



**SLOVENSKI STANDARD**  
**SIST EN 196-3:2005**

01-april-2005

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SIST EN 196-3:1995

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Methods of testing cement - Part 3: Determination of setting times and soundness

Prüfverfahren für Zement - Teil 3: Bestimmung der Erstarrungszeiten und der Raumbeständigkeit

Méthodes d'essais des ciments - Partie 3: Détermination du temps de prise et de la stabilité

**Ta slovenski standard je istoveten z: EN 196-3:2005**

**ICS:**

91.100.10 Cement. Mavec. Apno. Malta Cement. Gypsum. Lime.  
Mortar

**SIST EN 196-3:2005**

**en**

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EUROPEAN STANDARD  
NORME EUROPÉENNE  
EUROPÄISCHE NORM

**EN 196-3**

February 2005

ICS 91.100.10

Supersedes EN 196-3:1994

English version

## Methods of testing cement - Part 3: Determination of setting times and soundness

Méthodes d'essais des ciments - Partie 3: Détermination des temps de prise et de la stabilité

Prüfverfahren für Zement - Teil 3: Bestimmung der Erstarrungszeiten und der Raumbeständigkeit

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 29 December 2004.

CEN members are bound to comply with the CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations which stipulate the conditions for giving this European Standard the status of a national standard without any alteration. Up-to-date lists and bibliographical references concerning such national standards may be obtained on application to the Central Secretariat or to any CEN member.

This European Standard exists in three official versions (English, French, German). A version in any other language made by translation under the responsibility of a CEN member into its own language and notified to the Central Secretariat has the same status as the official versions.

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## Foreword

This document (EN 196-2:2005) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 51 'Cement and building limes', the secretariat of which is held by IBN/BIN.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by August 2005, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by August 2005.

This European Standard supersedes EN 196-3:1994.

This European Standard on the methods of testing cement comprises the following Parts:

EN 196-1, *Methods of testing cement — Part 1: Determination of strength*

EN 196-2, *Methods of testing cement — Part 2: Chemical analysis of cement*

EN 196-3, *Methods of testing cement — Part 3: Determination of setting time and soundness*

EN 196-5, *Methods of testing cement — Part 5: Pozzolanicity test for pozzolanic cements*

EN 196-6, *Methods of testing cement — Part 6: Determination of fineness*

EN 196-7, *Methods of testing cement — Part 7: Methods of taking and preparing samples of cement*

EN 196-8, *Methods of testing cement — Part 8: Heat of hydration — Solution method*

EN 196-9, *Methods of testing cement — Part 9: Heat of hydration — Semi-adiabatic method*

NOTE A previous part, EN 196-21: *Methods of testing cement — Part 21: Determination of the chloride, carbon dioxide and alkali content of cement*, has been revised and incorporated into EN 196-2.

Another document, ENV 196-4 *Methods of testing cement — Part 4: Quantitative determination of constituents*, has been drafted and will be published as a CEN Technical Report.

This edition introduces the following technical changes based on comments received by the secretariat:

- a) requirement for the laboratory relative humidity is reduced to a minimum of 50 % from a minimum of 65 % (4.1);
- b) drinking water is permitted for storing and boiling test specimens (4.2.5); drinking water is no longer permitted in the production of paste since such water varies in quality between places and even with time in the same laboratory (4.2.5);
- c) the Vicat mould is permitted to be cylindrical in addition to truncated conical shape (5.1);
- d) the time permitted for scraping paste from the sides and bottom of the mixing bowl is increased from 15 s to 30 s (5.2.1);
- e) the end-point for the determination of standard consistence is increased to  $(6 \pm 2)$  mm from  $(6 \pm 1)$  mm (5.2.3);

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- f) the determination of setting time is carried out whilst the specimen is immersed in water (Clause 6);
- g) in the determination of setting time the tolerance on storage temperature for specimens is reduced to  $(20,0 \pm 1,0)$  °C from  $(20 \pm 1)$  °C (6.1.3);
- h) in the determination of setting time automatic apparatus conforming to the requirements of the reference method is permitted (6.1.1);
- i) the end-point for the determination of initial setting time is increased to  $(6 \pm 3)$  mm from  $(4 \pm 1)$  mm (6.2.2);
- j) the end-point for the determination of final setting time is required to be confirmed by testing in two additional positions in the test specimen (6.3.1);
- k) the material of construction of the Le Chatelier apparatus for determination of soundness is extended to any non-corrodible spring metal (7.1.1);
- l) the minimum relative humidity in which specimens for determination of soundness are to be stored is reduced to 90 % from 98 % (7.1.3);
- m) the determination of soundness is carried out once (7.2);
- n) where a retest of the determination of soundness is required the relative humidity at which the cement sample is stored is reduced to 50 % from 65 % (7.4).

According to the CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations, the national standards organizations of the following countries are bound to implement this European Standard: Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and United Kingdom.

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## 1 Scope

This document specifies the methods for determining standard consistence, setting times and soundness of cements.

The method applies to common cements and to other cements and materials, the standards for which call up this method. It may not apply to other cement types that have, for example, a very short initial setting time. The method is used for assessing whether the setting time and soundness of a cement is in conformity with its specification.

