



Standard Practice for Quality Control of Psychophysiological Detection of Deception (Polygraph) Examinations¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This practice establishes essential and recommended procedures for the conduct of quality control for a Psychophysiological Detection of Deception (PDD) examination.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards*:²
[E2035 Terminology Relating to Forensic Psychophysiology](#)

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—For additional terminology relating to PDD, refer to Terminology [E2035](#).

3.1.1 *independent quality control review*—an evaluation of the PDD examination that is free of undue influence from the original examiner or other persons.

3.1.2 *objective quality control review*—an evaluation of PDD test data based upon established analysis procedures which meet ASTM standards.

3.1.3 *PDD report*—a written account to the person or agency requesting the examination which summarizes the details of an individual PDD examination. The report should include, but is not limited to: the details of the incident or the circumstances for which the examination was conducted; identifying information of the examinee; the purpose of the examination; identifying information of the examiner; the results of the examination; the instrumentation utilized to collect the test data; and any explanatory remarks determined

necessary by the examiner. For a specific issue examination, all relevant questions and the examinee's answers shall be included.

3.1.4 *quality control*—a systematic, independent, and objective review, evaluation, and critique of a PDD examination by a qualified examiner. This review is designed to ensure each examiner maintains professional standards.

4. Summary of Practice

4.1 All PDD examinations may be subjected to a quality control review. Prior to a PDD examination being considered by any court or judicial tribunal, in order to ensure each examination meets appropriate standards, each examination should undergo a quality control review.

4.2 Experienced examiners who are trained in the PDD format utilized by the original examiner are qualified to conduct a quality control review of an examination.

4.3 A quality control review shall be independent and objective and meet all applicable ASTM standards. The quality control process should involve, but is not limited to a review of: the test data analysis of all charts collected during the examination; all questions and answers utilized during the examination to produce the data which were evaluated; the PDD report; any available electronic recordings; and all allied paperwork completed by the PDD examiner in support of the examination.

4.4 The person conducting the quality control review shall attest, in writing, as to whether the test data supports the conclusion rendered by the original examiner.

4.5 All PDD documents and test data shall remain available for a quality control review for no less than a year or until the incident or circumstance requiring the examination to be conducted has been completely adjudicated.

5. Keywords

5.1 forensic psychophysiology; PDD; psychophysiological detection of deception; quality control; standards

¹ This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee E52 on Forensic Psychophysiology and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee E52.03 on Quality 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.

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