



Standard Terminology Relating to Quality and Statistics¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This standard is the general terminology standard for terms defined in the standards of Committee E11 on Quality and Statistics.

1.2 A term in this standard which lists an attribution to an E11 technical standard indicates that the standard is normative for that term. Any changes in the term definition in the normative standard will be editorially changed in this standard. Any terms added to an E11 standard will be editorially added to this standard with an attribution to that standard.

1.3 Term definitions that are similar to **ISO 3534** will be noted in this standard, but **ISO 3534** will not be considered normative for any E11 terms.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM E11 Standards with Terms in This Standard:*²

E29 Practice for Using Significant Digits in Test Data to Determine Conformance with Specifications

E105 Practice for Probability Sampling of Materials

E141 Practice for Acceptance of Evidence Based on the Results of Probability Sampling

E177 Practice for Use of the Terms Precision and Bias in ASTM Test Methods

E178 Practice for Dealing With Outlying Observations

E691 Practice for Conducting an Interlaboratory Study to Determine the Precision of a Test Method

E1169 Practice for Conducting Ruggedness Tests

E1325 Terminology Relating to Design of Experiments

E1402 Guide for Sampling Design

E1488 Guide for Statistical Procedures to Use in Developing and Applying Test Methods

E1994 Practice for Use of Process Oriented AOQL and LTPD Sampling Plans

E2234 Practice for Sampling a Stream of Product by Attributes Indexed by AQL

E2281 Practice for Process and Measurement Capability Indices

E2282 Guide for Defining the Test Result of a Test Method

E2334 Practice for Setting an Upper Confidence Bound For a Fraction or Number of Non-Conforming items, or a Rate of Occurrence for Non-conformities, Using Attribute Data, When There is a Zero Response in the Sample

E2489 Practice for Statistical Analysis of One-Sample and Two-Sample Interlaboratory Proficiency Testing Programs

E2554 Practice for Estimating and Monitoring the Uncertainty of Test Results of a Test Method in a Single Laboratory Using a Control Sample Program

E2555 Practice for Factors and Procedures for Applying the MIL-STD-105 Plans in Life and Reliability Inspection

E2586 Practice for Calculating and Using Basic Statistics

E2587 Practice for Use of Control Charts in Statistical Process Control

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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.

E2655 Guide for Reporting Uncertainty of Test Results and Use of the Term Measurement Uncertainty in ASTM Test Methods

E2696 Practice for Life and Reliability Testing Based on the Exponential Distribution

E2709 Practice for Demonstrating Capability to Comply with a Lot Acceptance Procedure

E2782 Guide for Measurement Systems Analysis (MSA)

2.2 ISO Standards:

ISO 3534 Statistics-Vocabulary and Symbols

Part 1 Probability and General Statistical Terms

Part 2 Applied Statistics

3. Terminology

acceptance quality limit, AQL, n —quality limit that is the worst tolerable process average when a continuing series of lots is submitted for acceptance sampling. **E2234**

accepted reference value, n —a value that serves as an agreed-upon reference for comparison, and which is derived as: (1) a theoretical or established value, based on scientific principles, (2) an assigned or certified value, based on experimental work of some national or international organization, or (3) a consensus or certified value, based on collaborative experimental work under the auspices of a scientific or engineering group. **E177**

accuracy, n —the closeness of agreement between a test result and an accepted reference value. **E177**

aliases, n —in a fractional factorial design, two or more effects which are estimated by the same contrast and which, therefore, cannot be estimated separately. **E1325**

area sampling, n —probability sampling in which a map, rather than a tabulation of sampling units, serves as the sampling frame. **E1402**

assignable cause, n —factor that contributes to variation in a process or product output that is feasible to detect and identify (see **special cause**). **E2587**

attributes data, n —observed values or test results that indicate the presence or absence of specific characteristics or counts of occurrences of events in time or space. **E2587**

attributes, method of, n —measurement of quality by the method of attributes consists of noting the presence (or absence) of some characteristic or attribute in each of the units in the group under consideration, and counting how many units do (or do not) possess the quality attribute, or how many such events occur in the unit, group, or area. **E2334**

