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Standard Test Method for Mechanical Size Analysis of Extracted Aggregate¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D 5444; 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 This test method covers a procedure for determination of the particle size distribution of fine and coarse aggregates extracted from bituminous mixtures using sieves with square openings.

1.2 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as the standard. The values given in parentheses are for information only.

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.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*²

C 670 [Practice for Preparing Precision and Bias Statements for Test Methods for Construction Materials](#)

D 2172 [Test Methods for Quantitative Extraction of Bitumen from Bituminous Paving Mixtures](#)

D 6307 [Test Method for Asphalt Content of Hot-Mix Asphalt by Ignition Method](#)

E 11 [Specification for Wire Cloth and Sieves for Testing Purposes](#)

2.2 *AASHTO Standard:*³

AASHTO Test Method T 30 [Mechanical Analysis of Extracted Aggregate](#) — [Mechanical Analysis of Extracted Aggregate](#)

3. Significance and Use

3.1 This test method is used to determine the grading of aggregates extracted from bituminous mixtures. The results are used to determine compliance of the particle size distribution with applicable specifications requirements, and to provide necessary data for control of the production of various aggregates to be used in bituminous mixtures.

4. Apparatus

4.1 *Balances*, or scales, readable to 0.1 g and accurate to 0.1 g or 0.1 % of the test load, whichever is greater, at any point within the range of use.

4.2 *Sieves*, with square openings, mounted on substantial frames constructed in a manner that will prevent the loss of materials during sieving. Suitable sieve sizes shall be selected to furnish the information required by the specifications covering the material to be tested. The woven wire cloth sieves shall conform to the requirements of Specification E 11.

4.3 *Mechanical Sieve Shaker*—If used, it shall impart a vertical, or lateral and vertical, motion to the sieve, causing the particles thereon to bounce and turn so as to present different orientations to the sieving surface. The sieving action shall be such that the criterion for adequacy of sieving described in 6.8 is met in a reasonable time period.

4.4 *Oven*, of appropriate size, capable of maintaining a uniform temperature of $110 \pm 5^\circ\text{C}$ ($230 \pm 9^\circ\text{F}$).

4.5 *Container*—A pan or vessel of a size sufficient to contain the sample covered with water and to permit vigorous agitation without loss of any of the sample or water.

5. Sample

5.1 The sample shall consist of the entire sample of aggregate from Test Method D 2172 or Test Method D 6307.

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D04 on Road and Paving Materials and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D04.51 on Aggregate Tests.

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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 Available from the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, 444 N. Capitol St., N.W., Washington, DC 20001.

³ Available from American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), 444 N. Capitol St., NW, Suite 249, Washington, DC 20001, <http://www.transportation.org>.

TABLE 1 Size of Sample

	Minimum Mass of Sample, kg
4.75 (No. 4)	0.5
9.5 (3/8 in.)	1
12.5 (1/2 in.)	1.5
19.0 (3/4 in.)	2
25.0 (1 in.)	3
37.5 (1 1/2 in.)	4

5.1.1 Aggregate extracted by the ignition method in Test Method D 6307 shall not be used for gradation analysis if the correction factor obtained in Test Method D 6307 is greater than 1.0 (see Note 1).

5.2 The size of the test sample shall be governed by the nominal maximum aggregate size and shall conform to the mass requirements shown in Table I.

NOTE 1—The temperatures used during the ignition method of asphalt content determination can cause temperature-related deterioration, such as calcination of some carbonate minerals, and quartz phase transitions.⁴ These reactions can result in particle breakdown, which will yield gradation results that are finer than the actual material that was used in the mixture.

6. Procedure

6.1 Dry the sample at $110 \pm 5^\circ\text{C}$ ($230 \pm 9^\circ\text{F}$) to constant weight. Determine the weight to the nearest 0.1 % of the sample weight. The total weight of aggregate in the bituminous mixture being tested is the sum of the weights of the dried aggregates and the mineral matter contained in the extracted bitumen. When using Test Method D 2172, the latter is to be taken as the sum of the weight of ash in the extract and the increase in weight of the filter element as determined in the test method.

6.2 After drying and weighing the test sample, place it in a container and cover it with water. Add a sufficient amount of wetting agent to ensure a thorough separation of the material finer than the 75- μm sieve from the coarser particles (see Note 2). The contents of the container shall be agitated vigorously and the washwater poured immediately over a nest of two sieves consisting of a 2.00 or 1.18-mm sieve superimposed on a 75- μm sieve. The use of a large spoon to stir and agitate the aggregate in the washwater has been found satisfactory.

NOTE 2—Wetting agents may include any dispersing agent such as a liquid detergent, or a soap, that will promote the separation of fine material. There should be enough wetting agent to produce a small amount of suds when the sample is agitated. The quantity of wetting agent will depend on the hardness of the water and quality of the agent. Excessive suds may overflow the sieves and carry some material with them.

6.3 The agitation shall be sufficiently vigorous to result in complete separation from the coarse particles of all particles finer than the 75- μm sieve and to bring them into suspension so that they may be removed by decantation of the washwater. Take care to avoid decantation of the coarse particles of the sample as much as possible. Repeat the operation until any wetting agent used is removed and the washwater is clear.

6.4 Return all material retained on the nested sieves to the container. Dry the washed aggregate in the container to constant weight at a temperature of $110 \pm 5^\circ\text{C}$ ($230 \pm 9^\circ\text{F}$), not to exceed the mixture laboratory compaction temperature $+9^\circ\text{F}$ ($+5^\circ\text{C}$) and not less than 221°F (105°C), and weigh to the nearest 0.1 % of the original dry weight of the sample.

6.5 Then sieve the aggregate over sieves of the various sizes required by the specification covering the mixture, including the 75- μm sieve. Record the weight of material passing each sieve and retained on the next and the amount passing the 75- μm sieve. The summation of these various weights must check the dried weight after washing within 0.2 % of the total weight. Add the weight of dry material passing the 75- μm sieve by dry sieving to the weight of mineral matter in the bitumen and the weight removed by washing in order to obtain the total passing the 75- μm sieve. If it is desired to check the weight of material washed through the 75- μm sieve, the washwater may be evaporated to dryness or filtered through a tared filter paper that is dried and weighed subsequently. Convert the weights of fractions retained on the various sieves and the total passing the 75- μm sieve to percentages by dividing each by the total weight of aggregate in the bituminous mixture from 6.1.

6.6 Nest the sieves in order of decreasing size of opening from top to bottom, and place the sample on the top sieve. Agitate the sieves by hand or by mechanical apparatus for a sufficient period, established by trial or checked by measurement on the actual test sample, to meet the criterion for adequacy of sieving described in 6.7.

6.7 Limit the quantity of material on a given sieve so that all particles have the opportunity to reach sieve openings a number of times during the sieving operation. For sieves with openings smaller than 4.75-mm (No. 4), the weight retained on any sieve at the completion of the sieving operation shall not exceed 6 kg/m^2 (4 g/in.^2) of sieving surface. For sieves with openings 4.75 mm (No. 4) and larger, the weight in kg/m^2 of sieving surface shall not exceed the product of $2.5 \times$ (sieve opening in mm). In no case shall the weight be so great as to cause permanent deformation of the sieve cloth.

6.8 Continue sieving for a sufficient period and in such manner that, after completion, not more than 0.5 % by weight of the total sample passes any sieve during 1 min of continuous hand sieving performed as follows: hold the individual sieve, provided

⁴ Information presented by Chris Rogers at the Annual Symposium of the "International Center for Aggregate Research," April, 2004, Denver, CO.