



Standard Guide for Defining the Test Result of a Test Method¹

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1. Scope

1.1 The purpose of this guide is to provide guidelines for identifying the elements that comprise the test result of a test method and to illustrate how these elements combine into the test result.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards*:²

[E177 Practice for Use of the Terms Precision and Bias in ASTM Test Methods](#)

[E456 Terminology Relating to Quality and Statistics](#)

2.2 *ISO Standard*:³

[ISO 3534 Statistics—Vocabulary and Symbols, Part 2: Applied Statistics](#)

3. Terminology

3.1 Terminology [E456](#) provides a more extensive list of terms in E11 standards.

3.1 *Definitions: Definitions*—For a more extensive list of terms in E11 standards, refer to Terminology [E456](#).

3.1.1 *characteristic, n*—a property of items in a sample or population which, when measured, counted or otherwise observed, helps to distinguish between the items.

3.1.2 *observation, n*—the process of obtaining information regarding the presence or absence of an attribute of a test specimen, or of making a reading on a characteristic or dimension of a test specimen.

~~NOTE 1—Observation is also associated with the attribute or measurement information obtained from the process. The term “observed value” is preferred for this second usage.~~

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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 International Organization for Standardization (ISO), 1, ch. de la Voie-Creuse, Case postale 56, CH-1211, Geneva 20, Switzerland, <http://www.iso.ch>.

3.1.2.1 *Discussion*—

Observation is also associated with the attribute or measurement information obtained from the process. The term “observed value” is preferred for this second usage.

3.1.3 *observed value, n*—the value obtained by making an observation.

3.1.4 *test determination, n*—the value of a characteristic or dimension of a single test specimen derived from one or more observed values.

3.1.5 *test method, n*—a definitive procedure that produces a test result.

3.1.5.1 *Discussion*—

Examples of test methods include, but are not limited to: identification, measurement, and evaluation of one or more qualities, characteristics, or properties. ~~[ASTM Regulations 2.2.6]~~ **ASTM Regulations 2.2.6**

3.1.6 *test observation, n*—see *observation*.