Designation: C 1252 – 98

Standard Test Methods for Uncompacted Void Content of Fine Aggregate (as Influenced by Particle Shape, Surface Texture, and Grading)[1]

This standard is issued under the fixed designation C 1252; 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 These test methods describe the determination of the loose uncompacted void content of a sample of fine aggregate. When measured on any aggregate of a known grading, void content provides an indication of that aggregate's angularity, sphericity, and surface texture compared with other fine aggregates tested in the same grading. When void content is measured on an as-received fine-aggregate grading, it can be an indicator of the effect of the fine aggregate on the workability of a mixture in which it may be used.

1.2 Three procedures are included for the measurement of void content. Two use graded fine aggregate (standard grading or as-received grading), and the other uses several individual size fractions for void content determinations:

1.2.1 *Standard Graded Sample (Test Method A)*—This test method uses a standard fine aggregate grading that is obtained by combining individual sieve fractions from a typical fine aggregate sieve analysis. See the section on Preparation of Test Samples for the grading.

1.2.2 *Individual Size Fractions (Test Method B)*—This test method uses each of three fine aggregate size fractions: *(a)* 2.36 mm (No. 8) to 1.18 mm (No. 16); *(b)* 1.18 mm (No. 16) to 600 µm (No. 30); and *(c)* 600 µm (No. 30) to 300 µm (No. 50). For this test method, each size is tested separately.

1.2.3 *As-Received Grading (Test Method C)*—This test method uses that portion of the fine aggregate finer than a 4.75-mm (No. 4) sieve.

1.2.4 See the section on Significance and Use for guidance on the method to be used.

1.3 The values stated in SI units shall be regarded as the standard.

1.4 *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:*

B 88 Specification for Seamless Copper Water Tube[2]

B 88M Specification for Seamless Copper Water Tube [Metric][2]

C 29/29M Test Method for Unit Weight and Voids in Aggregate[3]

C 117 Test Method for Material Finer Than 75-µm (No. 200) Sieve in Mineral Aggregates by Washing[3]

C 125 Terminology Relating to Concrete and Concrete Aggregates[3]

C 128 Test Method for Specific Gravity and Absorption of Fine Aggregate[3]

C 136 Test Method for Sieve Analysis of Fine and Coarse Aggregates[3]

C 670 Practice for Preparing Precision and Bias Statements for Test Methods for Construction Materials[3]

C 702 Practice for Reducing Samples of Aggregate to Testing Size[3]

C 778 Specification for Standard Sand[4]

D 75 Practice for Sampling Aggregates[5]

2.2 *ACI Document:*

ACI 116R Cement and Concrete Terminology[6]

3. Terminology

3.1 Terms used in these test methods are defined in Terminology C 125 or ACI 116R.

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 A nominal 100-mL calibrated cylindrical measure is filled with fine aggregate of prescribed grading by allowing the sample to flow through a funnel from a fixed height into the measure. The fine aggregate is struck off and its mass is determined by weighing. Uncompacted void content is calculated as the difference between the volume of the cylindrical measure and the absolute volume of the fine aggregate collected in the measure. Uncompacted void content is calculated

[1] These test methods are under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee C-9 on Concrete and Concrete Aggregatesand are the direct responsibility of Subcommittee C09.20on Normal Weight Aggregates.

Current edition approved May 10, 1998. Published December 1998. Originally published as C 1252 – 93. Last previous edition C 1252 – 93.

[2] *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 02.01.

[3] *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 04.02.

[4] *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 04.01.

[5] *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 04.03.

[6] Available from the American Concrete Institute, Box 19150, Detroit, MI 48219.

using the bulk dry specific gravity of the fine aggregate. Two runs are made on each sample and the results are averaged.

4.1.1 For a graded sample (Test Method A or Test Method C) the percent void content is determined directly, and the average value from two runs is reported.

4.1.2 For the individual size fractions (Test Method B), the mean percent void content is calculated using the results from tests of each of the three individual size fractions.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 Test Methods A and B provide percent void content determined under standardized conditions which depends on the particle shape and texture of a fine aggregate. An increase in void content by these procedures indicates greater angularity, less sphericity, or rougher surface texture, or combination thereof. A decrease in void content results is associated with more rounded, spherical, or smooth-surfaced fine aggregate, or a combination thereof.

5.2 Test Method C measures the uncompacted void content of the minus 4.75-mm (No. 4) portion of the as-received material. This void content depends on grading as well as particle shape and texture.

