

Technical Abbreviations

Term Abbreviation

acre-foot acre-ft
 actual cubic feet per second acfs
 air mass 1.0 AM1
 alternating current ac or AC
 ampere A
 angstrom Å
 antireflective AR
 atmosphere atm
 atomic percent at. %
 atomic weight at. wt
 atto a

bar b
 millibar mb
 barrel bbl
 base (genetics) b
 thousand bases kb
 base pairs bp
 Baume Be
 Becquerel Bq
 boiling point bp
 British thermal unit Btu
 Bushel bu

¢ cent
 calorie cal
 candela cd
 centi c
 centigram cg
 centiliter cL
 centimeter cm
 circa (about) ca
 coefficient of performance COP
 concentrated (tables only) conc
 confer (compare) cf.
 cosine cos
 coulomb C
 counts per minute cpm
 cubic centimeter cm³
 cubic feet per minute cfm or ft³/min
 cubic feet per second cfs or ft³/s

Term Abbreviation

cubic foot ft³
 cubic inch in.³
 cubic meter m³
 cubic millimeter mm³
 cubic yard cu yd or yd³
 current-voltage I-V

day d
 deca da
 deci d
 decibel dB
 degree (angular) °, deg
 degree Celsius °C
 degree Fahrenheit °F
 degree Rankine °R
 diameter (tables only) diam
 direct current dc or DC
 dollar \$
 millions of dollars (tables only) \$M
 thousands of dollars \$K
 year of dollars year \$ (1992 \$)

electromagnetic interference EMI
 electromagnetic unit EMU
 electromotive force emf
 electron volt eV
 electrostatic unit ESU
 equation(s) Eq(s).
 equivalent weight equiv. wt
 exponential exp

Farad F
 feet per minute ft/min
 feet per second ft/s
 femto f
 fill factor FF
 fiscal year 2025 FY 2025
 foot ft
 foot-pound ft-lb
 foot-second ft-s
 freezing point fp

Term Abbreviation

gallon.....	gal
gallons per day	gal/d (or gpd)
gallons per minute.....	gal/min (or gpm)
gallons per second.....	gal/s (or gps)
gallons per year	gal/yr (or gpy)
gas (in chemical formula)	g
giga	G
grains per second	gr/s
gram.....	g
gram-atom.....	g-atom
gravity (force of).....	g
gray	Gy
hectare	ha
hector.....	h
henry	H
hertz (cycles per second).....	Hz
horsepower	hp
hour.....	h
inch	in.
inches per second	in./s
inch-pound.....	in.-lb
infrared.....	IR
inside diameter	ID
(use abbreviation only in such phrases as 3-cm-ID tube)	
international unit	IU
joule.....	J
kelvin.....	K
kilo	k
kilocalorie	kcal
kilocycles per second (kilohertz)	kHz
kilogram	kg
kilograms per cubic meter.....	kg/m ³
kilograms per second	kg/s
kilometer	km
kilometers per second	km/s
kilopascal	kPa
kilovolt	kV

Term Abbreviation

kilovolt-ampere	kVA
kilowatt	kW
kilowatt-hour.....	kWh
liquid (in chemical formula)	R
liter	L
liters per minute	LPM
logarithm (common)	log
logarithm (natural)	ln
lumen.....	lm
lux	lx
maximum (tables only)	max.
mean sea level.....	msl
mega (million)	M
megacycles per second (megahertz)	MHz
megavolt.....	MV
megawatt	MW
megawatt electric	MW _e
megawatt thermal.....	MW _t
melting point	mp
meter.....	m
meter-kilogram.....	m-kg
micro	μ
microampere	μA
microliter	μL
micrometer	μm
microvolt	μV
microwatt	μW
mile.....	mi
miles per hour	mph
miles per hour per second.....	mph/s
milli	m
milliamperes	mA
milligram	mg
milligram percent.....	mg %
milliliter.....	mL
millimeter	mm
million (mega)	M
million Btu.....	MBtu*
milliradian	mrad

* 10⁶ Btu is preferred. Never use MMBtu.

Term Abbreviation

millivolt	mV
milliwatt.....	mW
minimum (tables only)	min.
minute	min
mole	mol
mole percent	mol %
molecular weight.....	mol wt
moles per liter (molar)	M
month (tables only).....	mo
nano	n
nanogram	ng
nanometer	nm
nanosecond	ns
newton	N
normal pressure and temperature.....	NPT
number	no.
oersted	oe
ohm.....	Ω
open-circuit voltage	V _{oc}
ounce	oz
ounce-foot.....	oz-ft
ounce-inch	oz-in.
outside diameter (see inside diameter).....	OD
page(s).....	p(p).
parts per billion	ppb
parts per million	ppm
parts per trillion.....	ppt
pascal.....	Pa
peak watt.....	W _p
per	/
percent.....	%
peta	P
pico	p
pound.....	lb
pound-foot	lb-ft
pound-inch	lb-in
pounds per square foot	lb/ft ²

Term Abbreviation

pounds per square inch absolute.....	psia
pounds per square inch gauge	psig
pounds per square inch.....	psi
public law	P.L.
radian.....	rad
revolutions per minute	rpm
revolutions per second	rps
root mean square	RMS
rotor diameter	<i>D</i>
second (time)	s
Section (laws)	§
short-circuit current	L _{sc}
siemens.....	S
sievert	Sv
sine	sin
solid (in chemical formula).....	s
species (pl.).....	spp.
species (sing.)	sp.
specific heat.....	C _p
square centimeter	cm ²
square foot.....	ft ²
square inch	in. ²
square kilometer	km ²
square meter.....	m ²
square millimeter	mm ²
standard (tables only)	std.
standard cubic foot.....	scf
standard temperature and pressure.....	STP
steradian	sr
tangent.....	tan
temperature (tables only)	temp.
tera	T
tesla	T
thousand (kilo)	k
thousand (used with money only).....	K
metric ton (tonne) (10 ³ kg)	t [†]
short ton (2,000 lb)	tn
torr	Torr

[†] Clarify whether a ton is short, long, or metric.
Avoid using the abbreviation.

Term Abbreviation

unit U

variety var.

versus (tables only) vs.

videlicet (namely) viz.

volt V

volume per volume v/v

volume percent vol %

watt W

(peak) watt W_p

Term Abbreviation

watt electric W_e

watt-hour Wh

watt thermal W_t

weber Wb

weight wt

weight percent wt %

weight per weight w/w

yard yd

year yr