Designation: E805 – 12a (Reapproved 2017)

Standard Practice for Identification of Instrumental Methods of Color or Color-Difference Measurement of Materials[1]

This standard is issued under the fixed designation E805; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ε) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

1. Scope

1.1 This practice covers the documentation of instrumental measurement of color or color difference for current communication or for future reference. The practice is applicable to instrumental measurements of materials where color is seen by reflected, transmitted or emitted light and any combinations of one or more of these processes. The practice is recommended for documentation of methodology in interlaboratory color-measurement programs.

1.2 Providing an adequate identification of an instrumental measure of color or color-difference involves documenting the metadata necessary for archiving and future use of the measurement data collected. The metadata can be divided in five parts:

1.2.1 Nature and source of available samples and the form of specimens actually measured,

1.2.2 Instrumental conditions of measurement, including instrument geometrical and spectral conditions of measurement,

1.2.3 Standards used,

1.2.4 Data acquisition procedure, and

1.2.5 Color scales employed.

1.3 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of whoever uses this standard to consult and establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

1.4 *This international standard was developed in accordance with internationally recognized principles on standardization established in the Decision on Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations issued by the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*[2]

D156 Test Method for Saybolt Color of Petroleum Products (Saybolt Chromometer Method)

D1209 Test Method for Color of Clear Liquids (Platinum-Cobalt Scale)

D1500 Test Method for ASTM Color of Petroleum Products (ASTM Color Scale)

D1535 Practice for Specifying Color by the Munsell System

D1544 Test Method for Color of Transparent Liquids (Gardner Color Scale)

D2244 Practice for Calculation of Color Tolerances and Color Differences from Instrumentally Measured Color Coordinates

D5386 Test Method for Color of Liquids Using Tristimulus Colorimetry

D6166 Test Method for Color of Pine Chemicals and Related Products (Instrumental Determination of Gardner Color)

E179 Guide for Selection of Geometric Conditions for Measurement of Reflection and Transmission Properties of Materials

E259 Practice for Preparation of Pressed Powder White Reflectance Factor Transfer Standards for Hemispherical and Bi-Directional Geometries

E284 Terminology of Appearance

E308 Practice for Computing the Colors of Objects by Using the CIE System

E313 Practice for Calculating Yellowness and Whiteness Indices from Instrumentally Measured Color Coordinates

E991 Practice for Color Measurement of Fluorescent Specimens Using the One-Monochromator Method

E1164 Practice for Obtaining Spectrometric Data for Object-Color Evaluation

E1247 Practice for Detecting Fluorescence in Object-Color Specimens by Spectrophotometry

E1331 Test Method for Reflectance Factor and Color by

[1] This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee E12 on Color and Appearance and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee E12.04 on Color and Appearance Analysis.

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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.

Spectrophotometry Using Hemispherical Geometry
E1345 Practice for Reducing the Effect of Variability of Color Measurement by Use of Multiple Measurements
E1347 Test Method for Color and Color-Difference Measurement by Tristimulus Colorimetry
E1348 Test Method for Transmittance and Color by Spectrophotometry Using Hemispherical Geometry
E1349 Test Method for Reflectance Factor and Color by Spectrophotometry Using Bidirectional (45°:0° or 0°:45°) Geometry
E1708 Practice for Electronic Interchange of Color and Appearance Data
E1767 Practice for Specifying the Geometries of Observation and Measurement to Characterize the Appearance of Materials
E2152 Practice for Computing the Colors of Fluorescent Objects from Bispectral Photometric Data
E2153 Practice for Obtaining Bispectral Photometric Data for Evaluation of Fluorescent Color
E2175 Practice for Specifying the Geometry of Multiangle Spectrophotometers
E2194 Test Method for Multiangle Color Measurement of Metal Flake Pigmented Materials
E2729 Practice for Rectification of Spectrophotometric Bandpass Differences

2.2 *Other Standard Documents:*

CIE Publication 51 A Method for Assessing the Quality of Daylight Simulators for Colorimetry[3]
DIN 6176 Farbmetrische, Bestimmung von Farbabstände bie Körperfarben nach der DIN99–Formel[4]

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions of terms in Terminology E284 are applicable to this practice.

