



Designation: C 1623 – 05

Standard Specification for Manufactured Concrete Masonry Lintels¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This specification covers concrete masonry lintels (beams) that are solid in cross-section, are reinforced for flexure, and are made from hydraulic cement, water, and mineral aggregates with or without the inclusion of other materials. These lintels are suitable for both loadbearing and nonloadbearing applications.

NOTE 1—This specification covers only concrete masonry lintels containing reinforcement. Due to building code imposed limitations on the design of masonry lintels, all lintels must contain reinforcement. Concrete masonry lintels are not typically manufactured using shear reinforcement (stirrups or other vertical reinforcement). Therefore, this standard does not address issues related to such. For further guidance, refer to *Building Code Requirements for Masonry Structures*, ACI 530 / ASCE 5 / TMS 402. Prestressed concrete lintels are not covered by this standard.

1.2 Lintels are manufactured using a no-slump concrete mix to provide a surface texture similar to that of concrete masonry. This specification applies to both machine-made and hand-tamped concrete masonry lintels intended for use in concrete masonry applications.

1.3 Concrete masonry lintels covered by this specification are made from lightweight or normal weight aggregates, or both.

1.4 This specification does not address the design or analysis of lintel capacity. Structural evaluations must be performed separately. The strength of a lintel is a function of factors including, but not limited to, the characteristics of the materials used in manufacturing (concrete materials and reinforcement), the amount and location of reinforcement, and the manufacturing and curing procedures. For design and analysis methods, refer to *Building Code Requirements for Masonry Structures*, ACI 530 / ASCE 5 / TMS 402.

1.5 This specification does not cover U-shaped lintels or those of other cross-sections that are not 100 % solid.

1.6 This specification does not cover lintels of grouted concrete masonry lintels, or precast or cast-in-place lintels of slump concrete.

1.7 The text of this standard references notes and footnotes that provide explanatory material. These notes and footnotes

(excluding those in tables and figures) shall not be considered as requirements of the standard.

1.8 The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as the standard. The values given in parentheses are for information only.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

A 615 Specification for Deformed and Plain Billet-Steel Bars for Concrete Reinforcement

A 706 Specification for Low-Alloy Steel Deformed Bars for Concrete Reinforcement

A 996/A 996M-01 Standard Specification for Rail-Steel and Axle-Steel Deformed Bars for Concrete Reinforcement

C 33 Specification for Concrete Aggregates

C 140 Test Methods for Sampling and Testing Concrete Masonry Units and Related Units

C 150 Specification for Portland Cement

C 331 Specification for Lightweight Aggregates for Concrete Masonry Units

C 595 Specification for Blended Hydraulic Cements

C 618 Specification for Coal Fly Ash and Raw or Calcined Natural Pozzolan for Use as a Mineral Admixture in Concrete

C 989 Specification for Ground Granulated Blast-Furnace Slag for Use in Concrete and Mortars

C 1157 Performance Specification for Hydraulic Cement

C 1209 Terminology of Concrete masonry lintels and Related Units

C 1232 Terminology of Masonry

C 1262 Test Method for Evaluating the Freeze-Thaw Durability of Manufactured Concrete Masonry Units and Related Concrete Units

2.2 Other Standards

ACI 530 / ASCE 6 / TMS 402 Building Code Requirements for Masonry Structures

ACI 530.1 / ASCE 6 / TMS 602 Specification for Masonry Structures

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee C15 on Manufactured Masonry Units and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee C15.03 on Concrete Masonry Units and Related Units.

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² 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.

3. Terminology

3.1 Terminology defined in Terminology **C 1209** and Terminology **C 1232** shall apply for this specification.

4. Material

4.1 *Cementitious Materials*—Materials shall conform to the following applicable specifications: 4.1.1 Portland Cement—Specification **C 150**.

4.1.1 *Portland Cement*—Specification **C 150**.

4.1.2 *Modified Portland Cement*—Portland cement conforming to Specification **C 150**, modified as follows:

(1) *Limestone* – If calcium carbonate is added to the cement, the CaCO₃ content shall be not less than 85 %.

(2) *Limitation on Insoluble Residue*—1.5 %.

(3) *Limitation on Air Content of Mortar*—Volume percent, 22 % max.

(4) *Limitation on Loss on Ignition*—7 %.

4.1.3 *Blended Hydraulic Cements*—Specification **C 595**

4.1.4 *Hydraulic Cement* —Specification **C 1157**.

4.1.5 *Pozzolans*—Specification **C 618**.

