



Designation: **C1038/C1038M – 14b** C1038/C1038M – 19

Standard Test Method for Expansion of Hydraulic Cement Mortar Bars Stored in Water¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation C1038/C1038M; 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.

1. Scope*

1.1 This test method covers the determination of the expansion of mortar bars made using hydraulic cement, of which sulfate is an integral part.

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, health, and environmental practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use. (Warning—Fresh hydraulic cementitious mixtures are caustic and may cause chemical burns to skin and tissue upon prolonged exposure.²)*

1.4 *This international standard was developed in accordance with internationally recognized principles on standardization established in the Decision on Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations issued by the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*³

[C109/C109M Test Method for Compressive Strength of Hydraulic Cement Mortars \(Using 2-in. or \[50-mm\] Cube Specimens\)](#)

[C114 Test Methods for Chemical Analysis of Hydraulic Cement](#)

[C219 Terminology Relating to Hydraulic and Other Inorganic Cements](#)

[C305 Practice for Mechanical Mixing of Hydraulic Cement Pastes and Mortars of Plastic Consistency](#)

[C490 Practice for Use of Apparatus for the Determination of Length Change of Hardened Cement Paste, Mortar, and Concrete](#)

[C511 Specification for Mixing Rooms, Moist Cabinets, Moist Rooms, and Water Storage Tanks Used in the Testing of Hydraulic Cements and Concretes](#)

[C778 Specification for Standard Sand](#)

[C1005 Specification for Reference Masses and Devices for Determining Mass and Volume for Use in the Physical Testing of Hydraulic Cements](#)

[C1437 Test Method for Flow of Hydraulic Cement Mortar](#)

~~[D1193 Specification for Reagent Water](#)~~

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions:*

3.1.1 See Terminology [C219](#).

4. Significance and Use

4.1 This test method is used to determine the amount of expansion of a mortar bar when it is stored in water. The amount of mortar-bar expansion may relate to the amount of sulfate in the cement; expansion may become excessive when the cement contains too much sulfate.

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee C01 on Cement and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee C01.28 on Sulfate Content. Current edition approved Oct. 1, 2014/Dec. 15, 2019. Published October 2014/January 2020. Originally approved in 1985. Last previous edition approved in 2014 as C1038/C1038M – 14a/C1038/C1038M – 14b. DOI: 10.1520/C1038_C1038M-14B-10.1520/C1038_C1038M-19.

² Section on Safety, *Manual of Cement Testing, Annual Book of Standards*, Vol. 04.01.

³ 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.

*A Summary of Changes section appears at the end of this standard



4.2 Some cement specifications limit the amount of sulfate contained in hydraulic cement by requiring that the amount of expansion in water not exceed a specified value.

5. Apparatus

5.1 *Reference Masses and Mass-Determining Devices*, conforming to the requirements of Specification C1005. Evaluate the device for precision and bias at a total load of 2 kg.

5.2 *Glass Graduates, Molds, and Length Comparator*, conforming to the requirements of Specification C490.

5.3 *Moist Cabinet or Room*, conforming to the requirements of Specification C511.

5.4 *Mixer, Bowl, and Paddle*, conforming to the requirements of Practice C305.

5.5 *Trowel and Tamper*, conforming to the requirements of Test Method C109/C109M.

6. Temperature and Relative Humidity

6.1 *Molding Room, Dry Materials, and Mixing Water*—Maintain the temperature of the molding room, dry materials, and mixing water at $23.0 \pm 4.0^{\circ}\text{C}$ [$73.5 \pm 7.0^{\circ}\text{F}$], and maintain the relative humidity of the molding room at not less than 50 %.

7. Reagents and Materials

7.1 *Mixing Water*—Potable water is satisfactory for routine tests. For all cooperative tests and in case of dispute, use reagent water conforming to the numerical limits of Type III of Specification as defined in Test Methods D1193/C1114.

7.2 *Graded Sand*—Sand for making the test specimens shall conform to the requirements for graded standard sand in Specification C778.

8. Procedure

8.1 *Number and Dimensions of Test Specimens*—Make four 25 by 25 by 285-mm [1 by 1 by 11¼-in.] test specimens for each cement. The effective gauge length of these specimens is 250 mm [10 in.].

NOTE 1—In routine tests, 25 by 25 by 160-mm [1 by 1 by 6¼-in.] specimens may be used; however, in case of dispute, results obtained with 25 by 25 by 285-mm [1 by 1 by 11¼-in.] specimens shall govern. The effective gauge length of this specimen is 125 mm [5 in.].

8.2 *Specimen Molds*—Prepare the specimen molds in accordance with the requirements of Specification C490, except cover the interior surfaces of the mold with a release agent. A release agent will be acceptable if it serves as a parting agent without affecting the setting of the cement and without leaving any residue which will reduce the penetration of water into the specimen.

NOTE 2—TFE-fluorocarbon tape complies with the requirements for a mold release agent.

8.3 *Proportioning, Consistency, and Mixing of Mortar*:

8.3.1 The quantity of dry materials required to prepare four 25 by 25 by 285-mm [1 by 1 by 11¼-in.] specimens is 500 g of cement and 1375 g of graded sand. Use a water-cement ratio of 0.485 for all portland cements and 0.460 for all air-entraining portland cements. The amount of mixing water for other than portland and air-entraining portland cements shall be such as to produce a flow of 110 ± 5 as determined by the flow table after 25 drops in 15 s as described in Test Method C1437. Record the amount of water used to the nearest millilitre.

8.3.2 Mix the mortar in accordance with the procedure described in Practice C305.

8.4 *Molding Test Specimens*—Immediately upon completion of mixing, remove the paddle and the bowl from the mixer and shake the excess mortar from the paddle into the bowl. Fill the mold in two layers, compacting each layer with the tamper. Work the mortar into the corners, around the gauge studs, and along the surfaces of the mold with the tamper until a homogeneous specimen is obtained. After the top layer has been compacted, cut the mortar off flush with the top of the mold and smooth the surface with a few strokes of the trowel.

9. Storage of Test Specimens

9.1 *Initial Storage*—Immediately upon completion of molding, place the test specimens in the moist cabinet or moist room. Keep all test specimens in the molds in the moist cabinet or moist room for 22.5 ± 0.5 h with upper surfaces exposed to the moist air but protected from dripping water. After this time, remove the specimens from the molds, properly identify, and place in water or saturated lime water maintained at $23.0 \pm 2.0^{\circ}\text{C}$ [$73.5 \pm 3.5^{\circ}\text{F}$] for at least 30 min prior to making the initial measurement.

9.2 *Subsequent Storage*—After the initial measurement, store the test specimens in saturated lime water in a tank in the moist cabinet or moist room. Cover the specimens with at least 5-mm [¼-in.] of water during storage. Keep the storage water clean by changing as necessary. Use a tank and lime water conforming to the requirements of Specification C511.