3.2 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

3.3 *metadata, n*—structered information that describes, explains, locates, and otherwise makes it easier to retrieve and use an information resource **(1)**.[5]

NOTE 1—In the case of color and color difference measurements, the data about the instrument, the measurement procedure, the treatment of the specimen, identification of color scale and the calculations are to be included in the metadata.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 The options available in methods for the measurement of color or color-difference are many. These involve choices in: (*1*) specimens, (*2*) geometric and spectral properties of instruments, (*3*) calibration bases for standards used, (*4*) procedure for sample handling including conditioning, (*5*) procedure for taking data, and (*6*) equations for converting instrumental data to final results. Once the measurements have been made, it is essential to document what has been done for the purpose of interlaboratory comparisons, or for future use. A sample form is provided in Fig. 1 to record identifying information applicable to any instrumental method of color or color-difference measurement.

4.2 Refer to Guide E179, Practices E991, E1164, E1345, E1708, E1767, E2152, and E2194 and Test Methods D5386, D6166, E1247, E1331, E1347, E1348, and E1349, for specific details of measurements.

5. Identification of Samples and Specimens

5.1 *Identification of Samples and Specimens:*

5.1.1 Identify samples by material and form, together with markings or document identification.

5.1.2 Mark each specimen with a serial number or letter, and other identifying markings.

5.2 *Description of Specimens*—For specific forms of specimens, additional identification shall be included:

5.2.1 Solid sheet or web, specify thickness and backing material.

5.2.2 Powder or granular substance (packed or poured); if placed behind window, state material and thickness.

5.2.3 Fiber or yarn, describe form, type of transparent specimen window (if used), pressure on backing plate.

5.2.4 Paste (if placed behind window), state material and thickness.

5.2.5 Liquid (if observed through window), state window material and path length.

5.2.6 Film drawdown, specify film thickness and background.

5.2.7 For gonioapparent materials, identify the direction of illumination and viewing relative to the specimen.

5.2.8 Conditioning, if any.

NOTE 2—When specimens are measured behind glass or other material, specify thickness and material type. In addition, specify the method used for data correction.

6. Identification of Instrument

6.1 Sufficient description of the instrumentation shall be provided to enable one of ordinary skill in the art to reproduce the measurement. The make and model number of the instrument used shall be reported.

6.2 For interlaboratory comparisons, long-term studies, and measurements used to document conformance to a color specification, the physical properties of the instrument shall be identified by it, as follows:

6.2.1 *Mode of Measurement*—such as transmittance factor, reflectance factor, total radiance factor, etc.

6.2.2 *Geometric Properties of Instrument*—for multi-angle spectrophotometers following Practice E2175 or for all others following Practice E1767 the influx geometry and eflux geometry including aperture angles and sizes.

6.2.3 *Specular Component*—where hemispherical illumination or view is employed, or both, but the specular light is excluded by means of a light trap, designate by the words "specular excluded." If a light trap is used, details of its size, shape, and position should be given. Conversely, when the specular component of light is included, specify "specular included."

[3] Available from CIE (International Commission on Illumination), http://www.cie.co.at or http://www.techstreet.

[4] Available from Beuth Verlag GmbH (DIN–Deutsches Institut fur Normung e.V.), Burggrafenstrasse 6, 10787, Berlin, Germany, http://www.en.din.de.

[5] The boldface numbers in parentheses refer to the list of references at the end of this practice.

Metadata for Color or Color Difference Measurement of Specimens

(1) Instrumental Method for Measurements of: ☐ Color ☐ Color difference of:
_____
(2) Color Scales Used (Section 9): _____
_____
(3) Specimen Description (Section 5)
(a) Form: _____
(b) Additional information (see 5.3) _____
☐ thickness (number of layers) ☐ single layer backed by ☐ powder (note packing pressure) ☐ paste ☐ liquid ☐ film drawdown (specify thickness and backing material).
(c) Special Considerations:
Sensitivity to Environmental Conditions: temperature:_____,
humidity_____
(d) Specimen Directionality: Specify orientation and rotation _____
(e) Specimen Conditioning: _____

