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## Standard Practice for Random Sampling of Construction Materials<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D 3665; 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 reappraisal. A superscript epsilon ( $\epsilon$ ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reappraisal.

### 1. Scope

1.1 This practice covers the determination of random locations (or timing) at which samples of construction materials can be taken. For the exact physical procedures for securing the sample, such as a description of the sampling tool, the number of increments needed for a sample, or the size of the sample, reference should be made to the appropriate standard method. The selection procedures in Section 4 utilize the table of four-digit numbers given in Table 1.

1.2 *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 172 Practice for Sampling Freshly Mixed Concrete<sup>2</sup>
  - C 183 Practice for Sampling and the Amount of Testing of Hydraulic Cement<sup>3</sup>
  - D 75 Practice for Sampling Aggregates<sup>4</sup>
  - D 140 Practice for Sampling Bituminous Materials<sup>4</sup>
  - D 345 Test Method for Sampling and Testing Calcium Chloride for Roads and Structural Applications<sup>4</sup>
  - D 979 Practice for Sampling Bituminous Paving Mixtures<sup>4</sup>
  - D 5361 Practice for Sampling Compacted Bituminous Mixtures for Laboratory Testing<sup>4</sup>
  - E 105 Practice for Probability Sampling of Materials<sup>5</sup>
  - E 122 Practice for Choice of Sample Size to Estimate a Measure of Quality for a Lot or Process<sup>5</sup>
  - E 141 Practice for Acceptance of Evidence Based on the Results of Probability Sampling<sup>5</sup>

### 3. Significance and Use

3.1 This practice is useful for determining the location or time, or both, to take a sample in order to eliminate any

intentional or minimize any unintentional bias on the part of the person taking the sample.

Note 1—The effectiveness of this practice in achieving random samples is limited only by the conscientiousness of the user in following the stipulated procedures.

3.2 A less detailed procedure is included in 5.8 for normal usage and is considered the most practical means except where the sampling is deemed extremely critical or where dispute is anticipated.

3.3 The selection procedures and examples in this standard provide a practical approach for ensuring that construction material samples are obtained in a random manner. Additional details concerning the number of sample increments, the number of samples, the quantities of material in each, and the procedures for extracting sample increments or samples from the construction lot or process are contained in Practices C 172, C 183, D 75, D 140, D 979, D 5361, and Test Method D 345.

3.4 This standard contains examples citing road and paving materials. The concepts outlined therein are applicable to the random sampling of any construction material and can easily be adapted thereto.

3.5 Additional sampling guidance is provided in Practice E 105 concerning probability sampling. Practice E 122 concerning choosing sample sizes to estimate the average quality of a lot or process (see Note 2), and in Practice E 141 for acceptance of evidence based on results of probability sampling.

Note 2—The guidance contained in Practice E 122 is not available in other documents referenced in this section.

3.6 The best and most practical method for ensuring that samples of construction materials include the full range of a construction process is by incorporating a stratified-random sampling procedure into the sampling process. To implement a stratified-random sampling procedure, divide the lot to be sampled into the desired number of equal sublots and randomly sample each sublot in accordance with this standard.

Note 3—If the sublots are of unequal size, it will likely be necessary to weight the samples in order to maintain a fair and defensible sampling process.

<sup>1</sup> This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D04 on Road and Paving Materials and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D04.30 on Methods of Sampling.

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<sup>2</sup> *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 04.02.

<sup>3</sup> *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 04.01.

<sup>4</sup> *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 04.03.

<sup>5</sup> *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 14.02.









