

## NACE “Standard” Terminology and Categories of Standards

NACE International defines *standardization* as the process of formulating and applying rules or procedures to achieve a scientific and engineering approach to a specific activity with the cooperation of all interested parties and for the benefit of all concerned.

NACE has published standards since 1969 and has been accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) as a standards developer for many years. A number of other U.S.-based standards organizations are accredited by ANSI, which is the U.S. member of ISO. A “NACE International standard” means “a standard from NACE International.”

NACE also works with ISO, sometimes adopting ISO standards, and ISO has derived standards from NACE standards. One ISO standard consists of the text of a NACE standard (by agreement).

NACE publishes three classes of standards: Standard Practice, Standard Test Method, and Standard Material Requirements. Until 2006, NACE published Standard Recommended Practices, known by the acronym “RP.” The word “recommended” was removed because of frequent misunderstandings of its meaning, and that type of standard became simply “standard practice.” All of these are *standards*; they simply have different purposes, and the extra words are used to clarify those purposes.

The definitions of the classes of NACE standard are as follows:

**Standard Practice:** Methods of selection, design, installation, or operation of a material or system when corrosion is a factor. This class of standard may provide details of construction of a corrosion-control system; methods of treating the surface of materials to reduce requirements for using corrosion-control devices; criteria for the proper operation and maintenance of a corrosion-control system; methods for the proper use of corrosion-control techniques; procedures for increasing the effectiveness, safety, and economic benefits of an installation or system; procedures for proper use of an installed corrosion-control system to prevent its deterioration; or other practices requiring a description of techniques or control parameters for a system.

**Test Method:** Tests related to corrosion prevention and control. This class of standard may give the method of conducting tests of any type to ascertain the characteristics of a material, design, or operation. TMs shall not include acceptance or performance criteria. These criteria may be covered in SPs or MRs.

**Material Requirements:** Standards that define the necessary or recommended characteristics of a material when corrosion is a factor in the selection, application, and maintenance of the material. This class of standard may include chemical composition of the material, its mechanical properties, its physical properties, material selection, and other aspects of its manufacture and application.