



Designation: E2255/E2255M – 22

Standard Practice for Conducting Visual Assessments for Lead Hazards in Buildings¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation E2255/E2255M; 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 describes procedures for conducting visual assessments in buildings to visually identify the type and location of potential lead hazards. These potential hazards are associated with deteriorated leaded paint, lead in dust, or lead in soil.

1.2 This practice addresses visual assessment procedures for lead-hazard activities such as: lead risk (hazard) assessment (Guide [E2115](#)), clearance examination (Practices [E2271/E2271M](#) and [E3074/E3074M](#)), assessment of paint condition, and re-evaluation inspection. It also can be applied to visual assessments following paint maintenance or renovation or repainting activities, or combinations thereof.

1.3 Because there is considerable overlap among the requirements for lead-hazard activities, this standard first describes a generic visual assessment procedure, and then defines a specific procedure for each assessment type in terms of additions to, or deletions from, the generic procedure.

1.4 This practice does not address testing needed to confirm the presence of lead hazards.

1.5 This practice contains notes, which are explanatory and are not part of the mandatory requirements of this standard.

1.6 The values stated in either SI units or inch-pound units are to be regarded separately as standard. The values stated in each system are not necessarily exact equivalents; therefore, to ensure conformance with the standard, each system shall be used independently of the other, and values from the two systems shall not be combined.

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

¹ This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee [D22](#) on Air Quality and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee [D22.12](#) on Sampling and Analysis of Lead for Exposure and Risk Assessment.

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1.8 *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

[D1356](#) Terminology Relating to Sampling and Analysis of Atmospheres

[E1605](#) Terminology Relating to Lead in Buildings

[E2115](#) Guide for Conducting Lead Hazard Assessments of Dwellings and of Other Child-Occupied Facilities

[E2239](#) Practice for Record Keeping and Record Preservation for Lead Hazard Activities

[E2271/E2271M](#) Practice for Clearance Examinations Following Lead Hazard Reduction Activities in Multifamily Dwellings

[E3074/E3074M](#) Practice for Clearance Examinations Following Lead Hazard Reduction Activities in Single Family Dwellings, in Individual Units of Multifamily Dwellings, and in Other Child-Occupied Facilities

3. Terminology

3.1 For definitions of terms not appearing here, refer to Terminologies [D1356](#) and [E1605](#).

3.2 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

3.2.1 *leaded dust hazard, n*—a condition that might result in adverse human health effects due to lead in surface dust.

3.2.1.1 *Discussion*—Authorities having jurisdiction may issue guidance or promulgate requirements defining the minimum mass per area content of lead in dust that is considered to constitute a hazard.

3.2.2 *leaded paint hazard, n*—a condition that might result in adverse human health effects due to lead in deteriorated

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.



paint on all building surfaces, lead in paint on chewable surfaces, impact surfaces, or dust-producing friction surfaces.

3.2.2.1 *Discussion*—Levels of lead in deteriorated paint, lead in paint on chewable surfaces, dust-producing friction surfaces, and impact surfaces that might adversely affect human health may be stated in requirements promulgated by authorities having jurisdiction.

3.2.3 *leaded soil hazard, n*—a condition that might result in adverse human health effects due to lead in bare soil.

3.2.3.1 *Discussion*—Authorities having jurisdiction may issue guidance or promulgate requirements defining the minimum amount of lead in soil by percent by mass that is considered to constitute a hazard.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 This practice supports lead poisoning prevention activities by providing standardized procedures for conducting visual assessments.

4.2 This practice is intended to be used with other ASTM standards, as appropriate, for conducting lead-hazard assessments.

4.3 This practice is intended for use by individuals trained to conduct visual assessments associated with lead-hazard activities and in reporting their results. This practice is also applicable for use by others interested in visual assessment of properties for lead hazards, such as building code officials, building operators, homeowners, and insurers.

5. Requirements for Individuals Conducting Visual Assessments

5.1 Persons conducting visual assessments need a range of expertise, including the ability to identify the type, extent, and cause of coating deterioration and component deterioration, and to determine the presence of surface dust, debris, and bare soil. Users of visual assessment services should review their credentials and experience to determine whether they are qualified to conduct the work.

5.1.1 Visual assessments conducted as part of a lead-based paint activity within the scope of regulations promulgated by authorities having jurisdiction shall be conducted by appropriately certified or licensed individuals.

6. Materials and Supplies

6.1 *Copies of Forms*, (see [Appendix X1](#)).

6.2 *Clipboard*, for holding forms.

6.3 *Pencil and Sharpener*.

6.4 *Indelible Ink Pen or Permanent Marker*.

6.5 *Flashlight*, or other self-powered portable light source, as needed, for making visual observations in low light level areas.

6.6 *Camera (optional)*, with supporting equipment needed to create photographs that can be labeled.

6.7 *Video recorder (suggested)*, for both visual and audio documentation of current property conditions.

7. Procedure for Conducting the Generic Visual Assessment

7.1 *General Visual Assessment Requirements*—The following requirements apply to the conduct of visual assessments:

7.1.1 Reporting:

7.1.1.1 Use a recording system that uniquely identifies the type and location of each hazard and each incidence of building component deterioration. At a minimum, the recording system must allow a reasonably educated person, when provided with all the records generated from a visual assessment, to determine what hazards and incidences of building component deterioration were identified and where each was found. This practice provides the individual conducting the visual assessment with the flexibility to use personal choices for some recording needs.

7.1.1.2 Examples of forms (site plans, building face sketches, floor plans, building component condition, paint/dust/debris, and grounds) for recording information are shown in [Appendix X1](#). An example of using these forms is presented in [Appendix X2](#).

7.1.1.3 Alternate forms are acceptable provided that they allow unique identification of all hazards and incidences of building component deterioration.

7.1.1.4 Information recorded on any particular form can be limited to only those areas where potential hazards are found. The example floor-plan shown in [Appendix X2](#) includes detail for the living room, dining room and porch only because potential hazards were not identified in other rooms. However, the individuals conducting visual assessments are cautioned against overly sparse records when no potential hazards are found. Lack of potential hazards found needs to be documented along with any exceptions taken during the visual assessment such as, areas not assessed due to access limitations. Lack of records may be viewed as a potential indicator that portions of the assessed area were not inspected.

7.1.1.5 Use of a camera or video recorder, or both, to photographically capture the structures and grounds included within the boundaries of the assessment area provides a means of complementing forms.

7.1.2 *Symbols and Codes*—Use of symbols and codes is not required but is recommended to reduce the effort needed to record building and grounds locations and observations of hazards and component deterioration. The symbols and codes, if used, shall be sufficiently defined to identify the items to which they refer. The codes provided in various sections of this standard, such as in [Tables 1-3](#), are exemplary; others may be used depending on the needs of the person conducting the visual assessment.

7.2 *Existing Information*—Review historic lead-hazard evaluation, hazard reduction and clearance reports and other information describing ongoing maintenance activities, and relevant building operations to identify changes from previous conditions and locations of renovation, remodeling, construction or abatement activity. Use this review to help define the boundaries of the assessment area.

7.3 *Multifamily Housing*—Units to be assessed shall be determined using appropriate statistical procedures.