audit subsample, n —a small subsample of a sample selected for review of all sample selection and data collection procedures. **E141**

average outgoing quality (AOQ)—the average percent defective of outgoing product including all accepted lots or batches, after any defective units found in them are replaced by acceptable units, plus all lots or batches which are not accepted after such lots or batches have been effectively 100 % inspected and all defective units replaced by acceptable units. **E1994**

average outgoing quality limit (AOQL)—the maximum of the AOQs for all possible incoming percentages defective for

the process, for a given acceptance sampling plan. **E1994**
average quality protection—a type of protection in which there is prescribed some chosen value of average percent defective in the product after inspection (average outgoing quality limit (AOQL), that shall not be exceeded in the long run no matter what may be the level of percent defective in the product submitted to the inspector. **E1994**

average run length (ARL)—the average number of times that a process will have been sampled and evaluated before a shift in process level is signaled. **E2587**

average standard deviation, $\bar{s}$, n —arithmetic average of sample standard deviations. **E2281**

balanced incomplete block design (BIB), n —an incomplete block design in which each block contains the same number k of different versions from the t versions of a single principal factor arranged so that every pair of versions occurs together in the same number, λ , of blocks from the b blocks. **E1325**

bias, n —the difference between the expectation of the test results and an accepted reference value. **E177**

bulk sampling, n —sampling to prepare a portion of a mass of material that is representative of the whole. **E1402**

c chart—control chart that monitors the count of occurrences of an event in a defined increment of time or space. **E2587**

calibration, n —process of establishing a relationship between a measurement device and a known standard value(s). **E2782**

center line—line on a control chart depicting the average level of the statistic being monitored. **E2587**

chance cause—source of inherent random variation in a process which is predictable within statistical limits (see **common cause**). **E2587**

characteristic, n —a property of items in a sample or population which, when measured, counted or otherwise observed, helps to distinguish between the items. **E2282**

check sample—see **control sample**. **E2554**

classification of defects, n —the enumeration of possible defects of the unit of product arranged according to their seriousness, that is, critical, major, or minor defect. **E2234**

cluster sampling, n —sampling in which the sampling unit consists of a group of subunits, all of which are measured for sampled clusters. **E1402**

coefficient of variation, CV—for a nonnegative characteristic, the ratio of the standard deviation to the mean for a population or sample. **E2586**

collaborative study, n —interlaboratory study in which each laboratory uses the defined method of analysis to analyze identical portions of homogeneous materials to assess the performance characteristics obtained for that method of analysis. **E2489**

collaborative trial, n —see **collaborative study**. **E2489**

common cause—see **chance cause**. **E2587**

component of variance, n —a part of a total variance identified with a specified source of variability. **E1488**

completely randomized design, n —a design in which the treatments are assigned at random to the full set of experimental units. **E1325**

