

precision

The closeness of agreement between independent test results obtained by applying the experimental procedure under stipulated conditions. The smaller the random part of the experimental errors which affect the results, the more precise the procedure. A measure of precision (or imprecision) is the *standard deviation*.

Comment:

As recognized in VIM, precision is sometimes misused for *accuracy*. This problem will be avoided if one recognizes that precision relates only to dispersion, not to deviation from the (conventional) true value. Imprecision has been defined as ‘the standard error of the reported value.’

1994, 66, 598; VIM; O.B. 6; 1990, 62, 2207; see also 1990, 62, 2174