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# Standard Guide for Elements of a Complete Data Set for Non-Cohesive Sediments<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D5387; 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 ( $\epsilon$ ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

## 1. Scope

1.1 This guide covers criteria for a complete sediment data set.

1.2 This guide provides guidelines for the collection of non-cohesive sediment alluvial data.

1.3 This guide describes what parameters should be measured and stored to obtain a complete sediment and hydraulic data set that could be used to compute sediment transport using any prominently known sediment-transport equations.

1.4 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as standard. No other units of measurement are included in this standard.

1.5 *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.*

1.6 *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:*<sup>2</sup>

[D1129 Terminology Relating to Water](#)

[D4410 Terminology for Fluvial Sediment](#)

[D4411 Guide for Sampling Fluvial Sediment in Motion](#)

[D4822 Guide for Selection of Methods of Particle Size Analysis of Fluvial Sediments \(Manual Methods\)](#)

<sup>1</sup> This guide is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D19 on Water and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D19.07 on Sediments, Geomorphology, and Open-Channel Flow.

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

[D4823 Guide for Core Sampling Submerged, Unconsolidated Sediments](#)

## 3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions:*

3.1.1 For definitions of terms used in this standard, refer to Terminologies [D1129](#) and [D4410](#).

3.2 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

3.2.1 *diameter, intermediate axis, n*—the diameter of a sediment particle determined by direct measurement of the axis normal to a plane containing the longest and shortest axes.

3.2.2 *diameter, nominal, n*—the diameter of a sphere of the same volume as the given particle (**1**).<sup>3</sup>

3.2.3 *diameter, sieve, n*—the size of sieve opening through which a given particle of sediment will just pass.

3.2.4  $D_x, n$ —the diameter of the sediment particle that has  $x$  percent of the sample less than this size (diameter is determined by method of analysis; that is, sedimentation, size, nominal, etc.).

3.2.4.1 *Discussion*—Example:  $D_{45}$  is the diameter that has 45 % of the particles that have diameters finer than the specified diameter. The percent may be by mass, volume, or numbers and is determined from a particle size distribution analysis.

## 4. Summary of Guide

4.1 This guide establishes criteria for a complete sediment data set and provides guidelines for the collection of data about non-cohesive sediments.

## 5. Significance and Use

5.1 This guide describes what parameters should be measured and stored to obtain a complete sediment and hydraulic data set that could be used to compute sediment transport using any prominently known sediment-transport equations.

5.2 The criteria will address only the collection of data on noncohesive sediment. A noncohesive sediment is one that consists of discrete particles and whose movement depends on

<sup>3</sup> The boldface numbers in parentheses refer to a list of references at the end of this standard.

the particular properties of the particles themselves (1). These properties can include particle size, shape, density, and position on the streambed with respect to other particles. Generally, sand, gravel, cobbles, and boulders are considered to be noncohesive sediments.

## 6. Procedure

6.1 Parameters discussed here are divided into three major categories: sediment, hydraulic, and others. Within each of these categories there is a listing of the minimum parameters that should be collected or analyzed for and some additional parameters that, although are not critical, would add significant information to the data set if recorded.

### 6.2 Sediment Parameters (Minimal):

6.2.1 There are give basic sediment parameters that must be collected in order to have a complete data set. They are: concentration, bedload, bed material, particle-size distribution, and specific gravity.

6.2.1.1 *Concentration*—Report concentration of suspended-sediment or total-sediment samples in milligrams per litre (mg/L) or in parts per million (ppm). Collect these samples in such a way that they represent either the point, vertical, or cross section sampled. Follow sampling guides set forth in Guide D4411 or in Ref (2) when collecting suspended-sediment or total-load samples.

6.2.1.2 *Bedload*—Report discharge of bedload in megagrams per day (Mg/d) or some other form of mass per time unit. The procedures for the collection of bedload samples, both in a flume and in the field, have not been standardized as well as those for suspended sediment. This is in part because the sampler development has not achieved the state of uniformity that the suspended-sediment samplers have and because not enough is currently known about bedload transport in open channels to accurately define a protocol for data collection. However, the procedure outlined in Ref (2) appears to be a reasonable approach to the problem and gives the state of knowledge and equipment at the present time.