- completely randomized factorial design, *n***—a factorial experiment (including all replications) run in a completely randomized design. **E1325**
- composite design, *n***—a design developed specifically for fitting second order response surfaces to study curvature, constructed by adding further selected treatments to those obtained from a 2^n factorial (or its fraction). **E1325**
- confidence bound, *n***—see **confidence limit**. **E2334**
- confidence coefficient, *n***—the value, *C*, of the probability associated with a confidence interval or statistical coverage interval. It is often expressed as a percentage.
ISO 3534 Part 1, E2334
- confidence interval, *n***—an interval estimate of a population parameter, calculated such that there is a given long-run probability that the parameter is included in the interval. **E2334**
- confidence level, *n***—see **confidence coefficient**. **E2334**
- confidence limit, *n***—the upper or lower limit of a confidence interval for a population parameter. **E2334**
- confounded factorial design, *n***—a factorial experiment in which only a fraction of the treatment combinations are run in each block and where the selection of the treatment combinations assigned to each block is arranged so that one or more prescribed effects is (are) confounded with the block effect(s), while the other effects remain free from confounding. **E1325**
- confounding, *n***—combining indistinguishably the main effect of a factor or a differential effect between factors (interactions) with the effect of other factor(s), block factor(s) or interactions(s). **E1325**
- consumer's risk, *n***—probability that a lot having specified rejectable quality level will be accepted under a defined sampling plan. **E2555**
- contrast, *n***—a linear function of the observations for which the sum of the coefficients is zero. **E1325**
- contrast analysis, *n***—a technique for estimating the parameters of a model and making hypothesis tests on preselected linear combinations of the treatments (contrasts). **E1325**
- control chart, *n***—chart on which are plotted a statistical measure of a subgroup versus time of sampling along with limits based on the statistical distribution of that measure so as to indicate how much common, or chance, cause variation is inherent in the process or product. **E2587**
- control chart factor, *n***—a tabulated constant, depending on sample size, used to convert specified statistics or parameters into a central line value or control limit appropriate to the control chart. **E2587**
- control limits, *n***—limits on a control chart that are used as criteria for signaling the need for action or judging whether a set of data does or does not indicate a state of statistical control based on a prescribed degree of risk. **E2587**
- control sample, *n***—sample taken from a stable, homogeneous material for the purposes of monitoring the performance of a test method in a laboratory. **E2554**
- critical defect, *n***—a defect that judgment and experience indicate would result in hazardous or unsafe conditions for individuals using, maintaining, or depending upon the product, or a defect that judgment and experience indicate is likely to prevent performance of the function of a major end item. **E2234**
- defect, *n***—any nonconformance of the unit of product with specified requirements. **E2234**
- dependent variable, *n***—see **response variable**. **E1325**
- design of experiments, *n***—the arrangement in which an experimental program is to be conducted, and the selection of the levels (versions) of one or more factors or factor combinations to be included in the experiment. Synonyms include *experiment design* and **experimental design**. **E1325**
- double sampling plan, *n***—a multiple sampling plan in which up to two samplings can be taken and evaluated to accept or reject a lot. **E2234**
- empirical percentile, *n***—estimate of a population percentile using the sample data. This is a sample value such that a percentage *p* of the sample is less than that value. **E2586**
- equal complete coverage result, *n***—the numerical characteristic of interest calculated from observations made by drawing randomly from the frame, all of the sampling units covered by the frame. **E141**
- error of result, *n***—a test result minus the accepted reference value of the characteristic. **E2655**
- estimate, *n***—sample statistic used to approximate a population parameter. **E2586**
- evolutionary operation (EVOP), *n***—a sequential form of experimentation conducted in production facilities during regular production. **E1325**
- EWMA chart, *n***—control chart that monitors the exponentially weighted moving averages of consecutive subgroups. **E2587**
- expanded uncertainty, *U*, *n***—uncertainty reported as a multiple of the standard uncertainty. **E2655**
- experimental design, *n***—see **design of experiments**. **E1325**
- experimental unit, *n***—a portion of the experiment space to which a treatment is applied or assigned in the experiment. **E1325**
- experiment space, *n***—the materials, equipment, environmental conditions and so forth that are available for conducting an experiment. **E1325**
- exponentially weighted moving average (EWMA), *n***—weighted average of time-ordered data where the weights of past observations decrease geometrically with age. **E2587**
- factorial experiment (general), *n***—in general, an experiment in which all possible treatments formed from two or more factors, each being studied at two or more levels (versions) are examined so that interactions (differential effects) as well as main effects can be estimated. **E1325**
- 2^n factorial experiment, *n***—a factorial experiment in which *n* factors are studied, each of them in two levels (versions). **E1325**
- fractional factorial design, *n***—a factorial experiment in which only an adequately chosen fraction of the treatments required for the complete factorial experiment is selected to be run. **E1325**

frame, *n*—a list, compiled for sampling purposes, which designates all of the sampling units (items or groups) of a population or universe to be considered in a specific study. **E1402**

fully nested experiment, *n*—a nested experiment in which the second factor is nested within levels (versions) of the first factor and each succeeding factor is nested within versions of the previous factor. **E1325**

gage, *n*—device used as part of the measurement process to obtain a measurement result. **E2782**

hierarchical experiment, *n*—see **nested experiment**. **E1325**

histogram, *n*—graphical representation of the frequency distribution of a characteristic consisting of a set of rectangles with area proportional to the frequency. **E2586**

