

### **1.3 Tables of physico-chemical quantities**

The following tables contain the internationally recommended names and symbols for the physical and physico-chemical quantities most likely to be used by analytical chemists.

Although authors are free to choose any symbols they wish for the quantities they discuss, provided that they define their notation, it is clearly an aid to scientific communication if we all generally follow a standard notation. The symbols below have been chosen to conform with current usage and to minimize conflict so far as possible. Small variations from the recommended symbols may often be desirable in particular situations, perhaps by adding or modifying subscripts and/or superscripts, or by the alternative use of upper or lower case. Within a limited subject area it may also be possible to simplify notation, for example by omitting qualifying subscripts or superscripts, without introducing ambiguity. The notation adopted should in any case always be defined. Major deviations from the recommended symbols should be particularly carefully defined.

The tables are arranged by subject. The five columns in each table give the name of the quantity, the recommended symbol(s), a brief definition, the symbol for the coherent SI unit (without multiple or submultiple prefixes), and footnote references. When two or more symbols are recommended, commas are used to separate symbols that are equally acceptable, and symbols of second choice are put in parentheses. A semicolon is used to separate symbols of slightly different quantities. The definitions are given primarily for identification purposes and are not necessarily complete; they should be regarded as useful relations rather than formal definitions. For dimensionless quantities a 1 is entered in the SI unit column.