



Designation: C807 – 21

Standard Test Method for Time of Setting of Hydraulic Cement Mortar by Modified Vicat Needle¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation C807; 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 time of setting of hydraulic cement mortar by means of the modified Vicat needle.

1.2 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as standard. No other units of measurement are included in this 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 The text of this standard references notes and footnotes which provide explanatory material. These notes and footnotes (excluding those in tables and figures) shall not be considered as requirements of the standard.

1.5 *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)

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee C01 on Cement and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee C01.30 on Time of Set.

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² See the section on Safety, Manual of Cement Testing, *Annual Book of ASTM 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.

- [C183/C183M Practice for Sampling and the Amount of Testing of Hydraulic Cement](#)
- [C187 Test Method for Amount of Water Required for Normal Consistency of Hydraulic Cement Paste](#)
- [C219 Terminology Relating to Hydraulic and Other Inorganic Cements](#)
- [C305 Practice for Mechanical Mixing of Hydraulic Cement Pastes and Mortars of Plastic Consistency](#)
- [C511 Specification for Mixing Rooms, Moist Cabinets, Moist Rooms, and Water Storage Tanks Used in the Testing of Hydraulic Cements and Concretes](#)
- [C670 Practice for Preparing Precision and Bias Statements for Test Methods for Construction Materials](#)
- [C778 Specification for Standard Sand](#)
- [C845/C845M Specification for Expansive Hydraulic Cement](#)
- [C1005 Specification for Reference Masses and Devices for Determining Mass and Volume for Use in Physical Testing of Hydraulic Cements](#)

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions:*

3.1.1 For definitions of terms used in this test method, refer to Terminology **C219**.

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 A mortar is prepared with the cement to be tested, using stipulated quantities of cement and water, and sufficient standard sand to produce a required consistency as determined by a stipulated penetration using the plunger of the modified Vicat apparatus. Mortar of the proper consistency is then tested for time of setting, using the needle of the modified Vicat apparatus for the determination of a stipulated penetration. The time required to obtain the stipulated penetration of the modified Vicat needle is the time of setting.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 The purpose of this test method is to establish whether or not a cement complies with a specification limit on time of setting. It has been found to be particularly applicable for the determination of the setting time of expansive cements (see Specification **C845/C845M**).

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

6. Apparatus

6.1 *Tamper and Trowel*, conforming to the requirements of Test Method **C109/C109M**. In addition, the edges of the trowel when placed on a plane surface shall not depart from straightness by more than 1 mm.

6.2 *Vicat Apparatus*, conforming to the requirements of Test Method **C187**, with the following modifications:

6.2.1 For consistency determination, the plunger end of the movable rod shall be 17.5 ± 0.5 mm in diameter instead of 10 mm, and the total mass of the movable rod (including the 17.5 mm plunger) shall be 400 ± 0.5 g.

6.2.2 For time of setting determination, a 2 ± 0.05 mm stainless steel needle shall be substituted for the 1 mm needle. The total mass of the movable rod with the 2 mm needle shall be 300 ± 0.5 g.

6.3 *Mold for Consistency and Setting Time*—A smooth cylindrical brass ring 76 ± 0.5 mm inside diameter (3-in. brass tubing) by 40 ± 1 mm deep, cemented to a plane, non-absorptive plate, or smooth cylindrical brass cups having the above dimensions.

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

6.5 *Glass Graduates*, conforming to the requirements of Specification **C1005**.

6.6 *Masses and Mass Determining Devices*, conforming to the requirements of Specification **C1005**. The devices for determining mass shall be evaluated for continuing precise performance utilizing the procedure in Specification **C1005**, Appendix X1, using a verification check mass of approximately 1000 g.

7. Reagents and Materials

7.1 *Graded Standard Sand*, conforming to the requirements of Specification **C778**.

7.2 *Mixing Water*—Potable water is satisfactory for routine tests. Use reagent water for all referee and cooperative tests.

8. Sampling

8.1 When the test is part of acceptance testing, sample the cement in accordance with Practice **C183/C183M**.

9. Conditioning

9.1 Maintain the temperature and humidity of the mixing room and the temperature of the mixing water in accordance with Specification **C511**.

9.2 The mixing apparatus and dry materials shall be within the temperature range of the mixing room prior to testing.

9.3 Maintain the moist cabinet or moist room in accordance with Specification **C511**.

10. Procedure

10.1 *Preparation of Mortar:*

10.1.1 Mix 750 g of cement, 375 mL of water, and the quantity of graded standard sand required to give the consistency specified below under “Test for Consistency” in accordance with the mortar mixing procedure described in Practice **C305**.

10.1.2 Upon completion of mixing, place a layer of mortar about 20 mm in thickness in the mold and puddle with the tamper. Hold the tamper with the 25 mm side parallel to the radius of the mold for 14 strokes spaced equally around the outside of the mold. Apply an additional four strokes to the center of the specimen with the longitudinal axis of the tamper at the center of the mold and rotate the tamper 45° between each stroke. Then fill the mold to overflowing with mortar and puddle as specified for the first layer. Cut off the mortar to a plane surface flush with the top of the mold in two operations. First, with the trowel held at about a 20° angle, start at one side of the mold, 10 mm above the mold, and finish the stroke by cutting the mortar off the top of the mold at the opposite side. Second, starting from the opposite direction, cut the mortar flush with the top of the mold by drawing the straight edge of the trowel (held nearly perpendicular to the mold) with a sawing motion across the top of the mold.

10.2 *Test for Consistency*—Center the mortar confined in the mold under the movable rod of the modified Vicat apparatus described above. Bring the plunger in contact with the surface of the mortar and tighten the setscrew. Then set the movable indicator to the upper zero mark on the scale, or take an initial reading, and release the rod 35 to 50 s after starting to fill the mold. The mortar shall have the desired consistency when the rod settles to a point 20 ± 4 mm below the original surface 30 s after being released. Cover the bowl containing the remainder of the mortar with the lid while the consistency test is being made. Make trial mortars with varying percentages of standard sand until the desired consistency is obtained.

10.3 *Test for Time of Setting*—Mix the mortar remaining in the bowl at medium speed (285 ± 10 rpm) for 30 s after it has been found that the mortar has the proper consistency. Following the completion of the mixing, mold the test specimen as specified above. Immediately after molding, place the test specimen in the moist closet or moist room where it shall remain except when penetration tests are being made. Allow the time of setting specimen to remain in the moist closet or moist room for 30 min without being disturbed. Then, using the modified Vicat apparatus described above, bring the needle in contact with the surface of the mortar and tighten the setscrew. Set the movable indicator to the upper zero mark on the scale, or take an initial reading. Release the rod quickly by releasing the setscrew, and allow the needle to settle for 30 s. Determine the penetration of the needle at this time and every 30 min thereafter until the needle fails to penetrate to the bottom of the mold. Then, take penetration tests every 10 min until a penetration of 10 mm or less is obtained. Perform no penetration test closer than 10 mm from any previous penetration test or from the inside edge of the mold. Record the results of all penetration tests, and, by interpolation, determine the time when a penetration of 10 mm is obtained. The difference, in minutes, between the time of contact of cement and water in the mortar mixing procedure and the time a penetration of 10 mm is obtained is the time of setting.