5.3 The void content determined on the standard graded sample (Test Method A) is not directly comparable with the average void content of the three individual size fractions from the same sample tested separately (Test Method B). A sample consisting of single size particles will have a higher void content than a graded sample. Therefore, use either one method or the other as a comparative measure of shape and texture, and identify which test method has been used to obtain the reported data. Test Method C does not provide an indication of shape and texture directly if the grading from sample to sample changes.

5.3.1 The standard graded sample (Test Method A) is most useful as a quick test which indicates the particle shape properties of a graded fine aggregate. Typically, the material used to make up the standard graded sample can be obtained from the remaining size fractions after performing a single sieve analysis of the fine aggregate.

5.3.2 Obtaining and testing individual size fractions (Test Method B) are more time consuming and require a larger initial sample than using the graded sample. However, Test Method B provides additional information concerning the shape and texture characteristics of individual sizes.

5.3.3 Testing samples in the as-received grading (Test Method C) may be useful in selecting proportions of components used in a variety of mixtures. In general, high void content suggests that the material could be improved by providing additional fines in the fine aggregate or more cementitious material may be needed to fill voids between particles.

5.3.4 The bulk dry specific gravity of the fine aggregate is used in calculating the void content. The effectiveness of these test methods of determining void content and its relationship to particle shape and texture depends on the bulk specific gravity of the various size fractions being equal, or nearly so. The void content is actually a function of the volume of each size fraction. If the type of rock or minerals, or its porosity, in any of the size fractions varies markedly it may be necessary to determine the specific gravity of the size fractions used in the test.

5.4 Void content information from Test Methods A, B, or C will be useful as an indicator of properties such as: the mixing water demand of hydraulic cement concrete; flowability, pumpability, or workability factors when formulating grouts or mortars; or, in bituminous concrete, the effect of the fine aggregate on stability and voids in the mineral aggregate; or the stability of the fine-aggregate portion of a base course aggregate.

6. Apparatus

6.1 *Cylindrical Measure*—A right cylinder of approximately 100-mL capacity having an inside diameter of approximately 39 mm and an inside height of approximately 86 mm made of drawn copper water tube meeting the requirements of Specification B 88, Type M or B 88M, Type C. The bottom of the measure shall be metal at least 6 mm thick, shall be firmly sealed to the tubing, and shall be provided with means for aligning the axis of the cylinder with that of the funnel. See Fig. 1.

6.2 *Funnel*—The lateral surface of the right frustum of a cone sloped 60 ± 4° from the horizontal with an opening of 12.7 ± 0.6-mm diameter. The funnel section shall be a piece of metal, smooth on the inside and at least 38 mm high. It shall have a volume of at least 200 mL or shall be provided with a supplemental glass or metal container to provide the required volume. See Fig. 2.

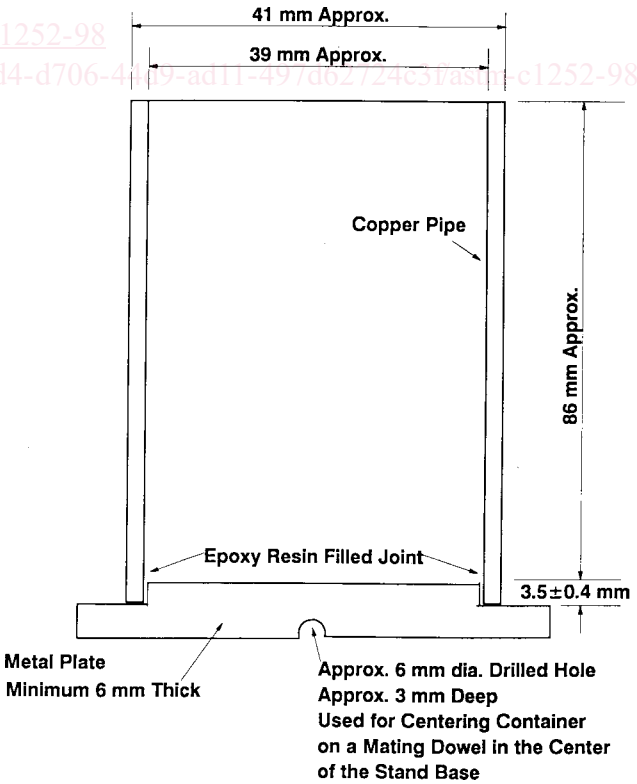

FIG. 1 Nominal 100-mL Cylindrical Measure