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Standard Test Method for Density of Hydraulic Cement[1]

This standard is issued under the fixed designation C 188; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

This standard has been approved for use by agencies of the Department of Defense.

1. Scope

1.1 This test method covers the determination of the density of hydraulic cement. Its particular usefulness is in connection with the design and control of concrete mixtures.

1.2 The density of hydraulic cement is defined as the mass of a unit volume of the solids.

1.3 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as the standard.

1.4 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*

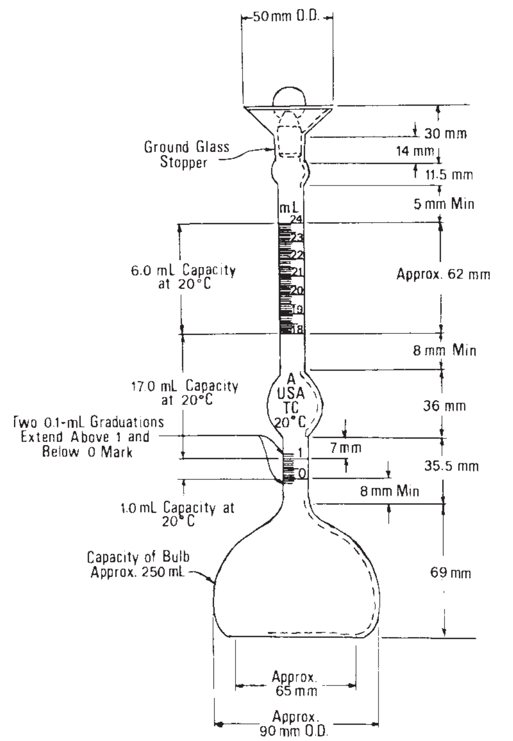
C 114 Test Methods for Chemical Analysis of Hydraulic Cement[2]

C 670 Practice for Preparing Precision and Bias Statements for Test Methods for Construction Materials[3]

3. Apparatus

3.1 *Le Chatelier flask*—The standard flask, which is circular in cross section, with shape and dimensions conforming essentially to Fig. 1 (Note 1). The requirements in regard to tolerance, inscription and length, spacing, and uniformity of graduation will be rigidly observed. There shall be a space of at least 10 mm between the highest graduation mark and the lowest point of grinding for the glass stopper.

3.1.1 The material of construction shall be excellent quality glass, transparent and free of striae. The glass shall be chemically resistant and shall have small thermal hysteresis. The flasks shall be thoroughly annealed before being graduated. They shall be of sufficient thickness to ensure reasonable resistance to breakage.



NOTE—Variations of a few millimetres in such dimensions as total height of flask, diameter of base, and so forth, are to be expected and will not be considered sufficient cause for rejection. The dimensions of the flask shown in Fig. 1 apply only to new flasks and not to flasks in use which meet the other requirements of this test method.

FIG. 1 Le Chatelier Flask for Density Test

3.1.2 The neck shall be graduated from 0 to 1 mL and from 18 to 24 mL in 0.1-mL graduations. The error of any indicated capacity shall not be greater than 0.05 mL.

3.1.3 Each flask shall bear a permanent identification number and the stopper, if not interchangeably ground, shall bear the same number. Interchangeable ground-glass parts shall be marked on both members with the standard-taper symbol, followed by the size designation. The standard temperature shall be indicated, and the unit of capacity shall be shown by the letters “mL” placed above the highest graduation mark.

[1] This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee C01 on Cement, and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee C01.25 on Fineness.

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[2] *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 04.01.

[3] *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 04.02.

3.2 Kerosine, free of water, or naphtha, having a density greater than 0.73 g/mL at 23 ± 2° C shall be used in the density determination.

3.3 The use of alternative equipment or methods for determining density is permitted provided that a single operator can obtain results within ± 0.03 Mg/m^3 of the results obtained using the flask method.

NOTE 1—The design is intended to ensure complete drainage of the flask when emptied, and stability of standing on a level surface, as well as accuracy and precision of reading.

4. Procedure

4.1 Determine the density of cement on the material as received, unless otherwise specified. If the density determination on a loss-free sample is required, first ignite the sample as described in the test for loss on ignition in section 16.1 on Portland Cement of Test Methods C 114.

4.2 Fill the flask (Note 2) with either of the liquids specified in 3.2 to a point on the stem between the 0 and the 1-mL mark. Dry the inside of the flask above the level of the liquid, if necessary, after pouring. Record the first reading after the flask has been immersed in the water bath (Note 3) in accordance with 4.4.

NOTE 2—It is advisable to use a rubber pad on the table top when filling or rolling the flask.

NOTE 3—Before the cement has been added to the flask, a loose-fitting, lead-ring weight around the stem of the flask will be helpful in holding the flask in an upright position in the water bath, or the flask may be held in the water bath by a buret clamp.

4.3 Introduce a quantity of cement, weighed to the nearest 0.05 g, (about 64 g for portland cement) in small increments at the same temperature as the liquid (Note 2). Take care to avoid splashing and see that the cement does not adhere to the inside of the flask above the liquid. A vibrating apparatus may be used to accelerate the introduction of the cement into the flask and to prevent the cement from sticking to the neck. After all the cement has been introduced, place the stopper in the flask and roll the flask in an inclined position (Note 2), or gently whirl it in a horizontal circle, so as to free the cement from air until no further air bubbles rise to the surface of the liquid. If a proper amount of cement has been added, the level of the liquid will be in its final position at some point of the upper series of graduations. Take the final reading after the flask has been immersed in the water bath in accordance with 4.4.

4.4 Immerse the flask in a constant-temperature water bath for sufficient periods of time in order to avoid flask temperature variations greater than 0.2°C between the initial and the final readings.

5. Calculation

5.1 The difference between the first and the final readings represents the volume of liquid displaced by the mass of cement used in the test.

5.2 Calculate the cement density, ρ, as follows:

$$\rho(Mg/m^3) = \rho(g/cm^3) = \text{mass of cement, g/displaced volume, cm}^3$$

NOTE 4—The displaced volume in millilitres is numerically equal to the displaced volume in cubic centimetres.

NOTE 5—Density in megagrams per cubic metre (Mg/m^3) is numerically equal to grams per cubic centimetre (g/cm^3). Calculate the cement density, ρ, to three decimal places and round to the nearest 0.01 Mg/m^3.

NOTE 6—In connection with proportioning and control of concrete mixtures, density may be more usefully expressed as specific gravity, the latter being a dimensionless number. Calculate the specific gravity as follows: Sp gr = cement density/water density at 4°C (at 4°C the density of water is 1 Mg/m^3($1g/cm^3$)).

6. Precision and Bias

6.1 The single-operator standard deviation for portland cements has been found to be 0.012.[4] Therefore, the results of two properly conducted tests by the same operator on the same material should not differ by more than 0.03.

6.2 The multilaboratory standard deviation for portland cements has been found to be 0.037.[4] Therefore, the results of two properly conducted tests from two different laboratories on samples of the same cement should not differ by more than 0.10.[4]

6.3 Since there is no accepted reference material suitable for determining any bias that might be associated with this test method, no statement on bias is being made.

7. Keywords

7.1 density; hydraulic cement; specific gravity

[4] These numbers represent the 1s and d2s limits described in Practice C 670.

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