells](#)

E1125 [Test Method for Calibration of Primary Non-Concentrator Terrestrial Photovoltaic Reference Cells Using a Tabular Spectrum](#)

E1328 [Terminology Relating to Photovoltaic Solar Energy Conversion](#)

E1362 [Test Method for Calibration of Non-Concentrator Photovoltaic Secondary Reference Cells](#)

2.2 *Military Specification Sheet:*³

MS3106C Connector, Plug, Electric, Straight, Solder Contracts, AN Type

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—For definitions of terms used in this specification, see Terminologies E772 and E1328.

4. Classification

4.1 Two types of reference cells are used in the evaluation of the electrical performance of photovoltaic terrestrial devices:

4.1.1 *Primary Reference Cells*—Reference cells calibrated directly in sunlight in accordance with Test Method E1125.

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee E44 on Solar, Geothermal, and Other Alternative Energy Sources and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee E44.09 on Photovoltaic Electric Power Systems Conversion.

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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 Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, N. Capital and H Streets, NW, Washington, DC 20401.