



American National Standard/  
American Dental Association  
Specification No. 33

# Dental Product Standards Development Vocabulary

This is a preview of "ANSI/ADA 33-2003 (R2...)". [Click here to purchase the full version from the ANSI store.](#)

ANSI/ADA Specification No. 33 – 2003  
Reaffirmed by ANSI: September 2014

**AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARD/AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION SPECIFICATION NO. 33  
FOR DENTAL PRODUCTS STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT VOCABULARY**

The Council on Scientific Affairs of the American Dental Association has approved revised American Dental Association Specification No. 33 for Dental Products Standards Development Vocabulary. This and other specifications for dental materials, instruments and equipment are being formulated by working groups of the ADA Standards Committee on Dental Products (formerly Accredited Standards Committee MD156 for Dental Materials, Instruments and Equipment). The Committee has representation from all interests in the United States in the standardization of materials, instruments and equipment in dentistry. The Council has adopted the specifications, showing professional recognition of their usefulness in dentistry, and has forwarded them to the American National Standards Institute with a recommendation that the specifications be approved as American National Standards. The American National Standards Institute granted approval of ADA Specification No. 33 as an American National Standard on November 26, 2003. This standard becomes effective November 26, 2004.

The Council thanks the working group members, as well as the chairmen of all the working groups, and the organizations with which they were affiliated at the time the specification was developed, who reviewed and recommended terms and definitions to be included in this specification:

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**FOREWORD**

(This foreword does not form a part of the ANSI/ADA Specification No. 33 for Dental Products Standards Development Vocabulary).

The bulk of the terms and definitions (TDEs) in this revision of ANSI/ADA Specification No. 33 relate to products, procedures and testing of products used in dentistry. The tremendous effort to update and standardize the nomenclature for dental products and testing should permit the authors of the various specifications and standards to discuss their concepts and procedures so they will be understood by those who must read and interpret these documents and test the products to determine if they are suitable for the purpose intended.

About half of the terms and definitions (TDEs) in this revision are derived from previously published TDEs in ANSI/ADA Specification No. 33: 1984 for Dental terminology and in ISO 1942: 1989 for Dental vocabulary plus the Amendments and Addenda to them. Many of these old terms have been redefined in the light of increased knowledge and to provide for definitions that would define the concepts as narrowly, or as broadly, as needed for dental purposes. Other included TDEs consist of those recommended between the years of 1984-89 and before the end of 2002. Many of the terms submitted did not have accompanying definitions but Subcommittee 3 (WGs 3.24 and 3.26) thought they should be included, therefore, the terms have been defined and included in this revision. Still other TDEs were taken from definitions found in Specifications and Standards that had not yet found their way into ANSI/ADA Specification No. 33 or ISO 1942.

Early in 1999, when it was acknowledged that SC3 in itself did not have the technical expertise required to edit all of the TDEs to be considered for inclusion in the revision, SC3 WG 2 recognized that input from the Technical WGs would be necessary to arrive at realistic evaluations. Accordingly WG2 divided the accumulated TDEs into separate lists with each list consisting the TDEs judged to be of particular interest to a particular Technical WG.

In August 1999, SC3 circulated the list of TDEs to each Subcommittee (SC) Chair with a request to supervise the WGs in their Subcommittee in any manner they thought best in order to get the TDEs reviewed by the most knowledgeable persons. Simultaneously, selected TDEs were sent to the WG Chairs for which the SC Chair was responsible. The selective division was done to make it less burdensome on the SCs and WGs. For example, the TDEs were divided into smaller groups that were determined to have the most interest to that WG: WG 1.6 reviewed 11 TDEs, WG 2.13 reviewed 63, WG 6.33 reviewed 27 etc. While most WGs responded very well, some did not respond even though several follow-up notices were sent. Eight "Expert Terminology Reviewers," selected by SC3 from volunteers assigned to WGs 3.24 and 3.26 did an additional review of the TDEs.

The "Bibliography — Sources of terms and definitions" is a reference to the source of either the term or definition, or both.

**Addendum to the Foreword for this Reaffirmation:**

In 2012, the ADA Standards Committee on Dental Products approved a change in the terminology used for standards. ADA standards will no longer utilize the term Specification; standards will now be named as ADA Standards.

With this notice, this ADA Specification is now termed an ADA Standard. Where the term "specification" is used, it should be considered as "standard." It will be re-named as an ADA Standard in its next revision.

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**1. SCOPE**

The bulk of the terms and definitions (TDEs) in this revision of ANSI/ADA Specification No. 33 relate to products, procedures and testing of products used in dentistry. This effort to update and standardize the nomenclature for dental products and testing should permit the authors of the various specifications and standards to discuss their concepts and procedures so they will be understood by those who must read and interpret these documents and test the products to determine if they are suitable for the purpose intended.

**2. INTRODUCTION**

**2.1 Advice to readers of Revised ANSI/ADA Specification No. 33**

This introduction provides information needed to help readers understand purposes of the format and content of ANSI/ADA Specification No. 33. The need for provision of such information became apparent after so many questions resulted from circulation of drafts earlier proposed for revision of ANSI/ADA Specification No. 33. The several questions arose because the format for the proposed draft was so different from the first edition of ANSI/ADA Specification No. 33 and the second edition of ISO 1942, both of which served as primary references for this revision. And also because the format of those drafts was different from that observed in other published vocabularies and dental dictionaries.

Readers of this revised ANSI/ADA Specification No. 33, therefore, are encouraged to review this introduction thoroughly so as to better understand purposes of the format of this document.

**2.2 Definitions**

The following definitions which apply to this "Introductory" document are presented in an order thought to be most useful to readers of this revised ANSI/ADA Specification No. 33.

**2.3 concept**

any condition, idea, object, situation, etc. that can be imagined by the human mind, and which can be identified by a currently meaningful term, and can be defined using words or symbols or both.

**2.4 superordinate concept**

consisting of the one word in a compound term entry to which other concepts identified by other words in the entry are subordinate.

**2.3 term**

word or group of words used to identify a particular concept.

**2.4 admitted term**

term considered to be acceptable for identifying a concept in some parts of the world where a particular language is dominant, although another term is acceptable for identifying the same concept in other parts of the world when the same language is also dominant.