



Standard Test Method for Diagonal Tension (Shear) in Masonry Assemblages¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation E 519; 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.

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

^{€1} NOTE—The Celsius equivalent was added to Paragraph 5.3 editorially in March 2001.

1. Scope *

1.1 This test method covers determination of the diagonal tensile or shear strength of 1.2 by 1.2-m (4 by 4-ft) masonry assemblages by loading them in compression along one diagonal (see Fig. 1), thus causing a diagonal tension failure with the specimen splitting apart parallel to the direction of load.

1.2 Annex A1 provides requirements regarding the determination of the diagonal-tension strength of masonry under combined diagonal-tension and compressive loading.

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

1.4 *This standard may involve hazardous materials, operations, and equipment. This standard does not purport to address all of the safety problems, 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:

- C 67 Test Methods for Sampling and Testing Brick and Structural Clay Tile²
- C 109 Test Method for Compressive Strength of Hydraulic Cement Mortars (Using 2-in. or 50-mm Cube Specimens)³
- C 140 Test Methods for Sampling and Testing Concrete Masonry Units and Related Units²
- C 1019 Test Method for Sampling and Testing Grout²
- E 4 Practices for Force Verification of Testing Machines⁴
- E 575 Practice for Reporting Data from Structural Tests of Building Constructions, Elements, Connections, and Assemblies⁵



FIG. 1 Apparatus for Determination of Diagonal Tensile or Shear Strength Masonry Assemblages

3. Significance and Use

3.1 This test method was developed to measure more accurately the diagonal tensile (shear) strength of masonry than was possible with other available methods. The specimen size was selected as being the smallest that would be reasonably representative of a full-size masonry assemblage and that would permit the use of testing machines such as are used by many laboratories.

NOTE 1—As a research test method used only for the purpose of

¹ 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.

Current edition approved June 10, 2000. Published September 2000. Originally published as E 519–74. Last previous edition E 519–81(1999).

² Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 04.05.

³ Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 04.01.

⁴ Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 03.01.

⁵ Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 04.07.

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

evaluating the effects of variables such as type of masonry unit, mortar, workmanship, etc., a smaller size specimen could be used if the available testing equipment will not accommodate a 1.2-m (4-ft) square specimen. However, there is a lack of experimental data that would permit an evaluation of the effect of specimen size on the shear strength or to permit a correlation between the results of small-scale specimen tests and larger specimens.

4. Apparatus

4.1 Testing Machine—The testing machine shall have sufficient compressive load capacity and provide the rate of loading prescribed in 6.4. It shall be power-operated and capable of applying the load continuously, rather than intermittently, and without shock. It shall conform to the requirements of the Calculation and Report sections of Practices E 4.

NOTE 2—In order to accommodate a 1.2-m (4-ft) square specimen placed in the machine so that its diagonal is in a vertical position, the machine should have a clear opening height of at least 2.13 m (7 ft).

4.2 Loading Shoes—Two steel loading shoes (see Fig. 2 and Fig. 3) shall be used to apply the machine load to the specimen. The length of bearing of the shoe shall be 152 mm (6 in.).

NOTE 3—Experimental work has indicated that the maximum length of bearing of the shoe should be approximately 1/8 the length of the edge of the specimen to avoid excessive bearing stress.

5. Test Specimens

5.1 Size—The nominal size of each specimen shall be 1.2 by 1.2 m (4 by 4 ft) by the thickness of the wall type being tested. The 1.2-m dimensions shall be within 6 mm (1/4 in.) of each other.

5.2 Number of Specimens—Tests shall be made on at least three like specimens constructed with the same size and type of masonry units, mortar, and workmanship.

5.3 Curing—After construction, specimens shall not be moved for at least 7 days. They shall be stored in laboratory air for not less than 28 days. The laboratory shall be maintained at a temperature of 24 ± 8°C (75 ± 15°F) with relative humidities between 25 and 75 %, and shall be free of drafts.

