



Designation: D1633 – 00(Reapproved 2007)

## Standard Test Methods for Compressive Strength of Molded Soil-Cement Cylinders<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D1633; 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 ( $\epsilon$ ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

*This standard has been approved for use by agencies of the U.S. Department of Defense.*

### 1. Scope\*

1.1 This test method covers the determination of the compressive strength of soil-cement using molded cylinders as test specimens.

1.2 Two alternative procedures are provided as follows:

1.2.1 *Method A*—This procedure uses a test specimen 4.0 in. (101.6 mm) in diameter and 4.584 in. (116.4 mm) in height. Height to diameter ratio equals 1.15. This test method made be used only on materials with 30 % or less retained on the  $\frac{3}{4}$ -in. (19.0-mm) sieve. See [Note 3](#).

1.2.2 *Method B*—This procedure uses a test specimen 2.8 in. (71.1 mm) in diameter and 5.6 in. (142.2 mm) in height. Height to diameter ratio equals 2.00. This test method is applicable to those materials that pass the No. 4 (4.75-mm) sieve.

1.3 All observed and calculated values shall conform to the guidelines for significant digits and rounding established in Practice [D6026](#).

1.4 The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as standard, except as noted in [1.4.1 – 1.4.3](#). The values given in parentheses are mathematical conversions to SI units, and are provided for information only and are not considered standard.

1.4.1 The gravitational system of inch-pound units is used when dealing with inch-pound units. In this system, the pound (lbf) represents a unit of force (weight), while the unit for mass is slugs.

1.4.2 The slug unit of mass is almost never used in commercial practice (density, scales, balances, etc.). Therefore, the standard unit for mass in this standard is either kilogram (kg) or gram (g), or both. Also, the equivalent inch-pound unit (slug) is not given.

1.4.3 It is common practice in the engineering/construction profession in the United States to use concurrently pounds to represent both a unit of mass (lbm) and of force (lbf). This use combines two separate system of units, the absolute system and

the gravitational system. It is scientifically undesirable to combine the use of two separate sets of inch-pound units within a single standard. As stated in [1.4.2](#), this standard uses the gravitational system and does not present the slug unit for mass. However, the use of scales or balances recording pounds of mass (lbm) or the recording of density in lbm/ft<sup>3</sup> shall not be regarded as nonconformance with this standard.

1.5 *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*:<sup>2</sup>

[C42/C42M](#) Test Method for Obtaining and Testing Drilled Cores and Sawed Beams of Concrete

[D559](#) Test Methods for Wetting and Drying Compacted Soil-Cement Mixtures (Withdrawn 2012)<sup>3</sup>

[D560](#) Test Methods for Freezing and Thawing Compacted Soil-Cement Mixtures (Withdrawn 2012)<sup>3</sup>

[D653](#) Terminology Relating to Soil, Rock, and Contained Fluids

[D1632](#) Practice for Making and Curing Soil-Cement Compression and Flexure Test Specimens in the Laboratory

[D2216](#) Test Methods for Laboratory Determination of Water (Moisture) Content of Soil and Rock by Mass

[D3740](#) Practice for Minimum Requirements for Agencies Engaged in Testing and/or Inspection of Soil and Rock as Used in Engineering Design and Construction

[D4753](#) Guide for Evaluating, Selecting, and Specifying Balances and Standard Masses for Use in Soil, Rock, and Construction Materials Testing

[D6026](#) Practice for Using Significant Digits in Geotechnical Data

[E4](#) Practices for Force Verification of Testing Machines

<sup>1</sup> This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee [D18](#) on Soil and Rock and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee [D18.15](#) on Stabilization With Admixtures.

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<sup>2</sup> For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, [www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org), or contact ASTM Customer Service at [service@astm.org](mailto:service@astm.org). For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

<sup>3</sup> The last approved version of this historical standard is referenced on [www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org).

\*A Summary of Changes section appears at the end of this standard

### 3. Terminology

3.1 For definitions of terms used in this test method, refer to Terminology **D653**.

### 4. Significance and Use

4.1 Method A makes use of the same compaction equipment and molds commonly available in soil laboratories and used for other soil-cement tests. It is considered that Method A gives a relative measure of strength rather than a rigorous determination of compressive strength. Because of the lesser height to diameter ratio (1.15) of the cylinders, the compressive strength determined by Method A will normally be greater than that for Method B.

4.2 Method B, because of the greater height to diameter ratio (2.00), gives a better measure of compressive strength from a technical viewpoint since it reduces complex stress conditions that may occur during the shearing of Method A specimens.

