APPENDIX III

Standard Scientific Abbreviations and Acronyms

Usually standard abbreviations follow a number (e.g. 10 kg or 5 m). An exception is species, which does not follow a number. A period is not used after the abbreviations (see exceptions below). Abbreviations are the same in the singular and the plural, except for species.

An acronym is a combination of letters formed from the initial letter(s) of each of the major parts of a compound term (e.g. DNA, HPLC). They are usually written entirely in capital letters and without a period.

Given below are a selection of the commonly encountered abbreviations and acronyms.

ampere	A
approximately	ca.
atomic absorption spectroscopy	AAS
biochemical oxygen demand	BOD
b.p.., bp	boiling point
byte	B
calorie	cal
candela	cd
centimeter	cm
chemical oxygen demand	COD
counts per minute	cpm
Curie	Ci
cycles per second	cps
degree Celsius	°C
day	d
decibel	dB or db
EDTA	ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid
GC	gas chromatography
GLC	gas liquid chromatography
gigabyte	GB
gram	g
hertz	Hz
hour	h
HPLC	high performance (or pressure) liquid chromatography

Kelvin	K
kilobase	kb
Kilobyte	kB
kilocalorie	kcal
kilogram	kg
kilohertz	kHz
kilometer	km
LC_{50}	lethal concentration (at 50% level)
LD_{50}	lethal dose (at 50% level)
liter	l
logarithm (base 10)	log
logarithm (base e)	ln
megabyte	MB
megahertz	MHz
meter	m
microgram	μg
microliter	μl
micrometer	μm
micron	μm
milliampere	mA
millicurie	mCi
milligram	mg
milliliter	ml
millimeter	mm
millimole	mmol
milirad	mR
millisecond	ms or msec
minute	min
molar, moles/litre	M
mole	mol
molecular weight	mol wt or MW
month	mo
nanogram	ng
nanometer	nm
number	no.
parts per billion	ppb
parts per million	ppm
picogram	pg

pounds per square inch	psi
rad	R
radian	rad
revolutions per minute	rpm
second	s
species (singular)	sp. (does not need to follow a number)
species (plural)	spp. (does not need to follow a number)
specific gravity	sp.gr.
standard atmosphere	atm
standard deviation	SD
TLC	Thin Layer Chromatography
unit	U
volts	V
volume	vol
volume per volume	v/v volume of solute divided by volume of solution, expressed as percent
watt	W
week	wk
weight	wt
weight per volume	w/v mass of solute divided by volume of solution, generally expressed as g/100 mL)
weight per weight	w/w mass of solute divided by mass of solution, expressed as percent
x-ray diffraction	XRD
x-ray fluorescence	XRF
year	y or yr

INDEX