I chart, *n*—control chart that monitors the individual subgroup observations. **E2587**

incomplete block design, *n*—a design in which the experiment space is subdivided into blocks in which there are insufficient experimental units available to run a complete set of treatments or replicate of the experiment. **E1325**

inspection, *n*—the process of measuring, examining, testing, or otherwise comparing the unit of product with the requirements. **E2234**

inspection by attributes, *n*—inspection whereby either the unit of product is classified simply as defective or non-defective, or the number of defects in the unit of product is counted, with respect to a given requirement or set of requirements. **E2234**

inspection lot, *n*—a collection of units of product produced under conditions that are considered uniform and from which a sample is drawn and inspected. **E2234**

interlaboratory comparison, *n*—organization, performance, and evaluation of tests on the same or similar test items by two or more laboratories in accordance with predetermined conditions. **E2489**

interlaboratory study (ILS), *n*—a designed procedure for obtaining a precision statement for a test method, involving multiple laboratories, each generating replicate test results on one or more materials. **E691**

interquartile range, IQR, *n*—the 75th percentile (0.75 quantile) minus the 25th percentile (0.25 quantile), for a data set. **E2586**

intermediate precision, *n*—the closeness of agreement between test results obtained under specified intermediate precision conditions. **E177**

intermediate precision conditions, *n*—conditions under which test results are obtained with the same test method using test units or test specimens (see Practice **E691**, 10.3) taken at random from a single quantity of material that is as nearly homogeneous as possible, and with changing conditions such as operator, measuring equipment, location within the laboratory, and time. **E177**

judgment sampling, *n*—a procedure whereby enumerators select a few items of the population, based on visual, positional or other cues that are believed to be related to the variable of interest, so that the selected items appear to match the population. **E105**

kurtosis, γ_2 , g_2 , *n*—for a population or a sample, a measure of the weight of the tails of a distribution relative to the center, calculated as the ratio of the fourth central moment (empirical if a sample, theoretical if a population applies) to the standard deviation (sample, *s*, or population, σ) raised to the fourth power, minus 3 (also referred to as excess kurtosis). **E2586**

level (of a factor), *n*—a given value, a specification of procedure or a specific setting of a factor. **E1325**

life test, *n*—process of placing one or more units of product under a specified set of test conditions and measuring the time until failure for each unit. **E2696**

limiting quality level (LQL), *n*—quality level having a specified consumer's risk for a given sampling plan. **E2555**

long term standard deviation, σ_{LT} , *n*—sample standard deviation of all individual (observed) values taken over a long period of time. **E2281**

lot, *n*—a definite quantity of a product or material accumulated under conditions that are considered uniform for sampling purposes. **E2555**

lot quality protection—a type of protection in which there is prescribed some chosen value of limiting percent defective in a lot (lot tolerance percent defective (LTPD)) and also some chosen value for the probability (called the consumer's risk) of accepting a submitted lot that has a percent defective equal to the lot tolerance percent defective. **E1994**

lot tolerance percent defective (LTPD)—for purposes of acceptance sampling, the percentage of defective units in a lot for which the consumer has a stated low probability of acceptance of the lot. **E1994**

lower control limit (LCL), *n*—minimum value of the control chart statistic that indicates statistical control. **E2587**

lower process capability index, C_{pkl} , *n*—index describing process capability in relation to the lower specification limit. **E2281**

lower process performance index, P_{pkl} , *n*—index describing process performance in relation to the lower specification limit. **E2281**

main effect, average effect, *n*—a term describing a measure for the comparison of the responses at each level (version) of a factor averaged over all levels (versions) of other factors in the experiment. **E1325**

major defect, *n*—a defect, other than critical, that is likely to result in failure, or to reduce materially the usability of the unit of product for its intended purpose. **E2234**

mean, *n*—of a population, μ , average or expected value of a characteristic in a population – of a sample, $\bar{x}$ sum of the observed values in the sample divided by the sample size. **E2586**

mean time to failure, θ , *n*—in life testing, the average length of life of items in a lot. **E2696**

measurement process, *n*—process used to assign a number to a property of an object or other physical entity. **E2782**

measurement result, *n*—number assigned to a property of an object or other physical entity being measured. **E2782**

measurement system, *n*—the collection of hardware, software, procedures and methods, human effort, environmental

