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Standard Guide for PDD Examination Standards of Practice¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This guide establishes essential and recommended elements in the procedures for the conduct of a psychophysiological detection of deception (PDD) examination.

1.1.1 Other unique PDD applications are addressed separately.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards*:²

E1954 Practice for Conduct of Research in Psychophysiological Detection of Deception (Polygraph)

E2000 Guide for Minimum Basic Education and Training of Individuals Involved in the Detection of Deception (PDD)

E2031 Practice for Quality Control of Psychophysiological Detection of Deception (Polygraph) Examinations

E2065 Guide for Requirements for Psychophysiological Detection of Deception (PDD) Examiners

E2080 Guide for Clinical Psychophysiological Detection of Deception (PDD) Examinations for Sex Offenders

3. Location and Test Conditions

3.1 Conditions under which testing occurs shall be free from distractions that would interfere with the ability of the examinee to appropriately focus on the issues being addressed. The examination site should be reasonably free from outside noise and distraction. This is not intended to address examinations conducted for demonstration purposes.

4. Preparation

4.1 An examiner shall, prior to the examination, dedicate sufficient time to identify the issues and unique circumstances in any area of testing.

4.2 No examination shall be conducted unless the instrument is functioning in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications.

4.3 Where permitted by law, the conduct of the PDD examination should be recorded by audio or audio/visual means in its entirety.

4.3.1 The recording shall be continuous in nature and any stops or pauses must be fully explained on the recording.

4.3.2 All PDD recordings shall be retained and maintained for a minimum of one year.

4.3.3 All PDD examinations shall be conducted utilizing a separate data channel specifically designed to record covert body movements.

4.4 An examiner should not conduct more than five PDD examinations on a calendar day.

5. Pretest Practices

5.1 The examiner shall adhere to the following practices:

5.1.1 Verify the correct identity of the examinee to the degree practicable.

5.1.2 Obtain the consent of the examinee prior to testing.

5.1.3 The examiner shall ensure that the examinee is a fit subject for testing to the extent legally practicable.

5.1.3.1 Mental, physical, and medical conditions of the examinee should be reviewed.

5.1.3.2 At any time during the polygraph examination that it becomes apparent to the examiner that the examinee is not suitable for testing, the examination will be terminated.

5.1.3.3 To protect against the elevated possibility of erroneous polygraph results, examiners shall not conduct polygraph testing of any individual who has undergone intensive accusatory questioning until, in the examiner's judgment, sufficient time has elapsed between such questioning and the polygraph session. Examiners directed by superiors to conduct testing in violation of this standard shall inform their superiors of the strong possibility of either erroneous or inconclusive polygraph test results.

5.2 All examinations shall be conducted in compliance with governing local, state, and federal regulations and laws.

5.3 The examiner shall display objectivity.

5.4 Sufficient time shall be spent to discuss the issues to be tested and to allow the examinee to fully explain his or her position.

¹ This guide is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee E52 on Forensic Psychophysiology and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee E52.05 on Psychophysiological Detection of Deception (PDD).

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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.