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Standard Specification for Reference Masses and Devices for Determining Mass and Volume for Use in the Physical Testing of Hydraulic Cements¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This specification covers the minimum requirements for scales, balances, reference masses, and glass graduates used in the physical testing of hydraulic cements.

1.2 Requirements for analytical reference masses and balances are not included in this specification, but are to be found in Test Methods C114. The use of restrictive terminology, classes, ranges, etc. has been intentionally avoided to allow the use of this specification by other standards-writing bodies with similar requirements for reference masses and devices for determining mass, if desired.

1.3 These requirements are not sufficiently descriptive to be used as the sole specifications for the purchase of reference masses or devices for determining mass without amplification.

1.4 Values in SI units shall be obtained by measurement in SI units or by appropriate conversion, using the Rules for Conversion and Rounding given in ~~IEEE/ASTM SI-10~~ IEEE/ASTM SI-10, of measurement made in other units.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards*:²

C114 [Test Methods for Chemical Analysis of Hydraulic Cement](#)

E617 [Specification for Laboratory Weights and Precision Mass Standards](#)

~~IEEE/ASTM SI-10~~ IEEE/ASTM SI-10 [Standard for Use of the International System of Units \(SI\): The Modern Metric System](#)

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*:

3.1.1 *accuracy, n*—degree of conformity of the indication of a device for determining mass to the true value of an applied mass.

3.1.2 *balance, n*—a device for determining mass that compares a mass with standard masses.

3.1.3 *precision, n*—reproducibility of the readings of a device for determining mass when a given test mass is applied.

3.1.4 *range of mass determination, n*—the range of indications of a device from the minimum test load plus any aids or containers on the load-receiving elements to the maximum test load with the same aids or containers, as specified by the particular method of test being used.

3.1.5 *readability, n*—the smallest fraction of a division to which the index scale of a device for determining mass can be read with ease either by estimation or by use of a vernier.

3.1.6 *reference mass, n*—a piece of material of known specified mass for use in comparing or measuring the mass of other masses (See Note 1).

3.1.6.1 *Discussion*—The definition of “reference mass” was formerly incorrectly designated “weight;” weight is a force (See ~~IEEE/ASTM SI-10~~ IEEE/ASTM SI-10).

3.1.7 *scale, n*—a device for determining mass having a load-receiving element and an index scale (possibly in combination with the use of internal masses or proportional masses), almost always calibrated to indicate mass; generally of lesser accuracy than a balance.

3.1.8 *sensitivity, n*—the minimum change of applied mass required to perceptibly move the indicating element of a device for determining mass.

3.1.9 *sensitivity requirement, n*—the minimum change in position of rest of the indicating element of a device for determining

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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.

mass in response to a specified change of mass load on the load-receiving element.

3.1.10 *test load, n*—the mass to be determined in a single determination, exclusive of aids or containers, as specified in the test method being followed.

3.1.11 *tolerance, n*—precision and accuracy criteria for reference masses or devices for determining mass.

acceptance tolerance—the maximum permissible deviation from correct indication for new or newly reconditioned or adjusted reference masses or devices for determining mass; equal to ½ the maintenance tolerance.

adjustment tolerance—acceptance tolerance.

maintenance tolerance—maximum permissible deviation from correct indication for reference masses and devices for determining mass in service.

3.1.12 *total load, n*—the sum of the masses of materials and aids or containers applied to the load-receiving element at any one time.

4. Reference Masses

4.1 Reference masses for use in the methods of physical testing of hydraulic cement and related and similar materials shall conform at least to the requirements of Class 6 reference masses in Specification E617, except that the maintenance tolerances given in Specification E617 for Class 6 reference masses are to be considered acceptance tolerances for purposes of this specification and the maintenance tolerances twice these values. See Table 1. (See Note 1)

NOTE 1—Former NBS Class P and F reference masses meet this specification as do OIML Class M1 reference masses. Former NBS Class T reference masses of 100 mg and less, Class C reference masses of 1 kg and greater, and OIML Class M2 reference masses of 200 g and greater meet the specification.

4.2 A mass used strictly as a mass, whose actual value need not be known, need not meet the requirements of 4.1 (See Note 2).

NOTE 2—A tare mass for a container used in mass determination is in this category. The actual value of its mass need not be known, but it must be equal in mass to that of the container.

5. Requirements for Scales and Balances Requirements for Scales and Balances

5.1 *Capacity*—The capacity of a device for mass determination shall be at least equal to the maximum total load to be applied to the load-receiving element at any one time (See Note 3).

NOTE 3—In general, the capacity of a device for mass determination should not greatly exceed twice the maximum total load required for a given test because of the reduced accuracy, readability, and sensitivity with higher capacity weighing devices. There are exceptions to this generality as, for example, the high quality substitution balances.

5.2 *Precision and Accuracy*—The maintenance tolerance for a device for mass determination shall be no greater than 0.05 % of the test load throughout the range. For balances with a capacity of 3000 g or more, the range of the test load shall be 300 to 3000 g. For balances with a capacity of less than 3000 g, the range of the test load shall be 10 % of the capacity up to the capacity of the balance. The device for mass determination shall be capable of reproducing readings with the same test mass to within at least the maintenance tolerance.

TABLE 1 Tolerances for Reference Masses^{A,B}

Mass, g	Acceptance Tolerance, ±mg	Maintenance Tolerance, ±mg
10 000	1 000	2 000
5 000	500	1 000
3 000	300	600
2 000	200	400
1 000	100	200
500	50	100
300	30	60
200	20	40
100	10	20
50	7	14
30	5	10
20	3	6
10	2	4
5	2	4
3	2	4
2	2	4
1	2	4

^A Values from Table 1 of Specification E617 for Class 6 metric reference masses.

^B For reference masses with unlisted nominal values, the tolerance shall be that for the next lower denomination listed.