

The Neutral Field as a Material Relationship

MNM-P-05 • Retained influential paper

Abstract

This review examined neutral finishes that appeared consistent in sample form but varied when applied to different substrates and under different background conditions. The paper did not reject color classification; it specified the conditions under which classification remained useful.

Interpretation

Before MNM-P-05, the register commonly described a finish as an isolated surface property. The 2005 review proposed the neutral field: finish, substrate, ambient condition and adjacent field considered together. The Materials Classification Committee adopted the relationship model while retaining historical sample references. The paper's minority note is preserved in the archive. Some analysts preferred to keep material and ambient observations separate for replacement control. Current NFR practice records both and indicates the handoff.

Subsequent influence

MNM-P-05 influenced the 2010 retirement of a variable substrate class, the 2018 Ambient revision and the 2025 replacement-consistency guidance. It is cited whenever a registered neutral is evaluated outside its original substrate family.

Related publications

See NFR-04-25 , SCR-6-24 and MQT-TN-11 .