4.1.6 *Ground Granulated Blast Furnace Slag*—Specification **C 989**.

4.1.7 *Silica Fume*—Specification **C 1240**

4.2 *Aggregates*—Aggregates shall conform to the following specifications, except that grading requirements shall not necessarily apply:

4.2.1 *Normal Weight Aggregates*—Specification **C 33**.

4.2.2 *Lightweight Aggregates*—Specification **C 331**.

4.3 *Steel Reinforcement*—Steel reinforcement shall consist of deformed bars conforming to Specifications **A 615**, **A 706**, or **A 996**

4.4 *Other Constituents*—Air-entraining agents, coloring pigments, integral water repellents, finely ground silica, and other constituents shall be previously established as suitable for use in concrete masonry lintels and shall conform to applicable ASTM standards or shall be shown by test or experience not to be detrimental to the durability of the concrete masonry lintels or any material customarily used in masonry construction.

5. Physical Requirements

5.1 At the time of delivery to the purchaser, the concrete within the lintel shall conform to the requirements prescribed in **Table 1**.

NOTE 2—When particular features are desired such as surface textures for appearance or bond, finish, color, or particular properties such as specific reinforcing schedules, flexural strength, weight per unit length, higher compressive strength, or fire resistance, these features are specified

separately by the purchaser. Consult local suppliers as to the availability of lintels having the desired features.

5.2 All lintels shall be sound and free of cracks or other defects that interfere with proper placement unless defects are considered to be not detrimental to structural capacity of the lintel before or after defects are repaired using practices satisfactory to the engineer.

NOTE 3—The purchaser is the public body or authority, association, corporation, partnership, or individual entering into a contract or agreement to purchase or install, or both, concrete masonry lintels. The time of delivery to the purchaser is FOB plant when the purchaser or the purchaser’s agent transports the concrete masonry lintels, or at the time unloaded at the worksite if the manufacturer or the manufacturer’s agent transports the concrete masonry lintels.

NOTE 4—When these lintels are used in above-grade applications as part of a vertical, free-draining assemblage, the physical requirements in this specification have been shown to result in durable products. In applications where the lintels are frequently exposed to deicing chemicals or saturated conditions in conjunction with freezing and thawing temperatures, testing should be considered to evaluate freezing and thawing resistance using ASTM **C 1262**.

6. Permissible Variations in Dimensions

6.1 Overall dimensions for width, and height shall differ by not more than ± 1/8 in. (3.2 mm) from the specified standard dimensions. Overall dimension for length shall differ by not more than 0.5 % from the specified length.

6.2 Warpage

6.2.1 The longitudinal straightness of each of the four faces shall not deviate from a straight line more than 1/4 in. (6 mm) over 10 ft (3.05 m). Measure deviations with lintel resting on flat, horizontal surface.

6.2.2 The cross-section of the lintel shall not deviate from square more than 1/8 in. (3 mm) over 8 in. (203 mm) in height.

7. Requirements for Reinforcement

7.1 Reinforcement and its placement shall comply with Building Code Requirements for Masonry Structures, **ACI 530 / ASCE 6 / TMS 402** and Specification for Masonry Structures, **ACI 530.1 / ASCE 7 / TMS 602** with the following exceptions.

7.1.1 Specified vertical depth of longitudinal reinforcement shall be equal to or greater than the specified depth minus 0.5 in. (12.7 mm) (**Fig. 1a**).

7.1.2 When a single longitudinal reinforcing bar is used at a given depth, the specified horizontal depth of that reinforcement shall be ± 1 in. (25.4 in.) from the specified depth (**Fig. 1b**).

TABLE 1 Strength, Absorption, and Weight Classification Requirements

Weight Classification	Oven-Dry Density of Concrete, lb/ft ³ (kg/m ³)	Maximum Water Absorption, lb/ft ³ (kg/m ³)		Minimum Net Area Compressive Strength, psi (MPa)	
	Average of 3 Specimens ^A	Average of 3 Specimens ^A	Individual Specimen ^A	Average of 3 Specimens ^A	Individual Specimen ^A
Lightweight	Less than 105 (1680)	18 (288)	20 (320)	2500 (17.2)	2250 (15.5)
Medium Weight	105 to less than 125 (1680–2000)	15 (240)	17 (272)	2500 (17.2)	2250 (15.5)
Normal Weight	125 (2000) or more	13 (208)	15 (240)	2500 (17.2)	2250 (15.5)

^ARefer to section 9.2.1 for specimen requirements.