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Standard Practice for Calibration and Functionality Checks Used in Forensic Psychophysiological Detection of Deception (Polygraph) Examinations¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This practice provides guidelines for calibration and instrumentation (both analog and computerized systems) actively used in the psychophysiological detection of deception (*verification of truth*). As a minimum, such instrumentation shall simultaneously record an individual's respiratory, exosomatic electrodermal, and cardiovascular activity.

1.2 Analog polygraphs shall be calibrated by the psychophysiological detection of deception (PDD) examiner, manufacturer, or factory-authorized individual.

1.3 Computerized instrumentation shall be calibrated by the manufacturer or factory-authorized individual.

1.4 The PDD examiner or factory-authorized individual shall perform functionality checks to ensure instrumentation is operating properly.

1.5 This practice does not prohibit additional components which may be offered as supplemental measurements of physiological change. Additional recording components (such as movement sensors) may be used in addition to, but not replace, the required minimum components and these additional components shall meet the manufacturer's specifications for calibration.

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 \(PDD\)](#)

E2035 [Terminology Relating to Forensic Psychophysiology](#)

2.2 Other Document:

Manufacturer Manual(s) for System(s) in Use

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions of Terms*—See Terminology E2035.

3.2 Terminology may vary according to different manufacturers.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 This practice sets forth the minimum requirements for calibration and functionality checks when conducting PDD examinations and related activities. For additional information see Practice E1954 and Guide E2000.

5. Minimum Requirements for Calibration and Functionality Checks of Polygraph Instrumentation

5.1 A recorded chart shall be created demonstrating correct functioning of the instrument. This chart will be maintained for a minimum period of one year.

5.1.1 This chart shall contain the following information, as applicable: name of person performing calibration or functionality check, time and date, location, manufacturer, model, and instrument identification.

5.1.2 All notations, settings, and adjustments shall be clearly and permanently noted on the chart (either marked by hand or, in the case of computerized instrumentation, electronically recorded).

¹ This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee E52 on Forensic Psychophysiology and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee E52.02 on Instrumentation.

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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.