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Standard Terminology of Masonry¹

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1. Scope*

~~1.1 This terminology covers generic terms and generic definitions of terms specifically associated with masonry.~~

1.1 This standard incorporates generic terms and generic definitions of terms specifically associated with masonry and masonry units. These generic terms and definitions are used within the standards developed by Committee C12 on Mortars and Grouts for Unit Masonry and Committee C15 on Manufactured Masonry Units.

1.2 This standard incorporates terms and definitions of terms associated with the standards specific to clay masonry units, in particular to Specifications C 32, C 34, C 56, C 62, C 126, C 212, C 216, C 279, C 410, C 652, C 902, C 1088, C 1167, C 1261, C 1272, and C 1405, and to Test Methods C 67.

1.3 This standard incorporates terms and definitions of terms associated with the standards specific to concrete masonry units in particular to Specifications C 55, C 73, C 90, C 129, C 139, C 744, C 1319, C 1372, C 1491, C 1623, and C 1634 and to Test Methods C 140, C 426, and C 1262.

1.4 This standard incorporates terms and definition of terms associated with the standards specific to autoclaved aerated concrete masonry units in particular to Practice C 1555 and to Specification C 1386.

1.5 This standard incorporates terms and definitions of terms associated with the standards specific to clay and concrete roofing tile units in particular to Specifications C 1167 and C 1492 and to Test Methods C 1568, C 1569, and C 1570.

1.6 For terminology specific to mortar and grout, see Terminology C 1180.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards*:²

C 32 [Specification for Sewer and Manhole Brick \(Made From Clay or Shale\)](#)

C 34 [Specification for Structural Clay Load-Bearing Wall Tile](#)

C 43 [Terminology of Structural Clay Products](#)

C 55 [Specification for Concrete Building Brick](#)

C 56 [Specification for Structural Clay Nonloadbearing Tile](#)

C 62 [Specification for Building Brick \(Solid Masonry Units Made From Clay or Shale\)](#)

C 67 [Test Methods for Sampling and Testing Brick and Structural Clay Tile](#)

C 73 [Specification for Calcium Silicate Brick \(Sand-Lime Brick\)](#)

C 90 [Specification for Loadbearing Concrete Masonry Units](#)

C 126 [Specification for Ceramic Glazed Structural Clay Facing Tile, Facing Brick, and Solid Masonry Units](#)

C 129 [Specification for Nonloadbearing Concrete Masonry Units](#)

C 139 [Specification for Concrete Masonry Units for Construction of Catch Basins and Manholes](#)

C 140 [Test Methods for Sampling and Testing Concrete Masonry Units and Related Units](#)

C 212 [Specification for Structural Clay Facing Tile](#)

C 216 [Specification for Facing Brick \(Solid Masonry Units Made from Clay or Shale\)](#)

C 279 [Specification for Chemical-Resistant Masonry Units](#)

C 410 [Specification for Industrial Floor Brick](#)

C 426 [Test Method for Linear Drying Shrinkage of Concrete Masonry Units](#)

C 652 [Specification for Hollow Brick \(Hollow Masonry Units Made From Clay or Shale\)](#)

C 744 [Specification for Prefaced Concrete and Calcium Silicate Masonry Units](#)

C 902 [Specification for Pedestrian and Light Traffic Paving Brick](#)

¹ This terminology is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee C15 on Manufactured Masonry Units and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee C15.08 on Terminology.

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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.

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

- [C 1088 Specification for Thin Veneer Brick Units Made From Clay or Shale](#)
- [C 1167 Specification for Clay Roof Tiles](#)
- [C 1180 Terminology of Mortar and Grout for Unit Masonry](#)
- [C 1209 Terminology of Concrete Masonry Units and Related Units](#) Terminology of Concrete Masonry Units and Related Units
- [C 1261 Specification for Firebox Brick for Residential Fireplaces](#)
- [C 1262 Test Method for Evaluating the Freeze-Thaw Durability of Dry-Cast Segmental Retaining Wall Units and Related Concrete Units](#)
- [C 1272 Specification for Heavy Vehicular Paving Brick](#)
- [C 1319 Specification for Concrete Grid Paving Units](#)
- [C 1372 Specification for Dry-Cast Segmental Retaining Wall Units](#)
- [C 1386 Specification for Precast Autoclaved Aerated Concrete \(AAC\) Wall Construction Units](#)
- [C 1405 Specification for Glazed Brick \(Single Fired, Brick Units\)](#)
- [C 1491 Specification for Concrete Roof Pavers](#)
- [C 1492 Specification for Concrete Roof Tile](#)
- [C 1555 Practice for Autoclaved Aerated Concrete Masonry](#)
- [C 1568 Test Method for Wind Resistance of Concrete and Clay Roof Tiles \(Mechanical Uplift Resistance Method\)](#)
- [C 1569 Test Method for Wind Resistance of Concrete and Clay Roof Tiles \(Wind Tunnel Method\)](#)
- [C 1570 Test Method for Wind Resistance of Concrete and Clay Roof Tiles \(Air Permeability Method\)](#)
- [C 1623 Specification for Manufactured Concrete Masonry Lintels](#)
- [C 1634 Specification for Concrete Facing Brick](#)

