



Designation: C150/C150M – 12

Standard Specification for Portland Cement¹

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1. Scope*

1.1 This specification covers ten types of portland cement, as follows (see [Note 2](#)):

1.1.1 *Type I*—For use when the special properties specified for any other type are not required.

1.1.2 *Type IA*—Air-entraining cement for the same uses as Type I, where air-entrainment is desired.

1.1.3 *Type II*—For general use, more especially when moderate sulfate resistance is desired.

1.1.4 *Type IIA*—Air-entraining cement for the same uses as Type II, where air-entrainment is desired.

1.1.5 *Type II(MH)*—For general use, more especially when moderate heat of hydration and moderate sulfate resistance are desired.

1.1.6 *Type II(MH)A*—Air-entraining cement for the same uses as Type II(MH), where air-entrainment is desired.

1.1.7 *Type III*—For use when high early strength is desired.

1.1.8 *Type IIIA*—Air-entraining cement for the same use as Type III, where air-entrainment is desired.

1.1.9 *Type IV*—For use when a low heat of hydration is desired.

1.1.10 *Type V*—For use when high sulfate resistance is desired.

NOTE 1—Some cements are designated with a combined type classification, such as Type III, indicating that the cement meets the requirements of the indicated types and is being offered as suitable for use when either type is desired.

NOTE 2—Cement conforming to the requirements for all types are not carried in stock in some areas. In advance of specifying the use of cement other than Type I, determine whether the proposed type of cement is, or can be made, available.

1.2 The values stated in either SI units or inch-pound units are to be regarded separately as standard. The values stated in each system may not be exact equivalents; therefore, each system shall be used independently of the other. Combining values from the two systems may result in non-conformance with the standard. Values in SI units [or inch-pound units] shall be obtained by measurement in SI units [or inch-pound units]

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee C01 on Cement and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee C01.10 on Hydraulic Cements for General Concrete Construction.

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or by appropriate conversion, using the Rules for Conversion and Rounding given in [IEEE/ASTM SI 10](#), of measurements made in other units [or SI units]. Values are stated in only SI units when inch-pound units are not used in practice.

1.3 The text of this standard references notes and footnotes which provide explanatory material. These notes and footnotes (excluding those in tables and figures) shall not be considered as requirements of the standard.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

C33 Specification for Concrete Aggregates

C51 Terminology Relating to Lime and Limestone (as used by the Industry)

C109/C109M Test Method for Compressive Strength of Hydraulic Cement Mortars (Using 2-in. or [50-mm] Cube Specimens)

C114 Test Methods for Chemical Analysis of Hydraulic Cement

C115 Test Method for Fineness of Portland Cement by the Turbidimeter

C151 Test Method for Autoclave Expansion of Hydraulic Cement

C183 Practice for Sampling and the Amount of Testing of Hydraulic Cement

C185 Test Method for Air Content of Hydraulic Cement Mortar

C186 Test Method for Heat of Hydration of Hydraulic Cement

C191 Test Methods for Time of Setting of Hydraulic Cement by Vicat Needle

C204 Test Methods for Fineness of Hydraulic Cement by Air-Permeability Apparatus

C219 Terminology Relating to Hydraulic Cement

C226 Specification for Air-Entraining Additions for Use in the Manufacture of Air-Entraining Hydraulic Cement

C266 Test Method for Time of Setting of Hydraulic-Cement Paste by Gillmore Needles

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

- [C451 Test Method for Early Stiffening of Hydraulic Cement \(Paste Method\)](#)
- [C452 Test Method for Potential Expansion of Portland-Cement Mortars Exposed to Sulfate](#)
- [C465 Specification for Processing Additions for Use in the Manufacture of Hydraulic Cements](#)
- [C563 Test Method for Approximation of Optimum SO₃ in Hydraulic Cement Using Compressive Strength](#)
- [C1038 Test Method for Expansion of Hydraulic Cement Mortar Bars Stored in Water](#)
- [E29 Practice for Using Significant Digits in Test Data to Determine Conformance with Specifications](#)
- [IEEE/ASTM SI 10 American National Standard for Use of the International System of Units \(SI\): The Modern Metric System](#)

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—See Terminology [C219](#).

4. Ordering Information

4.1 Orders for material under this specification shall include the following:

- 4.1.1 This specification number and date,
- 4.1.2 Type or types allowable. If no type is specified, Type I shall be supplied,

4.1.3 Any optional chemical requirements from [Table 2](#), if desired, and

4.1.4 Any optional physical requirements from [Table 4](#), if desired.

5. Ingredients

5.1 The cement covered by this specification shall contain no ingredients except as follows:

5.1.1 Portland cement clinker.

5.1.2 Water or calcium sulfate, or both. The amounts shall be such that the limits shown in [Table 1](#) for sulfur trioxide and loss-on-ignition are not exceeded.

5.1.3 Limestone. The amount shall not be more than 5.0 % by mass such that the chemical and physical requirements of this standard are met (See [Note 3](#)). The limestone, defined in Terminology [C51](#), shall be naturally occurring and consist of at least 70 % by mass of one or more of the mineral forms of calcium carbonate.

NOTE 3—The standard permits up to 5 % by mass of the final cement product to be naturally occurring, finely ground limestone, but does not require that limestone be added to the cement. Cement without ground limestone can be specified in the contract or order.

5.1.4 Inorganic processing additions. The amount shall be not more than 5.0 % by mass of cement. Not more than one inorganic processing addition shall be used at a time. For amounts greater than 1.0 %, they shall have been shown to meet the requirements of Specification [C465](#) for the inorganic processing addition in the amount used or greater. If an inorganic processing addition is used, the manufacturer shall report the amount (or range) used, expressed as a percentage of cement mass, along with the oxide composition of the processing addition. See [Note 4](#).

