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Standard Terminology for Nickel-Titanium Shape Memory Alloys¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This terminology is a compilation of definitions of terms used in ASTM documents relating to nickel-titanium shape memory alloys used for medical devices. This terminology includes only those terms for which ASTM either has standards or which are used in ASTM standards for nickel-titanium shape memory alloys. It is not intended to be an all-inclusive list of terms related to shape memory alloys.

1.2 Definitions that are similar to those published by another standards body are identified with abbreviations of the name of that organization; for example, ICTAC is the International Confederation for Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards*:²

E7 Terminology Relating to Metallography

E473 Terminology Relating to Thermal Analysis and Rheology

F2004 Test Method for Transformation Temperature of Nickel-Titanium Alloys by Thermal Analysis

F2082 Test Method for Determination of Transformation Temperature of Nickel-Titanium Shape Memory Alloys by Bend and Free Recovery (Withdrawn 2015)³

3. Terminology

active austenite finish temperature, n —term used to denote austenite finish temperature of a finished wire, tube, or component as determined by a bend and free recovery method rather than by DSC.

alloy phase, n —in a shape memory alloy, the crystal structure stable at a particular temperature and stress.

anneal, v —to heat treat in order to remove the effect of cold-working.

austenite, n —the high temperature parent phase in Ni-Ti shape memory alloys with a B2 crystal structure. This phase transforms to R-phase or martensite on cooling.

austenite finish temperature (A_f), n —the temperature at which the martensite to austenite transformation is completed on heating in a single-stage transformation (Fig. 1) or the temperature at which the R-phase to austenite transformation is completed on heating in a two-stage transformation (Fig. 2).

austenite peak temperature (A_p), n —the temperature of the endothermic peak position on the differential scanning calorimeter (DSC) curve upon heating for the martensite to austenite transformation in a single-stage transformation (Fig. 1) or the temperature of the endothermic peak position on the DSC curve upon heating for the R-phase to austenite transformation in a two-stage transformation (Fig. 2).

austenite start temperature (A_s), n —the temperature at which the martensite to austenite transformation begins on heating in a single-stage transformation (Fig. 1) or the temperature at which the R-phase to austenite transformation begins on heating in a two-stage transformation (Fig. 2).

bend and free recovery (BFR), n —a test method for determining austenite transformation temperatures on heating.

DISCUSSION—The test involves cooling a wire or tube specimen below the M_f temperature, deforming the specimen in a controlled fashion, then heating through the austenite transformation. By measuring the shape memory response of the specimen A_s and A_f temperatures can be determined. This test method is covered in Test Method F2082.

differential scanning calorimeter (DSC), n —a device that is capable of heating a test specimen and a reference at a controlled rate and of automatically measuring the difference in heat flow between the specimen and the reference both to the required sensitivity and precision.

differential scanning calorimetry (DSC), n —a technique in which the difference in heat flow into or out of a substance and an inert reference is measured as a function of temperature while the substance and the reference material are subjected to a controlled temperature program. This test

¹ This terminology is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F04 on Medical and Surgical Materials and Devices and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F04.12 on Metallurgical Materials.

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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 The last approved version of this historical standard is referenced on www.astm.org.