A Note on ASTM and Committee E-10

ASTM, founded in 1898, is a 32 000 member scientific and technical organization formed for "the development of standards on characteristics and performance of materials, products, systems, and services; and the promotion of related knowledge." It is the world's largest source of voluntary consensus standards. Because the society's activites are open to the entire international community, however, additional experts contribute to the standards-writing process, resulting in an effective total participation of 80 000 individuals.

To provide an ASTM liaison function for the rapidly growing interests in the peaceful uses of atomic energy, ASTM Committee E-10 on Radioisotopes and Radiation Effects was founded in 1951. Now retitled E-10 on Nuclear Technology and Applications, the Committee's aim is to promote the advancement of nuclear science and technology and the safe application of nuclear energy in all its forms. Committee E-10 has created over 80 published standards covering a diverse range of nuclear procedures. Publication of standards follows a strict ASTM procedure which requires that the standard have the unanimous consensus of all concerned parties. Successive ballots are taken at the subcommittee, committee, and Society levels, and any negative votes or comments must be satisfactorily resolved.

Committee E-10 sponsors scientific and technical symposia and issues publications in its fields of specialization. For the past 25 years, E-10 symposia have been conducted at a rate somewhat higher than one per year. Of the great variety of nuclear subjects, the two symposia that have attained international prominence are the joint ASTM-Euratom Symposium on Reactor Dosimetry and the ASTM Symposium on the Effects of Radiation on Materials. At these symposia, speakers present formal papers that are often published as ASTM Special Technical Publications (STPs). All published papers are subjected to a stringent peer-review process.

The ultimate goal of the series of ASTM-Euratom symposia is to obtain international standardization of nuclear radiation physics and dosimetry methods with quantified uncertainty limits. Physics and dosimetry in connection with the characterization of the damaging potential of ionizing radiation has always been a focus of interest to Committee E-10. Characterizing radiation fields continues as an area of special interest today, and E-10 strongly encourages technical contributions in this area.

From the first ASTM-Euratom symposium in 1975 in Petten, The Netherlands, to the present, international interest has grown in this scientific endeavor. On behalf of ASTM Committee E-10, I wish all participants in this vital area of work continued success and a productive future.

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