6.2.1.3 *Bed Material*—Because the bed material is the primary source of noncohesive sediments, collect detailed samples. Most field bed-material sampling programs have been restricted to sampling sand-bed streams because of the overall lack of knowledge and the practical problems associated with sampling gravel-bed streams (3). References (2) and (3), as well as Guide D4823, present several methods for collection of bed-material samples from gravel-bed streams. Also, some of the equipment and procedures given in Ref (2) and Guide D4823 can be used to collect samples from sand bed streams.

6.2.1.4 *Particle-Size Distribution*—Record the particle-size distribution in percent finer than a given diameter size. The most generally used size grading system for sediment work in the United States is the grade scale proposed by the Subcommittee on Sediment Terminology of the American Geophysical Union (AGU), which is an extension of the Wentworth scale (1). Determine as an absolute minimum the percent finer than and greater than 0.062 mm. Ideally, determine all applicable breaks given on the AGU scale (1). Determine particle size either as a physical size (sieve) or as a sedimentation (fall) diameter. Whichever method is used, record the method of

determination. Guide D4822 presents a way to help choose which method might work best given the particle sizes to be sampled and the units of the distribution desired. Several of the more common particle-size analysis methods are given in Ref (4).

6.2.1.5 Preform particle-size distribution analysis on suspended-sediment, total-load, bedload, and bed-material samples. Results should indicate whether the diameters determined are sieve, fall, intermediate axis, or nominal diameters, and whether they are percent finer than by mass, volume, or number of particles.

6.2.1.6 Record the method or specific piece of equipment, or both, used to determine particle-size distribution.

6.2.1.7 *Specific Gravity*—The specific gravity of a particle effects to how the particle reacts in the flow. Most of the time the specific gravity is assumed to be 2.65. Although this is true most of the time, Brownlie (5) points out that about half of J. J. Franco's data has a specific gravity of 1.30 and that the following data sets have these ranges in specific gravity: Pang-Yung Ho, 2.45 to 2.70; C. R. Neill, 1.36 to 2.59; and U.S. Waterways Experiment Station, 1936c, 1.03 to 1.85.

### 6.3 Sediment Parameters (Additional):

6.3.1 The following parameters are considered to be ones that are not absolutely necessary for a complete data set but would give significant additional information and clarification to the data.

6.3.1.1 *Specific Diameters*—Calculated diameters such as  $D_{16}$ ,  $D_{35}$ ,  $D_{50}$ ,  $D_{65}$ ,  $D_{84}$ , and  $D_{90}$  are quite often used in sediment transport equations. Having these computed diameter sizes stored in the data bases will allow everyone using the data in the future to use the same values for these percentiles, thus avoiding some additional sources of errors when comparing their results to the original developer's results. Store diameters in millimetres and give the type, that is, fall, sieve, etc.

6.3.1.2 *Method of Collection*—Document how the samples were collected. It is often very important to know if the samples were collected from single vertical or multiverticals, surface dipped, or point samples. This not only is important for suspended-sediment and total-load samples, but also is important for bedload and bed-material samples. If multiple verticals are used to collect the sample, note the number of verticals used and some general description of their placement in the cross section. If the sample is collected from a single point or vertical, identify the collection point.

6.3.1.3 *Sampler*—Record the type of sampler and nozzle size. The US-D, US-DH, and US-P series samplers (1) are depth integrating and point integrating samplers that collect samples of the water sediment mixture isokinetically. This ensures the proper concentration of sand is sampled from the stream. When collecting bedload samples, in addition to the sampler type and nozzle size, record the bag mesh opening size and nozzle flare if appropriate for the sampler being used.

### 6.4 Hydraulic Parameters (Minimal):

6.4.1 There are four major hydraulic parameters that should be collected to provide a complete sediment-transport data set. They are water discharge, width, depth, and slope.

6.4.1.1 *Discharge, Water*—The amount or rate of water flowing past the sampling point or cross section at the time of