



Designation: E 514 – 08

## Standard Test Method for Water Penetration and Leakage Through Masonry<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation E 514; 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 Department of Defense.*

### 1. Scope\*

1.1 This laboratory test method<sup>2</sup> provides a procedure for determining the resistance to water penetration and leakage through unit masonry subjected to wind-driven rain.

1.2 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as standard. The values in parentheses are mathematical conversions to inch-pound units that are provided for information only and are not considered standard.

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.* For a specific hazard statement, see Section 6.

### 2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*<sup>3</sup>

**C 270** Specification for Mortar for Unit Masonry

**C 1232** Terminology of Masonry

2.2 *American Concrete Institute Standard:*<sup>4</sup>

**ACI 530/ASCE 5/TMS 402** Building Code Requirements for Masonry Structures

**ACI 530.1/ASCE 6/TMS 602** Specifications for Masonry Structures

### 3. Terminology

3.1 For definitions of terms used in this test method, refer to Terminology **C 1232**.

<sup>1</sup> This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee C15 on Manufactured Masonry Units and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee C15.04 on Research.

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<sup>2</sup> This test method is based upon those used by the National Bureau of Standards and described in *NBS Report BMS7*, "Water Permeability of Masonry Walls," 1933, and *NBS Report BMS82*, "Water Permeability of Walls Built of Masonry Units," 1942.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> Published by The Masonry Society, www.masonrysociety.org; American Concrete Institute, www.aci-int.org; and American Society of Civil Engineers, www.asce.org.

### 4. Significance and Use

4.1 This test method provides information that aids in evaluating the effect of four principal variables: materials, coatings, wall design, and workmanship.

4.2 Water penetration and leakage through masonry is significantly affected by air pressure in the test chamber. Data from tests made at different pressures are not comparable.

4.3 The performance of a masonry wall is a function of materials, construction, wall design, and maintenance. In service the performance will also depend on the rigidity of supporting structure and on the resistance of components to deterioration by various causes, such as corrosion, vibration, thermal expansion and contraction, curing, and others. It is impossible to simulate the complex conditions encountered in service, such as variations in wind velocity, negative pressure, and lateral or upward moving air and water. Factors such as location, exposure, and wall openings should be considered.

4.4 Given the complexity of variables noted above, this test method establishes comparative behavior between various masonry wall constructions in a given laboratory.

4.5 Even when a single laboratory tests the same wall design utilizing the same wall materials and the same construction practices, variables such as the level of skill of the mason building the specimen, the temperature and humidity in the laboratory at the time of construction, curing of the specimen, the moisture contents of the materials used to build the specimen, and even the use or lack of use of a lime and water wash on the back of the specimen can affect the results of the test making reliable comparisons dubious. For these reasons and the multi-variables listed in 4.1, 4.2, and 4.3, a meaningful, useful, absolute wall leakage rating standard is impractical and discouraged.

### 5. Apparatus

5.1 *Test Chamber*—Use a test chamber similar to that shown in Fig. 1 and Fig. 2. Provide an opening with a minimum area of 1.08 m<sup>2</sup> (12 ft<sup>2</sup>). For example, 900 mm (36 in.) wide and 1200 mm (48 in.) high is suitable. Line the edges of the chamber in contact with the specimen with a closed-cell compressible gasket material or appropriate sealant. Provide an observation port in the face of the chamber. Provide

