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Standard Guide for Terminology Relating to Candles and Associated Accessory Items¹

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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*—the length of time from when the candle is lit to when the candle is manually extinguished (typically 4 hours). **F2326**

3.1.3 *burn period, n*—the total length of time a candle is burned to complete the specified test. **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, 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 or candle ensemble 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 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 *non-freestanding birthday candle, n*—any candle or candle ensemble that does not include pyrotechnics and is designed and marketed for use with birthday cakes and does not comply with the stability requirements in Section 4.4 of **F2417**, Safety Requirements for Stability. **F2417**

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

3.1.5.8 *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

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

¹ This guide is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F15 on Consumer Products and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F15.45 on Candle Products.

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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.