(4) Instrument Description (Section 6)
☐ Spectrophotometer ☐ Tristimulus Colorimeter
Make and model _____
(a) Measurement Mode _____
(b) Geometry: Influx and Efflux Geometry _____
Specular Component included or excluded? _____
Light Trap (if applicable) size, shape, and position _____
Size and Shape of aperture _____
Cover glass at specimen window ___ Yes ___ No
Method of Correction _____
(c) Spectral: Lamp _____Filters and elements used _____
Detector _____ Modified by filters and elements _____
(5) Material Standard Used: _____
Date of preparation or calibration:
(6) Reduction of Data: _____
(a) Tristimulus Integration: ☐ Filter ☐ Computed from spectral data taken every _____nm over range_____nm to _____nm, with spectral bandwidth _____nm bandpass correction according to E2729 _____E308 Table 5 _____E308 Table 6
(b) Color Difference Equation and Parameters used _____

FIG. 1 Sample Report Form

6.2.4 Give aperture size and shape through which specimens are exposed for measurement and any glass or plastic intervening window(s). Also, note the area of specimen actually illuminated or viewed.

NOTE 3—Measurements of some type of specimens (for example, pearlescent, metal flake or retroreflective materials) may require different and multiple geometries. In these cases, specify the details of all the geometries used. See Practices E2175 and E2194.

6.3 *Spectral Properties of Instrument:*

6.3.1 Identify spectral power distribution illuminating the specimen and spectral response of receiver system. The spectral characteristics of the instrument will be affected by the spectral transmittance of filters or other wavelength selective devices in either the illuminating or viewing beams. For photoluminescent specimens, the spectral distribution should be reported in terms of its conformance to a standard illuminant as outlined in CIE Publication 51 and Practice E991. For non-photoluminescent specimens, the spectral distribution illuminating the specimen can be reported in terms of its conformance to a standard illuminant or its correlated color temperature.

6.3.2 In the absence of a detailed spectral power distribution as in 6.3.1, identify illumination with other terms that indicate the general spectral content, for example: (*1*) CIE Source *A* (gas-filled tungsten lamp at 2856 K correlated color temperature), (*2*) CIE Source *C*, (*3*) simulated daylight *D65*(**2**), (*4*) simulated daylight *D65*(**2**) with pulsed xenon lamp with uv control, (*5*) light emitting diodes (LEDs), etc.

6.3.3 Identify the type and number of dispersive elements on the instrument. Indicate the spectral bandwidth of the

monochromator or identify it as variable if it is and how the measurement has been corrected for passband (see Practice E2729 or Practice E308 Tables 5 and 6..

7. Identification of Standards Used

7.1 *Reference Standard*—The reference white reflectance standard should be the perfect reflecting diffuser. Practice E259 describes the preparation of reference white reflectance standards.

7.2 *Instrument Standard*—Identify instrument working standard used.

7.3 *Product Standard*—Identify the product standard if used in the measurements.

8. Data

8.1 Identify how many readings were made on each specimen and standard to obtain the test result, indicate if the readings are averaged, and indicate whether or not the specimen was changed in position, rotated, or otherwise handled during the measurement. See Practice E1345.

8.2 It is important not to imply false precision or accuracy. Therefore, report all data with the appropriate number of significant figures.

8.3 Some specimens (particularly textiles, pulp and paper) are sensitive to variations in temperature (thermochromism) and humidity (hygrochromism). In those cases, these conditions should be recorded.

8.4 In addition, some colorants exhibit reversible color changes (photochromism) upon exposure to strong sources of illumination. In those cases, when using instruments with direct illumination by strong broad-band sources, the time of exposure to the instrument's measurement port shall be kept to a minimum, and time shall be recorded.

9. Color Scales

9.1 *Illuminant*—For non-photoluminescent specimens, the illuminant used in the computation of color coordinates from spectral data may have a different spectral power distribution from that of the instrument source (see 6.2.4), the former being normally one of the CIE illuminants (*A, C*, or *D65*) identified in Table 1.1.1 of Ref **(2)** and in Practice E308. In the case of photoluminescent specimens being measured on instruments with polychromatic illumination and a dispersing element between the specimen and detector, the spectral distribution of the illuminant used for the computation of color coordinates from spectral data shall be the same as that of the instrument illuminator.