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—The definitions in this terminology are generic as used by ASTM Committees C12 and C15. For terminology specific to: (1) structural clay products, see Terminology C43, (2) mortar and grout, see Terminology C1180, and (3) concrete masonry units, see Terminology C1209.

3.1 *Generic Definitions*—The definitions apply to masonry units and assemblies. They are generic as used by ASTM Committees C12 and C15.

bed surface, *n*—(1) the nonvertical surfaces of a manufactured masonry unit intended by the manufacturer to be joined by mortar or other methods. (2) the in situ nonvertical surfaces of a manufactured masonry unit joined by mortar or other methods.

cryptoflorescence, *n*—crystalline deposit of water-soluble compounds in the pores of masonry.

efflorescence, *n*—crystalline deposit, usually white, of water-soluble compounds on the surface of masonry.

face, exposed, *n*—the in situ exposed surface(s) of a manufactured masonry unit.

face, finished, *n*—any surface(s) of a manufactured masonry unit intended by the manufacturer to be exposed to view.

facing unit**facing unit**, *n*—manufactured masonry unit designed for use where one or more faces will be exposed and for which the specification includes requirements on color, finish, and other properties affecting appearance.

freeze thaw resistance, *n*—the ability of masonry to maintain integrity under the forces caused by cyclic action of freezing and thawing in the presence of moisture.

frog, *n*—an indentation in a bed surface of a masonry unit. Indentations not exceeding $\frac{3}{8}$ in. (9.5 mm) are termed a frog, sometimes called a panel or panel frog. Indentations exceeding $\frac{3}{8}$ in. (9.5 mm) are termed a deep frog.

groove, *n*—a channel formed on surfaces other than finished faces of manufactured masonry units for production or construction purposes.

height, *n*—vertical dimension of the face of a unit when the unit is positioned as a stretcher.

hollow masonry unit**hollow masonry unit**, *n*—unit whose net cross-sectional area in any plane parallel to the surface containing cores, cells, or deep frogs is less than 75 % of its gross cross-sectional area measured in the same plane.

length, *n*—horizontal dimension of the face of a unit when the unit is positioned as a stretcher.

manufactured masonry unit, *n*—a manmade noncombustible building product intended to be laid by hand and joined by mortar, grout, or other methods of joining.

masonry, *n*—the type of construction made up of masonry units laid with mortar, grout, or other methods of joining.

nominal dimension**nominal dimension**, *n*—dimension that is greater than the specified dimension by the thickness of a mortar joint. It is usually expressed as a whole number.

score, *n*—a channel formed for appearance purposes on the finished faces of a manufactured masonry unit.

shell, *n*—the outer walls of a hollow masonry unit. Shell can either be an end shell or a face shell.

solid masonry unit**solid masonry unit**, *n*—unit whose net cross-sectional area in any plane parallel to the surface containing cores, cells, or deep frogs is 75 % or more of its gross cross-sectional area measured in the same plane.

specified dimensions**specified dimensions**, *n*—dimensions to which masonry units or constructions are required to conform. Actual (measured) dimensions may differ from the specified dimensions by permissible variations.

surface feature, *n*—a quality or condition of the face of a manufactured masonry unit.

