



Standard Specification for Agencies Engaged in Construction Inspection, Testing, or Special Inspection¹

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This standard has been approved for use by agencies of the U.S. Department of Defense.

1. Scope*

1.1 This specification defines the minimum requirements for agencies engaged in any of the following:

- (a) Inspection of specified methods and materials used in construction,
- (b) Special Inspection, and
- (c) Testing of materials used in construction.

1.2 Criteria are provided for assessing the competence of an agency to properly perform designated inspections, tests, or Special Inspection services. This specification establishes essential characteristics pertaining to the organization, management, personnel, facilities, quality systems, responsibilities, duties, inspection and testing methods, records, and reports of the agency. This specification may be supplemented by more specific criteria and requirements, if required.

1.2.1 This specification specifically addresses factors relevant to an agency's ability to produce precise, accurate test data or determine the conformity of construction activities and materials used in construction with regulations, codes, standards, and approved project plans and specifications containing the requirements against which the inspection or test, or both, will be performed. Specific or general requirements include:

- 1.2.1.1 Facilities and management of the agency,
- 1.2.1.2 Sufficiency and technical competency of personnel,
- 1.2.1.3 Suitability, calibration, and maintenance of equipment,
- 1.2.1.4 Quality system, audit, and review,
- 1.2.1.5 Responsibilities, duties, and authority of agencies,

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee E36 on Accreditation & Certification and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee E36.70 on Agencies Performing Construction Inspection, Testing and Special Inspection.

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1.2.1.6 Validity and appropriateness of sampling, testing, and inspection methods and procedures,

1.2.1.7 Management of records,

1.2.1.8 Reporting, review, and transmission of test and inspection data or findings, and

1.2.1.9 Specific requirements for identified fields (concrete, soil, etc.).

1.3 This specification can be used as a basis to assess an agency and is intended for use in accrediting agencies, public or private, engaged in inspection, testing, and Special Inspection of construction activities and materials used in construction. These services include but are not limited to reinforced concrete, precast concrete, structural steel erection, welding, bolting, soil and rock, foundations, masonry, sprayed fire-resistive materials, fire stops, exterior insulation and finish system (EIFS), and Special Cases. Building officials can use Specification E329 to assess the competency of agencies in the fields covered by Specification E329.

1.4 A certificate of accreditation, including the scope of accreditation, is required to comply with this specification.

1.5 The users of an accredited agency must review the agency's scope of accreditation to ensure the agency has been accredited for its technical competence to perform the specific inspections or tests requested by the user.

1.6 This specification is not intended to:

- (a) circumvent or replace the agreement between the agency and the owner that should clearly define the responsibilities and authorities of the agency;
- (b) address design requirements that supersede applicable codes, laws, and regulations; or
- (c) address construction means, methods, techniques, or sequences.

1.7 *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

- C1077 Practice for Agencies Testing Concrete and Concrete Aggregates for Use in Construction and Criteria for Testing Agency Evaluation
- C1093 Practice for Accreditation of Testing Agencies for Masonry
- D3666 Specification for Minimum Requirements for Agencies Testing and Inspecting Road and Paving Materials
- D3740 Practice for Minimum Requirements for Agencies Engaged in Testing and/or Inspection of Soil and Rock as Used in Engineering Design and Construction
- E4 Practices for Force Calibration and Verification of Testing Machines
- E543 Specification for Agencies Performing Nondestructive Testing
- E605/E605M Test Methods for Thickness and Density of Sprayed Fire-Resistive Material (SFRM) Applied to Structural Members
- E736/E736M Test Method for Cohesion/Adhesion of Sprayed Fire-Resistive Materials Applied to Structural Members
- E814 Test Method for Fire Tests of Penetration Firestop Systems
- E1513/E1513M Practice for Application of Sprayed Fire-Resistive Materials (SFRMs)
- E1966 Test Method for Fire-Resistive Joint Systems
- E2174 Practice for On-Site Inspection of Installed Firestop Systems
- E2307 Test Method for Determining Fire Resistance of Perimeter Fire Barriers Using Intermediate-Scale, Multi-story Test Apparatus
- E2393 Practice for On-Site Inspection of Installed Fire Resistive Joint Systems and Perimeter Fire Barriers

2.2 AASHTO Standard:

- R18 Standard Recommended Practice for Establishing and Implementing a Quality System for Construction Materials Testing Laboratories³

2.3 ANSI/ISO/IEC Standard:⁴

- 17011 General Requirements for Accreditation Bodies Accrediting Conformity Assessment Bodies
- 17020 General Criteria for the Operation of Various Types of Bodies Performing Inspection
- 17025 General Requirements for the Competence of Calibration and Testing Laboratories

2.4 AWS Documents:⁵

- B1.11 Guide for the Visual Inspection of Welds
- D1.1 Structural Welding Code, Steel
- D1.4 Structural Welding Code—Reinforcing
- D1.5 Bridge Welding Code

2.5 SJI Documents:⁶

- Recommended Code of Standard Practice for Steel Joists and Joist Girders

2.6 Other Referenced Documents:

- 2018 International Building Code® (IBC)⁷
- UL 2079 Tests for Fire Resistance of Building Joint Systems⁸

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.1.1 *accreditation, n*—the third-party attestation of an agency's competence to perform inspection, or testing services, or both.

3.1.1.1 *accreditation body, n*—the body that administers the accreditation program and issues the certificate of accreditation.

3.1.1.2 *accreditation scope, n*—the formal statement issued by the accreditation body to the agency that describes the specific inspections, tests, or both, for which the agency has demonstrated a competency in performing and is accredited.

3.1.1.3 *Discussion*—A certificate of accreditation shall identify the agency and its location along with the accreditation body, the accreditation standard, the general field(s) of inspection or testing, effective dates, conditions and authorized signatures, seals, or combinations thereof, of the accreditation body. The certificate must be accompanied by an accreditation scope to fully describe the technical competence of the agency.

3.1.2 *agency, n*—the organization, or part thereof, authorized by the client or client's duly authorized representative to inspect, test, or both, construction activities and materials used in construction as required by the approved project plans and specifications.

3.1.2.1 *inspection agency, n*—an agency that uses technical procedures and individuals with special expertise to perform inspection activities.

3.1.2.2 *Discussion*—Agency personnel may collect and submit samples, identified with respective portions of the construction, for laboratory evaluation. The inspection agency and testing agency may be one organization or separate organizations.

3.1.2.3 *Special Inspection agency, n*—an accredited third-party inspection agency approved by the applicable building official to perform Special Inspections.

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.

³ Available from American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), 444 N. Capitol St., NW, Suite 249, Washington, DC 20001, <http://www.transportation.org>.

⁴ Available from International Organization for Standardization (ISO), 1, ch. de la Voie-Creuse, Case postale 56, CH-1211, Geneva 20, Switzerland, <http://www.iso.ch>.

⁵ Available from American Welding Society (AWS), 550 NW LeJeune Rd., Miami, FL 33126, <http://www.aws.org>.

⁶ Available from Steel Joist Institute (SJI), 3127 Mr. Joe White Ave., Myrtle Beach, SC 29577-6760, <http://www.steeljoist.org>.

⁷ Available from the International Code Council, Inc. 500 New Jersey Avenue, NW, 6th Floor, Washington, DC 20001, https://codes.iccsafe.org/content/IBC2018?site_type=public

⁸ Available from UL LLC 333 Pfingsten Rd, Northbrook, IL 60062, https://standardscatalog.ul.com/standards/en/standard_2079