



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 Ethical 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.

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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.

5.5 The examiner shall formulate all test questions in compliance with recognized professional practices.

5.6 The examiner shall allow sufficient time to introduce each test question to the examinee in a manner which complies with recognized professional practices.

5.6.1 Sufficient time shall be spent to ensure the examinee recognizes and understands each question.

5.7 Sufficient time shall be spent to ensure that the examinee understands the polygraph process and that cooperation is required.

6. Intest Practices

6.1 Examiners shall use techniques and formats in accordance with Practices **E1954** and **E2031** and Guides **E2000**, **E2065**, and **E2080**, as applicable.

6.2 A continuous recording shall be made and maintained of the data produced during the intest phase. All test data must be accounted for prior to rendering an opinion.

6.3 Questions shall be asked in such a manner that responses are not influenced by the manner in which the question is presented.

6.4 Question intervals shall allow for a reasonable recovery or meet the requirements of a scoring algorithm.

6.4.1 Stimulus onset to stimulus onset shall not be less than 20 s.

7. Evaluation Practices

7.1 The examiner shall use evaluation methods for which he or she has been formally trained and that are appropriate to that testing technique.

7.1.1 Acceptable evaluation methods are those which have known error and accuracy rates established by independent research.

7.2 The examiner shall maintain all records of test data analysis in accordance with Practices **E1954** and **E2031** and Guides **E2000**, **E2065**, and **E2080**, as applicable..

7.3 The examiner shall not disclose the results of the examination until the test has been adequately and sufficiently analyzed.

7.4 Examiners shall collect a sufficient amount of physiological data suitable for evaluation in compliance with the format utilized.

7.4.1 All suitable physiological data will be evaluated when formulating an opinion.

8. Posttest Practices

8.1 Following collection of all physiological data, a discussion of the examination shall be conducted, as appropriate.

9. Use of Interpreters

9.1 PDD examiners should assess the need for language translation, including both foreign languages and sign languages, on a case-by-case basis.

9.2 PDD examiners should use interpreters who are fluent in both written and spoken language for which they are interpreting. Interpreters should be fluent and conversant in idiomatic translation of the topical content of the PDD examination.

9.3 PDD examiners should not use interpreters who are relatives or friends of the examinee.

9.4 PDD examiners shall require that interpreters maintain professional boundaries with the examinee.

9.5 Before beginning the examination process, PDD examiners shall ensure that interpreters are familiar with the process of PDD examinations.

9.6 PDD examiners shall require interpreters to provide a written translation of each question prior to the test phase of the examination. It is also recommended that a mirror translation be completed in which the translated test questions are re-translated back to the language of the examiner. This translation shall be prepared prior to the test phase of the examination, and shall be maintained as part of the PDD examination record.

10. Keywords

10.1 forensic psychophysiology; interpreter; PDD; PDD examination; polygraph

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