5.4 Mortar—Three 50-mm (2-in.) compressive strength cubes shall be molded from a sample of each batch of mortar

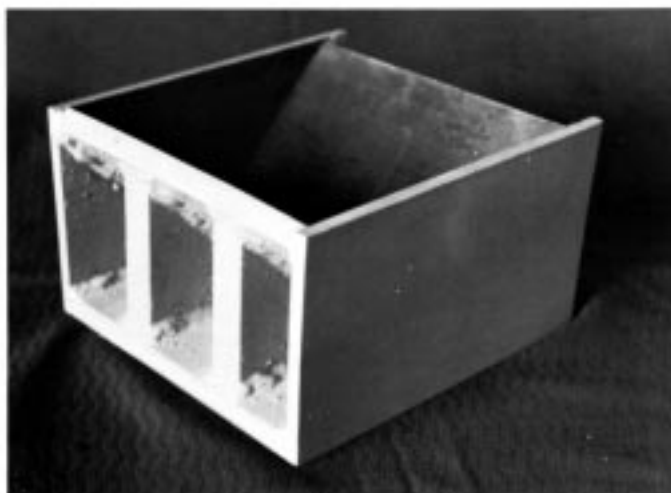
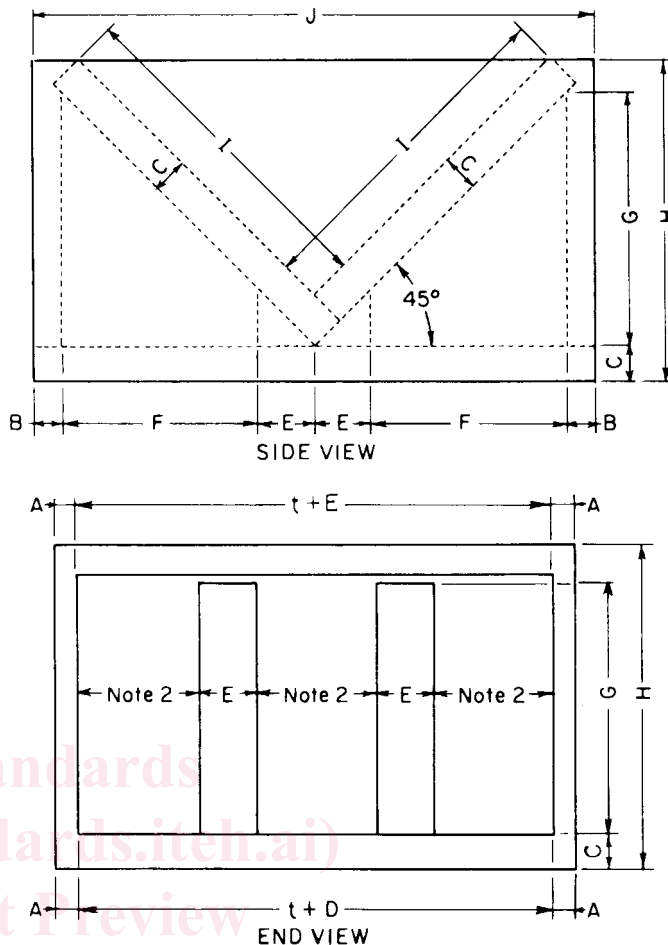


FIG. 2 Loading Shoe (Two Required)



NOTE 1—Material = cold-rolled steel.
NOTE 2—Number and spacing of stiffeners will depend upon the thickness (t) of the wall specimen to be tested.

Table of Metric Equivalents					
	Metric Units, mm	Inch-Pound Units, in.		Metric Units, mm	Inch-Pound Units, in.
A	10	3/8	F	89	3 1/2
B	13	1/2	G	114	4 1/2
C	16	5/8	H	146	5 3/4
D	22	7/8	I	152	6
E	25	1	J	254	10

FIG. 3 Dimensions of Loading Shoe

used to build the specimens and stored under the same conditions as the specimens with which they are associated. The tests shall be conducted in accordance with Test Method C 109. The cubes shall be tested on the same day as the specimen.

5.5 Masonry Units—Masonry units shall be sampled and tested in accordance with the following applicable methods: Test Method C 67 for clay brick or tile or Method C 140 for concrete masonry units.

5.6 Grout—When specified, grout shall be sampled and tested in accordance with Test Method C 1019.

6. Procedure

6.1 Placement of Loading Shoes—Position the upper and lower loading shoes so as to be centered on the upper and lower