- conditions, associated devices, and the objects that are measured for the purpose of producing a measurement. **E2782**
- measurement systems analysis (MSA)**, *n*—any of a number of specialized methods useful for studying a measurement system and its properties. **E2782**
- median** $\tilde{X}$, *n*—the 50th percentile in a population or sample. **E2586**
- method of least squares**, *n*—a technique of estimation of a parameter which minimizes $\sum e^2$, where *e* is the difference between the observed value and the predicted value derived from the assumed model. **E1325**
- midrange**, *n*—average of the minimum and maximum values in a sample. **E2586**
- minimum process capability index**, C_{pk} , *n*—smaller of the upper process capability index and the lower process capability index. **E2281**
- minimum process performance index**, P_{pk} , *n*—smaller of the upper process performance index and the lower process performance index. **E2281**
- minor defect**, *n*—a defect that is not likely to reduce materially the usability of the unit of product for its intended purpose, or is a departure from established standards having little bearing on the effective use or operation of the unit. **E2234**
- mixture design**, *n*—a design in which two or more ingredients or components shall be mixed and the response is a property of the resulting mixture that does not depend upon the amount of the mixture. **E1325**
- MR chart**, *n*—control chart that monitors the moving range of consecutive individual subgroup observations. **E2586**
- multiple sampling plan**, *n*—a sampling plan in which successive samples from a lot are drawn and after each sample is inspected a decision is made to accept the lot, reject the lot, or to take another sample, based on quality level of the combined samples. **E2234**
- multi-stage lot acceptance procedure**, *n*—a procedure for accepting a lot that involves more than one stage of sampling and testing a given quality characteristic and one or more acceptance criteria per stage. **E2709**
- multi-stage sampling**, *n*—sampling in which the sample is selected by stages, the sampling units at each stage being selected from subunits of the larger sampling units chosen at the previous stage. **E1402**
- nested experiment**, *n*—an experiment to examine the effect of two or more factors in which the same level (version) of a factor cannot be used with all levels (versions) of other factors. Synonym **hierarchical experiment**. **E1325**
- nested sampling**, *n*—same as **multi-stage sampling**. **E1402**
- non-conforming item**, *n*—an item containing at least one non-conformity. **E2334**
- number of failures**, *n*—number of failures that have occurred at the time the decision as to lot acceptability is reached. **E2696**
- 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. **E2282**
- observed value**, *n*—the value obtained by making an observation. **E2282**
- operating characteristic**, *n*—probability of acceptance using a specified acceptance sampling plan, as a function of parameters describing quality of the lot. **E2234**
- order statistic** $x_{(k)}$, *n*—value of the *k*th observed value in a sample after sorting by order of magnitude. **E2586**
- orthogonal array**, *n*—a table of coefficients identifying the levels, or some weight associated with the levels, for each factor to be used in the analysis of specified effects, which are arranged in such a manner that each effect will be independent of the other effects. **E1325**
- orthogonal contrasts**, *n*—two contrasts are orthogonal if the contrast coefficients of the two sets satisfy the condition that, when multiplied in corresponding pairs, the sum of the products is equal to zero. See **contrast** and **contrast analysis**. **E1325**
- outlier**—see **outlying observation**. **E178**
- outlying observation**, *n*—an observation that appears to deviate markedly in value from other members of the sample in which it appears. **E178**
- p chart**, *n*—control chart that monitors the fraction of occurrences of an event. **E2587**
- parameter**, *n*—see **population parameter**. **E2586**
- partially balanced incomplete block design (PBIB)**, *n*—an incomplete block design in which each block contains the same number *k*, of different versions from the *t* versions of the principal factor. **E1325**
- partially nested experiment**, *n*—a nested experiment in which several factors may be crossed as in factorial experiments and other factors nested within the crossed combinations. **E1325**
- percentile**, *n*—quantile of a sample or a population, for which the fraction less than or equal to the value is expressed as a percentage. **E2586**
- Plackett-Burman designs**, *n*—a set of screening designs using orthogonal arrays that permit evaluation of the linear effects of up to $n = t - 1$ factors in a study of *t*, treatment combinations. **E1325**
- population**, *n*—the totality of items or units of material under consideration. **E2586**
- population parameter**, *n*—summary measure of the values of some characteristic of a population. **ISO 3534 Part 2**, **E2586**
- precision**, *n*—the closeness of agreement between independent test results obtained under stipulated conditions. **E177**
- primary sampling unit**, **psu**, *n*—the item, element, increment, segment or cluster selected at the first stage of the selection procedure from a population or universe. **E1402**
- probability proportional to size sampling**, **pps**, *n*—probability sampling in which the probabilities of selection of sampling units are proportional, or nearly proportional, to a quantity (the “size”) that is known for all sampling units. **E1402**
- probability sample**, *n*—a sample in which the sampling units are selected by a chance process such that a specified probability of selection can be attached to each possible sample that can be selected. **E1402**

