



Standard Guide for Conduct of PDD Screening Examinations¹

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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) screening examination.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards*:²

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

E2063 Practice for Calibration and Functionality Checks Used in Forensic Psychophysiological Detection of Deception (Polygraph) Examinations

E2064 Guide for Minimum Continuing Education of Individuals Involved in Psychophysiological Detection of Deception (PDD)

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.

4. Preparation

4.1 All relevant paperwork pertaining to the examinee should be made available to the examiner in ample time for review prior to the examination.

4.2 Only instruments meeting ASTM standards, as a minimum, should be used during the conduct of PDD screening examinations.

4.3 No examination shall be conducted unless the instrument is functioning in accordance with Practice **E2063**.

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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.

4.4 An examiner shall, prior to the examination, dedicate sufficient time to identify the issues and unique circumstances in any area of anticipated testing.

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 extent possible.

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 At any time during the PDD examination that it becomes apparent to the examiner that the examinee is not suitable for testing, the examination will be terminated.

5.2 All screening 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 explain his or her position.

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 that the examinee recognizes and understands each question.

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

5.8 Screening examinations shall be audio/visual recorded in their entirety unless precluded by provisions in **5.2**.

6. Intest Practices

6.1 Examiners shall use testing formats and techniques in accordance with ASTM standards.

6.2 Examiners shall only use screening formats for which they have been trained in accordance with Guide **E2000** and Guide **E2064**.

6.2.1 No more than five relevant questions should be addressed in any one series of a screening examination.

6.2.2 Screening tests, like other multiple-issue PDD techniques, are tests for utility, designed as a screening method and not a specific issue examination. To maximize accuracy and utility, a specific issue test should be conducted when significant responses appear using this screening tool. When such responses are present to any relevant question on the screening test, the response should be explored further with the examinee and tested using a single-issue comparison test format as outlined in ASTM standards. Opinions that an examinee has been deceptive should result only from the analysis of a specific issue test.

6.3 All physiological recordings shall be accounted for, and considered in the final opinion.

6.4 Examiners shall not deliberately change the manner in which the questions are presented within a test.

6.5 Question intervals shall allow for a reasonable recovery.

6.6 Stimulus onset to stimulus onset shall not be less than 20 seconds.

7. Evaluation Practices

7.1 The examiner shall use evaluation methods for which they have been formally trained and that are appropriate to that testing technique.

7.1.1 All scoring and decision rules used within an organization for PDD screening shall be rendered in writing.

7.2 The examiner shall maintain all records of test data analysis in accordance with Practice E2031.

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.

8.2 Consumers of PDD results shall be advised that any decision regarding the examinee's status should not be based solely on the results of physiological responses obtained during a PDD screening examination.

9. Keywords

9.1 forensic psychophysiology; PDD employment screening examination; PDD examination; polygraph

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