This document describes the reference methods and allows the use of alternative procedures and equipment, as indicated in notes, provided that they have been calibrated against the reference methods. In the event of a dispute, only the reference equipment and procedures are used.

## 2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

EN 196-1, *Methods of testing cement — Part 1: Determination of strength*

## 3 Principles

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Cement paste of standard consistence has a specified resistance to penetration by a standard plunger. The water required for such a paste is determined by trial penetrations of pastes with different water contents.

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The setting time is determined by observing the penetration of a needle into cement paste of standard consistence until it reaches a specified value.

The soundness is determined by observing the volume expansion of cement paste of standard consistence as indicated by the relative movement of two needles.

## 4 Laboratory, equipment and materials

### 4.1 Laboratory

The laboratory in which specimens are prepared and tested shall be maintained at a temperature of  $(20 \pm 2)$  °C and a relative humidity of not less than 50 %.

The temperature and relative humidity of the air in the laboratory and the temperature of the water in the storage containers shall be recorded at least once per day during working hours.

Cement, water and apparatus used to make and test specimens shall be at a temperature of  $(20 \pm 2)$  °C.

Where temperature ranges are given, the target temperature at which the controls are set shall be the middle value of the range.

**EN 196-3:2005 (E)****4.2 Equipment and materials****4.2.1 General requirements**

The tolerances shown in Figures 1 and 2 are important for correct operation of the equipment in the testing procedure. When regular control measurements show that the tolerances are not met, the equipment shall be rejected, adjusted or repaired. Records of control measurements shall be kept.

Acceptance measurements on new equipment shall cover mass, volume, and dimensions to the extent that these are indicated in this document paying particular attention to those critical dimensions for which tolerances are specified.

In those cases where the material of the equipment can influence the results, the material is specified and shall be used.

The approximate dimensions shown in the figures are provided as guidance to equipment manufacturers or operators. Dimensions which include tolerances are obligatory.

**4.2.2 Balance**, capable of weighing to an accuracy of  $\pm 1$  g.

**4.2.3 Graduated cylinder or burette**, capable of dispensing to an accuracy of  $\pm 1$  ml.

**4.2.4 Mixer**, conforming to EN 196-1.

NOTE A more homogeneous paste is produced at the lower limit of tolerance for the clearance between the blade and the bowl.

**4.2.5 Water**, distilled or deionized water shall be used for making the specimens. Drinking water may be used for storing and boiling specimens.

**4.2.6 Timer**, capable of measuring to an accuracy of  $\pm 1$  s.

**4.2.7 Ruler**, capable of measuring to an accuracy of  $\pm 0,5$  mm.

**5 Standard consistence test****5.1 Apparatus**

Use the manual Vicat apparatus as shown in Figure 1 a) and 1 b) with the plunger shown in Figure 1 c). The plunger shall be of non-corrodible metal in the form of a right cylinder of at least 45 mm effective length and of  $(10,00 \pm 0,05)$  mm diameter. The total mass of moving parts shall be  $(300 \pm 1)$  g. Their movement shall be truly vertical and without appreciable friction, and their axis shall coincide with that of the plunger.

The Vicat mould (see Figure 1 a)) to contain the paste under test shall be of hard rubber, plastics or brass. It shall be of cylindrical or preferably truncated conical form  $(40,0 \pm 0,2)$  mm deep and shall have an internal diameter of  $(75 \pm 10)$  mm. It shall be adequately rigid and shall be provided with a base-plate larger than the mould and at least 2,5 mm thick, constructed of impermeable material resistant to attack by cement paste, e.g. plane glass.

NOTE 1 Moulds of other metal may be used provided that they are of the specified depth and that their use has been calibrated against the specified mould.

NOTE 2 It is recommended that a laboratory uses base plates of equal thickness in order that the scale of the Vicat apparatus has only to be adjusted once for several determinations.



## 5.2 Procedure

### 5.2.1 Mixing the cement paste

Weigh, to an accuracy of  $\pm 1$  g, by means of the balance (4.2.2), 500 g of cement and a quantity of water, e.g. 125 g. When water is measured by volume using the graduated cylinder or burette (4.2.3) it shall be dispensed to an accuracy of  $\pm 1$  ml. Mix each batch of paste mechanically using the mixer (4.2.4). The timing of the various mixing stages refers to the times at which mixer power is switched on/off and shall be maintained within  $\pm 2$  s.

With the mixer in the operating condition:

- a) place the water and cement into the bowl taking care to avoid loss of water or cement; complete the addition within 10 s;
- b) immediately start the mixer at low speed whilst starting the timing of the mixing stages. In addition, record the time to the nearest minute as 'zero time';

NOTE 1 'Zero time' is the point from which the initial (see 6.2) and final (see 6.3) setting times are calculated.

- c) Stop the mixer after 90 s for 30 s during which remove by means of a suitable rubber or plastics scraper all the paste adhering to the wall and bottom part of the bowl and place it in the middle of the bowl;
- d) restart the mixer and run at low speed for a further 90 s. The total mixer running time shall be 3 min.

NOTE 2 Any other mixing method may be used provided that it has been calibrated against the reference method.

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