probability sampling plan, n —a sampling plan which makes use of the theory of probability to combine a suitable procedure for selecting sample items with an appropriate procedure for summarizing the test results so that inferences may be drawn and risks calculated from the test results by the theory of probability. **E105**

process capability, PC, n —statistical estimate of the outcome of a characteristic from a process that has been demonstrated to be in a state of statistical control. **E2281**

process capability index, C_p , n —an index describing process capability in relation to specified tolerance. **E2281**

process performance, PP, n —statistical measure of the outcome of a characteristic from a process that may not have been demonstrated to be in a state of statistical control. **E2281**

process performance index, P_p , n —index describing process performance in relation to specified tolerance. **E2281**

producer's risk, α , n —probability that a lot having specified acceptable quality level will be rejected under a defined sampling plan. **E2696**

proficiency testing, n —determination of laboratory testing performance by means of interlaboratory comparisons. **E2489**

proportional sampling, n —a method of selection in stratified sampling such that the proportions of the sampling units (usually, psu's) selected for the sample from each stratum are equal. **E1402**

quota sampling, n —a method of selection similar to stratified sampling in which the numbers of units to be selected from each stratum is specified and the selection is done by trained enumerators but is not a probability sample. **E1402**

quantile, n —value such that a fraction of the sample or population is less than or equal to that value. **E2586**

R chart, n —control chart that monitors the range of observations within a subgroup. **E2587**

random error of result, n —a component of the error that, in the course of a number of test results for the same characteristic, varies in an unpredictable way. **E2655**

randomization, n —the procedure used to allot treatments at random to the experimental units so as to provide a high degree of independence in the contributions of experimental error to estimates of treatment effects. **E1325**

randomized block design, n —a design in which the experiment space is subdivided into blocks of experimental units, the units within each block being more homogeneous than units in different blocks. **E1325**

randomized block factorial design, n —a factorial experiment run in a randomized block design in which each block includes a complete set of factorial combinations. **E1325**

range, R, n —maximum value minus the minimum value in a sample. **E2586**

rational subgroup, n —subgroup chosen to minimize the variability within subgroups and maximize the variability between subgroups (see **subgroup**). **E2587**

repeatability, n —precision under repeatability conditions. **E177**

repeatability conditions, n —conditions where independent test results are obtained with the same method on identical

test items in the same laboratory by the same operator using the same equipment within short intervals of time. **E177**

repeatability limit r, n —the value below which the absolute difference between two individual test results obtained under repeatability conditions may be expected to occur with a probability of approximately 0.95 (95 %). **E177**

repeatability standard deviation (s_r), n —the standard deviation of test results obtained under repeatability conditions. **E177**