DISCUSSION—Surface features include coatings, colors, textures, relief, or combinations of these. A masonry unit may have different surface features on individual faces.

thicknessthickness, n—that dimension designed to lie at right angles to the face of the wall, floor, or other assembly.

units placed in usage—~~manufactured masonry units that have been installed in masonry.~~ units placed in usage, n—~~manufactured masonry units that have been installed in masonry.~~

3.2 Definitions Specific to Clay Masonry Units:

absorption, n—weight of water picked up by a clay masonry unit during immersion at prescribed conditions expressed in relation to the dry weight of the unit.

DISCUSSION—Two conditions of immersion are designated in standards relating to brick: 24 h in room temperature (60 to 86°F (15.5 to 30°C)) water or 5 h in boiling water. (Different time intervals are specified for structural tile and other products.) The resulting absorptions are termed *cold water absorption* and *boiling water absorption*.

Absorption values are used in brick and tile standards as one factor in classifying these products into durability grades. Absorptions are indicators of the extent of firing during manufacture as well as being indicators of durability.

body color, n—the range of color obtained when materials used to form the brick react to the effects of firing temperature and atmosphere.

DISCUSSION—There may be additives in the body to produce a desired color. When no materials are added to the surface of the brick and the unit is not flashed when fired, the body color is also the through-body color, a surface feature.

brick, n—a solid or hollow masonry unit of clay or shale, usually formed into a rectangular prism, then burned or fired in a kiln; brick is a ceramic product.

brick, acid-resistant, n—brick suitable for use in contact with chemicals, usually in conjunction with acid-resistant mortars; see Specification C 279.

brick, building, n—brick for load-resisting or other purposes where appearance properties such as texture or color are not important (formerly called common brick); see Specification C 62 and Specification C 652.

brick, facing, n—brick for general purposes where appearance properties such as color, texture, and chippage are important; see Specification C 216 and Specification C 652.

DISCUSSION—Facing brick are produced from selected clays and are available in typical face sizes, various colors, and in various textures.

brick, floor, n—brick with physical properties related to resistance to chemicals, thermal and mechanical shock, or absorption, or combinations of these, used as finished floor surfaces in industrial applications; see Specification C 410.

brick, paving, n—brick made to provide the wearing surface of highways, streets, driveways, walkways, patios, and similar applications; see Specifications C 902 and C 1272.

brick, sewer, n—low absorption, abrasive-resistant brick intended for use in drainage structures; see Specification C 32.

brick, specially-shaped, n—a brick manufactured to a basic shape of other than a rectangular prism.

cells/core holes, n—continuous openings or perforations within extruded clay products.

DISCUSSION—The extent of permissible openings is specified for each product as the percentage of gross area in the normal bedding surface plane that must be net (solid) area. Core hole is generally used for brick while cell is used for structural tile. Cells are distinguished from core holes by being larger in size. As an illustration, cells must be larger than 1 in. ² (645 mm²) under Specification C 34, and 1½ in. ² (968 mm²) under Specification C 652.

clay, n—an earthy or stony mineral aggregate consisting essentially of hydrous silicates of alumina, plastic when sufficiently pulverized and wetted, rigid when dry, and vitreous when fired to a sufficiently high temperature.

coated finish, n—the surface feature resulting when mineral particles are applied to the column in the extrusion process to impart color, texture, opacity, or other characteristics.

combed finish, n—the texture resulting when faces are altered by more or less parallel scratches or scarfs in manufacture.

coring, v—the process of perforating structural clay products, generally performed during extrusion by supporting cores (rods) within the shaping cap of the extruder.

end-construction tile, n—tile designed to receive its compressive stress parallel to the axes of the cell.

engobe, n—a slip, other than a glaze, that is not impervious and is applied as a coating to a ceramic body to function as a glaze undercoat or to impart color, texture, opacity, or other characteristics.

extrusion, n—shaping of brick by pushing plastic clay or shale through a die opening that forms the peripheral dimensions of the brick.

DISCUSSION—The column of extrudate is then cut into sections to provide the third dimension of the brick. Water is added to the clay or shale in sufficient quantities to permit laminar flow through the extrusion machine. The consistency of the extrudate may vary from stiff and capable of supporting several times its weight to soft and deformable under slight loads.

fire clay, n—a sedimentary clay of low flux content.

fired bond, n—bond developed between particulate constituents of brick solely as the result of the firing process.

DISCUSSION—The bond may result from fusion or melting of one or more constituents of the composition or the surface of particles. Other thermal mechanisms such as sintering and interparticle reaction may be responsible for the bond.