



Designation: **F1972–05^{ε1}** **F1972 – 13**

Standard Guide for Terminology Relating to Candles and Associated Accessory Items¹

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^{ε1} NOTE—Added terms editorially in January 2013.

1. Scope

- 1.1 This guide defines standard terms used to describe candles and associated accessory products.
- 1.2 The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as standard. The values given in parentheses are for information only.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

[E136 Test Method for Behavior of Materials in a Vertical Tube Furnace at 750°C](#)

[F2058 Specification for Candle Fire Safety Labeling](#)

[F2326 Test Method for Collection and Analysis of Visible Emissions from Candles as They Burn](#)

[F2417 Specification for Fire Safety for Candles](#)

[F2601 Specification for Fire Safety for Candle Accessories](#)

2.2 NFPA Standard:³

[NFPA 909 Code for the Protection of Cultural Resources](#)

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

- 3.1.1 *base material, n*—intended fuel source for candle flame. **F2417**
- 3.1.2 *burn cycle, n*—length of time the candle is burned during one test day. For this test, a burn cycle is 4 h (see Specification **F2417**). **F2326**
- 3.1.3 *burn period, n*—total time the candle is burned over the duration of the test. For this test, the burn period will be 16 h. **F2326**
- 3.1.4 *burn time, n*—time interval a test specimen supports sustained flaming combustion after removal of the ignition source until all flaming ceases. **F2601**
- 3.1.5 *candle, n*—one or more combustible wicks supported by a material that constitutes a fuel which is solid, semi-solid, or quasi-rigid at room temperature, 68° to 80°F (20 to 27°C); it can also contain additives that are used for color, odor, scent, stability, or to modify the burning characteristics; the combined function of which is to sustain a light-producing flame.
 - 3.1.5.1 *altar candle, n*—candle that is constructed, packaged, and labeled as an altar candle.

(1) Discussion—The candle is used in a place of worship in close proximity to the altar during the religious service or ceremony. **F2417**
 - 3.1.5.2 *birthday candle, n*—candle whose sole purpose is to be used on a birthday cake. **F2417**
 - 3.1.5.3 *Easter, Paschal, sacramental candle, n*—candle that is constructed, packaged, and labeled as an Easter, Paschal, or sacramental candle (or some combination of these names, for example, Easter/Paschal), generally 43.2 cm (17.0 in.) or more in

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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 National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02269-9101.

length.

(1) *Discussion*—The candle shall be displayed and burned in the place of worship as the focal candle during Easter or with the celebration of various sacraments. The candle is adorned with symbols and ornamentation as required and deemed appropriate.

F2417

3.1.5.4 *filled candle, n*—a candle produced and used within the same vessel. **F2058**

3.1.5.5 *freestanding candle, n*—a rigid candle (for example, pillar-shaped, column-shaped, or figurine) that is intended to be burned only on a heat-resistant, noncombustible surface or on a heat-resistant, noncombustible candle accessory.

3.1.5.6 *taper candle, n*—a slender candle produced to be used with a candle accessory for support.

3.1.5.7 *tealight candle, n*—a cylindrical filled candle produced with a diameter and height of approximately 1.5 in. (38 mm) and 0.75 in. (19 mm) respectively

3.1.5.8 *votive candle, n*—a candle produced for use fully within a candle accessory, specifically, a votive holder.

3.1.6 *candle accessory, n*—an object designed for use with a candle. **F2601**

3.1.6.1 *votive holder, n*—a small open vessel designed to hold a votive candle during use; the votive holder must be capable of containing the entire volume of the melted votive candle.

3.1.7 *candle burner, n*—candle holder that has an enclosed, but vented, area in which to put a candle, said candle providing a source of heat or light or both.

3.1.7.1 *Discussion*—

Does not include the item known as a “candle follower” also referred to by the term “candle burner” in the liturgical industry.

F2601

3.1.8 *candle flashover, n*—condition where the base material’s vapors ignite over the entire fuel pool. **F2417**

3.1.9 *candle holder, n*—candle accessory onto which a candle is placed. It may support, hold or contain a candle when in use.

3.1.9.1 *Discussion*—

Filled candles are not candle holders. **F2601**

3.1.10 *candle ring, n*—candle accessory intended to surround the candle with decorative materials in proximity to a candle, including, but not limited to, a continuous ring or loose fill material. **F2601**

3.1.11 *consumption rate, n*—rate at which a candle is consumed measured in grams of fuel consumed per hour.

3.1.11.1 *Discussion*—
<https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/3f625798-1965-4a24-aadd-808d073a55fd/astm-f1972-13>

Consumption rate is determined by weighing a candle prior to burning and then again at the end of the life or burn cycle of the candle. The weight consumed in grams is then divided by the burn time in hours to arrive at a consumption rate in grams per hour.

F2601

3.1.12 *end of useful life, n*—when the candle ceases to support combustion and the candle flame(s) goes(go) out on its own, as designed, and cannot be re-lit. **F2417**

3.1.13 *ensemble, n*—a candle and items physically packaged together and intended for use with the candle for sale as one unit at the retail level. **F2417**

3.1.14 *fire safety warning, n*—precautionary information on the label, consisting of the safety alert symbol, the signal word (if present), the fire safety warning statement(s) and pictograms (if present) required by this standard to appear on the unit of sale. **F2058**

3.1.15 *fire safety warning statement(s), n*—specific warning message(s) required by this standard. **F2058**

3.1.16 *fuel pool, n*—pool of molten base material. **F2417**

3.1.17 *fuel pool establishment period, n*—time, 15 min or longer, before each burn cycle that a candle must be burned to establish a normal fuel pool and stable flame. **F2326**

3.1.18 *gel type candle, n*—a candle where the primary fuel is a liquid, such as mineral oil, terpene type chemicals, or modified hydrocarbons that are not mineral oil based, which may or may not contain organic functional groups; it also contains a chemical agent to increase the viscosity (thicken) to a point where the candle has a quasi-rigid property.

3.1.19 *ignition, n*—initiation of combustion.