replicate subsamples, n —a number of disjoint samples, each one separately drawn from the frame in accord with the same probability sampling plan. **E141**

reproducibility, n —precision under reproducibility conditions. **E177**

reproducibility conditions, n —conditions where test results are obtained with the same method on identical test items in different laboratories with different operators using different equipment. **E177**

reproducibility limit, R, n —the value below which the absolute difference between two test results obtained under reproducibility conditions may be expected to occur with a probability of approximately 0.95 (95 %). **E177**

reproducibility standard deviation s_R , n —the standard deviation of test results obtained under reproducibility conditions. **E177**

residual error, n —the difference between the observed result and the predicted value (estimated treatment response); Observed Result minus Predicted Value. **E1325**

response surface, n —the pattern of predicted responses based on the empirical model derived from the experiment observations. **E1325**

response variable, n —the variable that shows the observed results of an experimental treatment. Synonym **dependent variable**. **E1325**

ruggedness, n —insensitivity of a test method to departures from specified test or environmental conditions. **E1169**

ruggedness test, n —a planned experiment in which environmental factors or test conditions are deliberately varied in order to evaluate the effects of such variation. **E1169**

s chart, n —control chart that monitors the standard deviations of subgroup observations. **E2587**

sample, n —a group of observations or test results, taken from a larger collection of observations or test results, which serves to provide information that may be used as a basis for making a decision concerning the larger collection. **E2586**

sample size, n —number of observed values in the sample. **E2586**

sample statistic, n —summary measure of the observed values of a sample. **E2586**

sampling fraction, f, n —the ratio of the number of sampling units selected for the sample to the number of sampling units available. **E1402**

sampling unit, n —an item, group of items, or segment of material that can be selected as part of a probability sampling plan. **E1402**

sampling with replacement, n —probability sampling in which a selected unit is replaced after any step in selection so that this sampling unit is available for selection again at

