



Designation: C 78 – 02

Standard Test Method for Flexural Strength of Concrete (Using Simple Beam with Third-Point Loading)¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation C 78; 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 Department of Defense.

1. Scope

1.1 This test method covers the determination of the flexural strength of concrete by the use of a simple beam with third-point loading.

1.2 The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as the standard. The SI equivalent of inch-pound units has been rounded where necessary for practical application.

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:

- C 31 Practice for Making and Curing Concrete Test Specimens in the Field²
- C 42 Test Method for Obtaining and Testing Drilled Cores and Sawed Beams of Concrete²
- C 192 Practice for Making and Curing Concrete Test Specimens in the Laboratory²
- C 617 Practice for Capping Cylindrical Concrete Specimens²
- C 1077 Practice for Laboratories Testing Concrete and Concrete Aggregates for Use in Construction and Criteria for Laboratory Evaluation²
- E 4 Practices for Force Verification of Testing Machines³

3. Significance and Use

3.1 This test method is used to determine the flexural strength of specimens prepared and cured in accordance with Test Methods C 42 or Practices C 31 or C 192. Results are calculated and reported as the modulus of rupture. The strength determined will vary where there are differences in specimen

size, preparation, moisture condition, curing, or where the beam has been molded or sawed to size.

3.2 The results of this test method may be used to determine compliance with specifications or as a basis for proportioning, mixing and placement operations. It is used in testing concrete for the construction of slabs and pavements (Note 1).

4. Apparatus

4.1 The testing machine shall conform to the requirements of the sections on Basis of Verification, Corrections, and Time Interval Between Verifications of Practices E 4. Hand operated testing machines having pumps that do not provide a continuous loading in one stroke are not permitted. Motorized pumps or hand operated positive displacement pumps having sufficient volume in one continuous stroke to complete a test without requiring replenishment are permitted and shall be capable of applying loads at a uniform rate without shock or interruption.

4.2 *Loading Apparatus*—The third point loading method shall be used in making flexure tests of concrete employing bearing blocks which will ensure that forces applied to the beam will be perpendicular to the face of the specimen and applied without eccentricity. A diagram of an apparatus that accomplishes this purpose is shown in Fig. 1.

4.2.1 All apparatus for making flexure tests of concrete shall be capable of maintaining the specified span length and distances between load-applying blocks and support blocks constant within ± 0.05 in. (± 1.3 mm).

4.2.2 The ratio of the horizontal distance between the point of application of the load and the point of application of the nearest reaction to the depth of the beam shall be 1.0 ± 0.03 .

4.2.3 If an apparatus similar to that illustrated in Fig. 1 is used: the load-applying and support blocks should not be more than $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. (64 mm) high, measured from the center or the axis of pivot, and should extend entirely across or beyond the full width of the specimen. Each case-hardened bearing surface in contact with the specimen shall not depart from a plane by more than 0.002 in. (0.05 mm) and shall be a portion of a cylinder, the axis of which is coincidental with either the axis of the rod or center of the ball, whichever the block is pivoted upon. The angle subtended by the curved surface of each block

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee C09 on Concrete and Concrete Aggregates and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee C09.61 on Testing for Strength.

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² *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 04.02.

³ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 03.01.