4.3 In practice, Method A has been more commonly used than Method B. As a result, it has been customary to evaluate or specify compressive strength values as determined by Method A. A factor for converting compressive strength values based on height to diameter ratio is given in Section 8.<sup>4</sup>

NOTE 1—The agency performing this test method can be evaluated in accordance with Practice **D3740**. Notwithstanding statements on precision and bias contained in this test method: the precision of this test method is dependent on the competence of the personnel performing it and the suitability of the equipment and facilities used. Agencies that meet the criteria of Practice **D3740** are generally considered capable of competent and objective testing. Users of this test method are cautioned that compliance with Practice **D3740** does not, in itself, ensure reliable testing. Reliable testing depends on many factors; Practice **D3740** provides a means of evaluating some of these factors.

### 5. Apparatus

5.1 *Compression Testing Machine*—This machine may be of any type having sufficient capacity and control to provide the rate of loading prescribed in 7.2. It shall conform to the requirements of Section 15 of Practices **E4**. The testing machine shall be equipped with two steel bearing blocks with hardened faces (Note 2), one of which is a spherically seated head block that normally will bear on the upper surface of the specimen, and the other a plain rigid block on which the specimen will rest. The bearing faces shall be at least as large, and preferably slightly larger, than the surface of the specimen to which the load is applied. The bearing faces, when new, shall not depart from a plane by more than 0.0005 in. (0.013 mm) at any point, and they shall be maintained within a permissible variation limit of 0.001 in. (0.02 mm). In the spherically seated block, the diameter of the sphere shall not greatly exceed the diameter of the specimen and the center of the sphere shall coincide with the center of the bearing face. The movable portion of this block shall be held closely in the spherical seat, but the design shall be such that the bearing face can be rotated freely and tilted through small angles in any direction.

<sup>4</sup> For additional discussion on the significance and use of compressive strength results, see the *Soil-Cement Laboratory Handbook*, Chapter 4, Portland Cement Association, Skokie, IL, 1971, pp 31 and 32.

NOTE 2—It is desirable that the bearing faces of blocks used for compression testing of soil-cement have a hardness of not less than 60 HRC.

5.2 *Molds and Compaction Equipment*, in accordance with Test Methods **D559** or **D560** for Method A; Practice **D1632** for Method B.

### 6. Test Specimens

6.1 Mold the test specimens as follows:

6.1.1 *Method A*—Specimens are 4.0 in. (101.6 mm) in diameter and 4.584 in. (116.4 mm) in height and are molded in accordance with Test Methods **D559** or **D560**.

6.1.2 *Method B*—Specimens are 2.8 in. (71.1 mm) in diameter and 5.6 in. (142.2 mm) in height and are molded in accordance with Practice **D1632**.

NOTE 3—These methods may be used for testing specimens of other sizes. If the soil sample includes material retained on the 4.75-mm (No. 4) sieve, it is recommended that Method A be used, or that larger test specimens, 4.0 in. (101.6 mm) in diameter and 8.0 in. (203.2 mm) in height, be molded in a manner similar to Method B.

6.2 Moist cure the specimens in accordance with Practice **D1632**.

6.3 At the end of the moist-cure period, immerse the specimens in water for 4 h.

6.4 Remove the specimens from the water and make compression tests as soon as practicable, keeping specimens moist by a wet burlap or blanket covering.

NOTE 4—Other conditioning procedures, such as air or oven drying, alternate wetting and drying, or alternate freezing and thawing may be specified after an initial moist curing period. Curing and conditioning procedures shall be given in detail in the report.

6.5 Check the smoothness of the faces with a straightedge. If necessary, cap the faces to meet the requirements of the section on Capping Specimens of Practice **D1632**.

### 7. Procedure

7.1 Place the lower bearing block on the table or platen of the testing machine directly under the spherically seated (upper) bearing block. Place the specimen on the lower bearing block, making certain that the vertical axis of the specimen is aligned with the center of thrust of the spherically seated block. As this block is brought to bear on the specimen, rotate its movable portion gently by hand so that uniform seating is obtained.

7.2 Apply the load continuously and without shock. A screw power testing machine, with the moving head operating at approximately 0.05 in. (1 mm)/min when the machine is running idle, may be used. With hydraulic machines, adjust the loading to a constant rate within the limits of  $20 \pm 10$  psi ( $140 \pm 70$  kPa)/s, depending upon the strength of the specimen. Record the total load at failure of the test specimen to the nearest 10 lbf (40 N).

### 8. Calculation

8.1 Calculate the unit compressive strength of the specimen by dividing the maximum load by the cross-sectional area.

NOTE 5—If desired, make allowance for the ratio of height to diameter