- the next step of selection, or at any other succeeding step of the sample selection procedure. **E1402**
- sampling without replacement**, *n*—probability sampling in which a selected sampling unit is set aside and cannot be selected at a later step of selection. **E1402**
- screening design**, *n*—a balanced design, requiring relatively minimal amount of experimentation, to evaluate the lower order effects of a relatively large number of factors in terms of contributions to variability or in terms of estimates of parameters for a model. **E1325**
- sensitivity coefficient**, *n*—differential effect of the change in a factor on the test result. **E2655**
- sequential life test**, *n*—life test sampling plan whereby neither the number of failures nor the time required to reach a decision are fixed in advance but instead decisions depend on the accumulated results of the life test. **E2696**
- short term standard deviation**, σ_{ST} , *n*—the inherent variation present when a process is operating in a state of statistical control, expressed in terms of standard deviation. **E2281**
- significant digit**, *n*—any of the figures 0 through 9 that is used with its place value to denote a numerical quantity to some desired approximation, excepting all leading zeros and some trailing zeros in numbers not represented with a decimal point. **E29**
- simple random sample**, *n*—(without replacement) a probability sample of *n* sampling units from a population of *N* units selected in such a way that each of the subsets of *n* units is equally probable; (with replacement) a probability sample of *n* sampling units from a population of *N* units selected in such a way that, in order of selection, each of the *Nn* ordered sequences of units from the population is equally probable. **E1402**
- skewness** γ_1 , g_1 , *n*—for population or sample, a measure of symmetry of a distribution, calculated as the ratio of the third central moment (empirical if a sample, and theoretical if a population applies) to the standard deviation (sample, *s*, or population, σ) raised to the third power. **E2586**
- special cause**, *n*—see **assignable cause**. **E2587**
- stable process**, *n*—process in a state of statistical control; process condition when all special causes of variation have been removed. **ISO 3534 Part 2, E2281**
- staggered nested experiment**, *n*—a nested experiment in which the nested factors are run within only a subset of the versions of the first or succeeding factors. **E1325**
- standard deviation**, *n*—*of a population*, σ , the square root of the average or expected value of the squared deviation of a variable from its mean; —*of a sample*, *s*, the square root of the sum of the squared deviations of the observed values in the sample divided by the sample size minus 1. **E2586**
- standard error**, *n*—standard deviation of the population of values of a sample statistic in repeated sampling, or an estimate of it. **E2586**
- standard uncertainty**, *u*, *n*—uncertainty reported as the standard deviation of the estimated value of the quantity subject to measurement. **E2655**
- state of statistical control**, *n*—process condition when only common causes are operating on the process. **E2587**
- statistic**, *n*—see **sample statistic**. **E2586**
- statistical procedures**, *n*—the organized techniques and methods used to collect, analyze, and interpret data. **E1488**
- statistical process control (SPC)**, *n*—set of techniques for improving the quality of process output by reducing variability through the use of one or more control charts and a corrective action strategy used to bring the process back into a state of statistical control. **E2587**
- stratified sampling**, *n*—sampling in which the population to be sampled is first divided into mutually exclusive subsets or strata, and independent samples taken within each stratum. **E1402**
- subgroup**, *n*—set of observations on outputs sampled from a process at a particular time. **E2587**
- systematic error of result**, *n*—a component of the error that, in the course of a number of test results for the same characteristic, remains constant or varies in a predictable way. **E2655**
- systematic sampling**, *n*—a sampling procedure in which evenly spaced sampling units are selected. **E1402**
- test determination**, *n*—the value of a characteristic or dimension of a single test specimen derived from one or more observed values. **E2282**
- test method**, *n*—a definitive procedure that produces a test result. **E2282**
- test observation**, *n*—see **observation**. **E2282**
- test result**, *n*—the value of a characteristic obtained by carrying out a specified test method. **E2282**
- test sample**, *n*—the total quantity of material (containing one or more test specimens) needed to obtain a test result as specified in the test method. See **test result**. **E2282**
- test specimen**, *n*—the portion of a test unit needed to obtain a single test determination. **E2282**
- treatment**, *n*—a combination of the levels (versions) of each of the factors assigned to an experimental unit, synonym **treatment combination**. **E1325**
- treatment combination**, *n*—see **treatment**. **E1325**
- trueness**, *n*—the closeness of agreement between the population mean of the measurements or test results and the accepted reference value. **E177**
- uncertainty**, *n*—an indication of the magnitude of error associated with a value that takes into account both systematic errors and random errors associated with the measurement or test process. **E2655**
- uncertainty budget**, *n*—a tabular listing of uncertainty components for a given measurement process giving the magnitudes of contributions to uncertainty of the result from those sources. **E2655**
- uncertainty component**, *n*—a source of error in a test result to which is attached a standard uncertainty. **E2655**
- uncertainty control chart**, *n*—control chart that includes control limits based on the variation attributed to the uncertainty of the test method. **E2554**
- upper control limit (UCL)**, *n*—maximum value of the control chart statistic that indicates statistical control. **E2587**
- upper process capability index**, C_{pkU} , *n*—index describing process capability in relation to the upper specification limit. **E2281**

upper process performance index P_{pkU} , n —index describing process performance in relation to the upper specification limit. **E2281**

variables data, n —observations or test results defined on a continuous scale. **E2587**

variance, σ^2, s^2 , n —square of the standard deviation of the population or sample. **E2586**

waiting time, n —in life testing, the time elapsed from the start of testing until a decision is reached as to lot acceptability. **E2696**

warning limits, n —limits on a control chart that are two standard errors below and above the centerline. **E2587**

within-laboratory standard deviation, n —the standard deviation of test results obtained within a laboratory for a single material under conditions that may include such elements as different operators, equipment, and longer time

intervals.

E177

X-bar chart, n —control chart that monitors the average of observations within a subgroup. **E2587**

Youden square, n —a type of block design derived from certain Latin squares by deleting, or adding, rows (or columns) so that one block factor remains complete blocks and the second block factor constitutes balanced incomplete blocks. **E1325**

Z-score, n —observed value minus the sample mean divided by the sample standard deviation. **E2586**

4. Keywords

acceptance sampling terminology, quality control terminology, sampling terminology, specifications terminology, statistics terminology.

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