



Standard Test Method for Organic Impurities in Fine Aggregates for Concrete¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation C40/C40M; 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 U.S. Department of Defense.

1. Scope

1.1 This test method covers two procedures for an approximate determination of the presence of injurious organic impurities in fine aggregates that are to be used in hydraulic cement mortar or concrete. One procedure uses a standard color solution and the other uses a glass color standard.

1.2 The values stated in either SI units or inch-pound units are to be regarded separately as standard. The values stated in each system may not be exact equivalents; therefore, each system shall be used independently of the other. Combining values from the two systems may result in non-conformance with the standard.

1.3 *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:*²

[C33/C33M](#) Specification for Concrete Aggregates

[C87/C87M](#) Test Method for Effect of Organic Impurities in Fine Aggregate on Strength of Mortar

[C125](#) Terminology Relating to Concrete and Concrete Aggregates

[C702/C702M](#) Practice for Reducing Samples of Aggregate to Testing Size

[D75/D75M](#) Practice for Sampling Aggregates

[D1544](#) Test Method for Color of Transparent Liquids (Gardner Color Scale)

3. Terminology

3.1 For definitions of terms used in this test method, refer to Terminology [C125](#).

4. Significance and Use

4.1 This test method is used in making a preliminary determination of the acceptability of fine aggregates with respect to the requirements of Specification [C33/C33M](#) that relate to organic impurities.

4.2 The principal value of this test method is to furnish a warning that injurious amounts of organic impurities may be present. When a sample subjected to this test produces a color darker than the standard color it is advisable to perform the test for the effect of organic impurities on the strength of mortar in accordance with Test Method [C87/C87M](#).

5. Apparatus

5.1 *Bottles*—Colorless glass or plastic graduated bottles, approximately 240 to 470-mL [8 to 16-oz] nominal capacity, equipped with watertight stoppers or caps, not soluble in the specified reagents. In no case shall the maximum outside thickness of the

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee [C09](#) on Concrete and Concrete Aggregates and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee [C09.20](#) on Normal Weight Aggregates.

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² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, [www.astm.org](#), or contact ASTM Customer Service at [service@astm.org](#). For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.