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

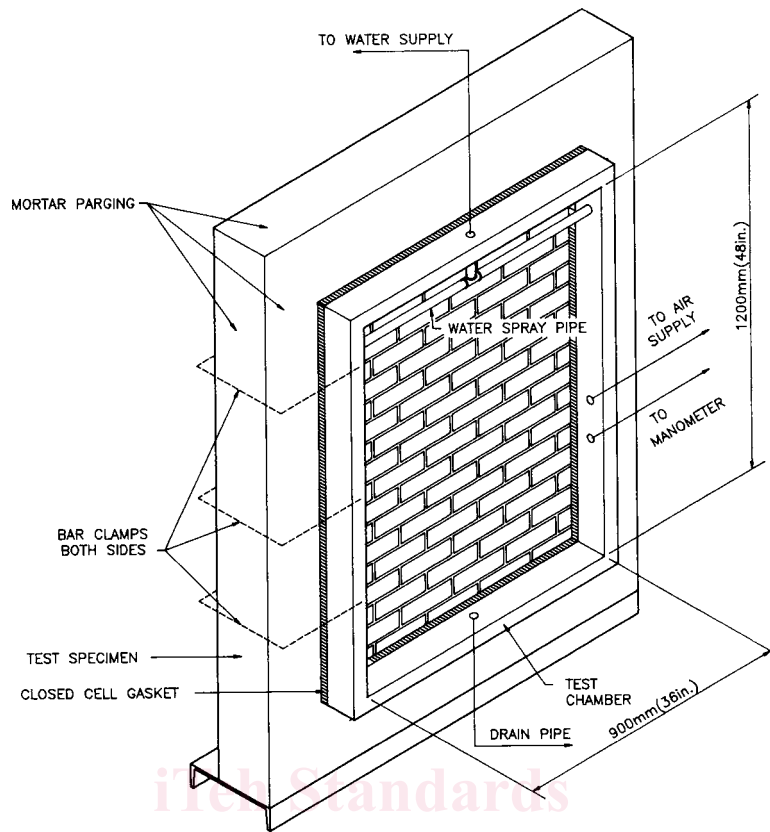


FIG. 1 Isometric Projection of Testing Chamber

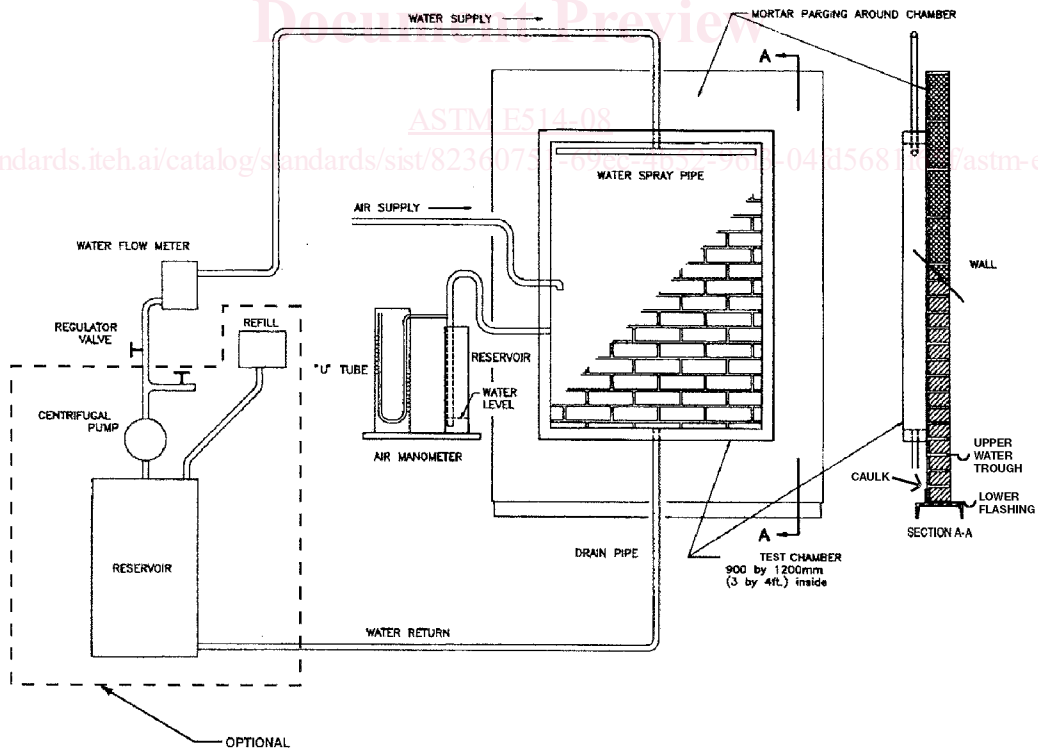


FIG. 2 General Arrangement of Water Penetration Testing Chamber System