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# Standard Test Method for Bleed Stability of Cementitious Post-Tensioning Tendon Grout<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation C1741; 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.

## 1. Scope

1.1 This test method is designed to determine the bleed stability of freshly-mixed cementitious grout under static pressure.

1.2 *Units*—The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as standard. No other units of measurement are included in this 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. (Warning—Fresh hydraulic cementitious mixtures are caustic and may cause chemical burns to skin and tissue upon prolonged exposure.)*<sup>2</sup>

## 2. Referenced Documents

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

C125 [Terminology Relating to Concrete and Concrete Aggregates](#)

C938 [Practice for Proportioning Grout Mixtures for Preplaced-Aggregate Concrete](#)

## 3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—For definitions of terms used in this test method, refer to Terminology C125.

3.2 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard*:

3.2.1 *bleed stability, n*—of cementitious grout, resistance to bleeding.

3.2.2 *bleeding, n*—of cementitious post-tensioning tendon grout, autogenous flow of mixing water within, or its emergence from, newly placed grout; caused by the settlement of the solid materials within the grout and the filtering action of strands and wires when subjected to static pressure and capillary action.

3.2.3 *grout, n*—mixture of cementitious material and water, with or without aggregate and admixtures, proportioned to produce a pourable consistency without segregation of the constituents.

3.2.4 *post-tensioning, adj*—referring to a method of prestressing in which prestressing steel is tensioned after the concrete has gained sufficient strength.

## 4. Significance and Use

4.1 This test method is designed to evaluate the bleed stability of a freshly-mixed grout under static pressure. It can be used in both the laboratory to qualify grout materials and in the field as a quality control test. When used to qualify grout materials, replicate tests may be specified. It is intended that the test pressure, acceptance criteria, and number of replicate tests be set forth in the contract documents if this test method is referenced. These values will normally vary depending on the vertical rise of the post-tensioning tendon.

NOTE 1—Appendix X1 includes a reference for an example of test pressures and bleeding limits.

4.2 The procedure for this test was developed by Schokker et al.<sup>4</sup> based on previous work by Schupack.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee C09 on Concrete and Concrete Aggregates and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee C09.41 on Hydraulic Cement Grouts.

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<sup>2</sup> Section on Safety Precautions, *Manual of Aggregate and Concrete Testing, Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol. 04.02.

<sup>3</sup> For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, [www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org), or contact ASTM Customer Service at [service@astm.org](mailto: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> Schokker, A. J., B.D. Koester, J.E. Breen, and M. E. Kreger, "Development of High Performance Grouts for Bonded Post-Tensioned Structures," Research Report 1405-2, Center for Transportation Research, October 1999.

<sup>5</sup> Schupack, M. "Admixture for Controlling Bleed in Cement Grout Used in Post-Tensioning," *Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute Journal*, Nov.-Dec. 1974, pp. 1-10.

## 5. Apparatus

5.1 The apparatus consists of a commercially available pressure filtration funnel, stand, pressure supply with gauge, pressure regulator, valve, drip wick, and bleed water collection container as shown in Fig. 1 and Fig. 2.

5.1.1 *Filtration Funnel*—A 47-mm diameter stainless steel pressure filtration funnel with a nominal capacity of 200 mL as shown in Fig. 2. The filtration funnel shall have removable threaded caps at both ends with a stem for connection of the gas supply and a  $7.0 \pm 0.5$  mm inside diameter stem  $90 \pm 1$  mm long for escape of water. The base of the vessel shall contain a  $35 \pm 1$  mm diameter stainless steel 45  $\mu\text{m}$  (No. 325) screen that supports a 47 mm diameter Type A/E borosilicate glass filter (1- $\mu\text{m}$  pore size) as shown in Fig. 2. The screen shall be inserted with the woven side against the glass filter, and the funnel gasket shall be placed above the glass filter as shown in Fig. 2. The glass filter shall cover the screen across the inside diameter of the bottom cap and be located under the gasket when under pressure. Secure the bottom cap before filling the filtration funnel with grout. The funnel is placed in the stand after it is filled.

5.1.2 *Stand*—The filtration funnel shall be attached to a stand capable of holding the funnel in the vertical position with adequate space for the bleed water collection container. The bottom stem of the filtration funnel shall be inserted into the bleed water collection container.

5.1.3 *Gas Supply*—An air or other inert gas pressure supply with a pressure regulator, an in-line shutoff valve, and pressure gauge shall be firmly attached to the top stem of the filtration funnel. The pressure gauge shall be capable of reading pressures up to 700 kPa with 20 kPa graduation marks.

5.1.4 *Metal Drip Wick*—A metal paper clip, or suitable thin metal wire or rod of approximately 1 mm diameter, shall be bent to direct the water squeezed out of the filtration funnel into the collection vessel.

5.1.5 *Bleed Water Collection Container*—The bleed water collection container shall consist of a 10-mL transparent graduated cylinder with 0.2-mL graduation marks.

## 6. Sample Preparation

6.1 Grout shall be mixed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions or in accordance with Practice C938 if no other instructions are provided. For field quality control testing, the grout shall be mixed using the same equipment and procedure as used for the installation of the material.

## 7. Procedure

7.1 Fill the filtration funnel with freshly-mixed grout within 5 min after completion of grout mixing.

7.2 Screw the top stem cap on the funnel hand tight while keeping the funnel in an upright position.

7.3 Place the funnel in the stand.



FIG. 1 Test Apparatus