9.2 *Standard Observer*—Identify Standard Observer as CIE 1931 (2°) or CIE 1964 (10°). (See Ref **(3)**, Tables 2.1 and 2.2, respectively, and Practice E308 or E2153 for photoluminescent specimens.)

9.3 Identify the wavelength interval used for tristimulus integration of spectral data and the origin of the tristimulus weighting factors used (see Practice E308 or E2153 for photoluminescent specimens).

9.4 *Color Scales*—Identify color scales as either:

9.4.1 Trichromatic Color Scales including:

9.4.1.1 Tristimulus Values (*X, Y, Z*). (Ref **(2)** and Practice E308 or E2153 for photoluminescent specimens.)

9.4.1.2 Tristimulus Value *Y* and chromaticity coordinates *x* and *y* (Ref **(2)** and Practice E308.).

9.4.1.3 Opponent-Color Scales. (Reference standard white color remains at $L = 100$, $a = 0$, $b = 0$, regardless of the illuminant, but color values for other specimens change with illuminant.)

(a) CIE 1976 L*, a*, b* (CIELAB) (Ref **(2)**, Practice E308 and Practice D2244.).

NOTE 4—Other scales occasionally used are:
(a) Hunter L', a', b' scales for clear liquids and bare metals **(3)**.
(b) CIE 1976 L*, u*, v* (CIELUV) **(2)**.
(c) Munsell Color Notation by visual or instrumental means (Practice D1535).
(d) Hunter L_H, a_H, b_H (1958) **(3)** and Practice D2244.

9.4.2 The following scales used exclusively for color difference:

9.4.2.1 CMC (Ref **(4)**), and
9.4.2.2 CIE94 (Ref **(5)**).
9.4.2.3 DIN99 (DIN 6176 and Practice D2244).
9.4.2.4 CIEDE2000 (Ref **(6)**) and Practice D2244).

NOTE 5—State the color difference equation used and all the values for all the variable parameters in the equation.

9.4.3 One-dimensional Color Scales including:

9.4.3.1 Gardner Color Scale (Test Method D6166).
9.4.3.2 Platinum Cobalt Color Scale (Test Method D5386).

NOTE 6—Some one-dimensional color scales are calculated from the tristimulus values measured, see Practice E313.

9.4.3.3 Saybolt Color (Test Method D156).
9.4.3.4 Platinum-Cobalt Scale (Test Method D1209).
9.4.3.5 ASTM Color (Test Method D1500).
9.4.3.6 Gardner Color Scale (Test Method D1544).

10. Report Form

10.1 A sample report form is given in Fig. 1.

11. Keywords

11.1 color; color difference; colorimetry; data format; documentation; instrumental measurement—color/light; metadata; reflectance and reflectivity; spectrophotometry; transmittance and reflectance

REFERENCES

(1) Understanding Metadata, NISO Press, 2001. Available from National Information Standards Organization, 4733 Bethesda Avenue, Suite 300, Bethesda, MD 20814 USA.

(2) CIE Publication No. 15.2, *Colorimetry 2d ed.*, Central Bureau of the CIE, Vienna, 1986, available from CIE (International Commission of Illumination), http://www.www.cie.co.at or http://techstreet.com.

(3) Hunter, R. S., and Harold, R. W., *The Measurement of Appearance*, 2d ed., John Wiley and Sons, Inc., New York, N. Y., 1987.

(4) McDonald, R., "Acceptability and Perceptibility Decisions Using the CMC Colour Difference Formula," *Textile Chemist and Colorists*, Vol 20, No. 6, 1988, pp. 31–37, and Errata, Vol. 20, No. 8, 1998, p. 10.

(5) CIE Publication No. 116–1995, Industrial Colour-Difference Evaluation, Vienna, 1995, available via the website of the CIE Central Bureau (www.cie.co.at).

(6) Commission International de L'Eclairage, Technical Report 142–2001, *Improvement to Industrial Colour Difference Equation*, Central Bureau of the CIE, Vienna, 2000, available via the website of the CIE Central Bureau (www.cie.co.at).