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8/2013

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Appendix B – Types of Submissions

The editor may waive these restrictions to encourage papers on topics that cannot be treated within these limitations. Review papers concerned with a large topic area may be longer in order to adequately cover the topic. Justification for longer manuscripts should be provided and permission received from the Journal’s Editor.

*Tables and figures of normal size should generally be counted as 250 word equivalents each.

Technical Manuscripts (10,000 words)*
Technical manuscripts are full-length papers that significantly contribute to the technical literature and should be of interest to testing professionals and/or researchers. They must include a review of past work in the relevant area and should present information of current interest or probe new fields.

Review Papers (10,000 to 20,000 words)
Review papers provide historical context and technical development in a field of interest to ASTM International. They survey the primary sources that contribute to the current state of research on a particular topic. A review paper typically synthesizes and references key relevant papers on a selected topic and presents a coherent view of the “state of the art” as it now stands. The author of a review should demonstrate a thorough understanding of the literature and as a result formulates a useful analysis of it. While authors of review papers do not present new research, they are expected to provide a new perspective. Review papers usually incorporate some of the following elements: recent major research advances and discoveries, significant gaps in the current research, current debates, and ideas of where research might go next.

Review papers can be submitted for consideration but it is highly recommended that an abstract be discussed with the journal editor prior to full submission.

Technical Notes (3,500 words)
Technical notes are shorter than technical papers, approximately 3,500 words, and must also include a review of past work in the relevant area. Technical notes may be used to present preliminary or partial results of research, limited research results, innovative equipment or methods, and/or proposed modifications of testing standards.

Discussions (2,000 words)
Discussions present significant comments or questions about the technical content of a previously published technical paper or technical note published in a journal. They must be submitted during a 6-month period following the date of publication of the paper or note. Discussions should not simply speculate, repeat or emphasize material published elsewhere, advocate special or commercial interests, or controvert established fact. Discussions follow the requirements for other manuscripts except that they do not have abstracts, introductions, or conclusions. The Editor(s) will determine whether a discussion is appropriate for publication, and if so, will forward the discussion to the author(s) of the original paper for a Closure to be written. Be sure to include the authors’ names, paper title, journal, and paper ID number. The suggested word count is 2,000 words.

Closures (2,000 words)
Closures are written by the author(s) of an original paper or note in response to a Discussion. The author(s) addresses and clarifies issues raised in the Discussion and provides conclusions to the issues. Closures and discussions are published together and linked to the original paper online. The suggested word count is 2,000 words.

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Policies and Procedures:

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