NOTE 4—These requirements are based on data and recommendations by Taylor.³

5.1.5 Organic Processing additions. They shall have been shown to meet the requirements of Specification [C465](#) in the

³ Taylor, P., “Specifications and Protocols for Acceptance Tests on Processing Additions in Cement Manufacturing,” *NCHRP Report 607*, Transportation Research Board, Washington, DC 20008, 96 pp. Available at www.trb.org.

TABLE 1 Standard Composition Requirements

Cement Type ^A	Applicable Test Method	I and IA	II and IIA	II(MH) and II(MH)A	III and IIIA	IV	V
Aluminum oxide (Al ₂ O ₃), max, %	C114	...	6.0	6.0	...	...	...
Ferric oxide (Fe ₂ O ₃), max, %	C114	...	6.0 ^B	6.0 ^{B,C}	...	6.5	...
Magnesium oxide (MgO), max, %	C114	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0
Sulfur trioxide (SO ₃) ^D , max, %	C114						
When (C ₃ A) ^E is 8 % or less		3.0	3.0	3.0	3.5	2.3	2.3
When (C ₃ A) ^E is more than 8 %		3.5	^F	^F	4.5	^F	^F
Loss on ignition, max, %	C114	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	2.5	3.0
Insoluble residue, max, %	C114	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75
Tricalcium silicate (C ₃ S) ^E , max, %	See Annex A1	...	...	...	...	35 ^C	...
Dicalcium silicate (C ₂ S) ^E , min, %	See Annex A1	...	...	...	...	40 ^C	...
Tricalcium aluminate (C ₃ A) ^E , max, %	See Annex A1	...	8	8	15	7 ^C	5 ^B
Sum of C ₃ S + 4.75C ₃ A ^G , max, %	See Annex A1	...	...	100 ^{C,H}	...	...	...
Tetracalcium aluminoferrite plus twice the tricalcium aluminate (C ₄ AF + 2(C ₃ A)), or solid solution (C ₄ AF + C ₂ F), as applicable, max, %	See Annex A1	...	...	...	...	...	25 ^B

^A See [Note 2](#).

^B Does not apply when the sulfate resistance limit in [Table 4](#) is specified.

^C Does not apply when the heat of hydration limit in [Table 4](#) is specified.

^D It is permissible to exceed the values in the table for SO₃ content, provided it has been demonstrated by Test Method [C1038](#) that the cement with the increased SO₃ will not develop expansion exceeding 0.020 % at 14 days. When the manufacturer supplies cement under this provision, supporting data shall be supplied to the purchaser.

See [Note 6](#).

^E See [Annex A1](#) for calculation.

^F Not applicable.

^G See [Note 5](#).

^H In addition, 7-day heat of hydration testing by Test Method [C186](#) shall be conducted at least once every six months. Such testing shall not be used for acceptance or rejection of the cement, but results shall be reported for informational purposes.

TABLE 2 Optional Composition Requirements^A

Cement Type	Applicable Test Method	I and IA	II and IIA	II(MH) and II(MH)A	III and IIIA	IV	V	Remarks
Tricalcium aluminate (C ₃ A) ^B , max, %	See Annex A1	...	...	...	8	...	...	for moderate sulfate resistance
Tricalcium aluminate (C ₃ A) ^B , max, %	See Annex A1	...	...	...	5	...	...	for high sulfate resistance
Equivalent alkalis (Na ₂ O + 0.658K ₂ O), max, %	C114	0.60 ^C	0.60 ^C	0.60 ^C	0.60 ^C	0.60 ^C	0.60 ^C	low-alkali cement

^A These optional requirements apply only when specifically requested. Verify availability before ordering. See **Note 2**.

^B See **Annex A1** for calculation.

^C Specify this limit when the cement is to be used in concrete with aggregates that are potentially reactive and no other provisions have been made to protect the concrete from deleteriously reactive aggregates. Refer to Specification **C33** for information on potential reactivity of aggregates.

amounts used or greater and the total amount of organic processing additions used shall not exceed 1.0 % by mass of cement.

5.1.6 Air-entraining addition (for air-entraining portland cement only). The interground addition shall conform to the requirements of Specification **C226**.

6. Chemical Composition

6.1 Portland cement of each of the ten types shown in Section 1 shall conform to the respective standard chemical requirements prescribed in **Table 1**. In addition, optional chemical requirements are shown in **Table 2**.

NOTE 5—The limit on the sum, C₃S + 4.75C₃A, in **Table 1** provides control on the heat of hydration of the cement and is consistent with a Test Method **C186** 7-day heat of hydration limit of 335 kJ/kg [80 cal/g].

NOTE 6—There are cases where performance of a cement is improved with SO₃ in excess of the **Table 1** limits in this specification. Test Method **C563** is one of several methods a manufacturer can use to evaluate the effect of sulfate content on cement characteristics. Whenever SO₃ content of a cement exceeds **Table 1** limits, Test Method **C1038** results provide evidence that excessive expansion does not occur at this higher sulfate content.

7. Physical Properties

7.1 Portland cement of each of the ten types shown in Section 1 shall conform to the respective standard physical requirements prescribed in **Table 3**. In addition, optional physical requirements are shown in **Table 4**.

8. Sampling

8.1 When the purchaser desires that the cement be sampled and tested to verify compliance with this specification, perform sampling and testing in accordance with Practice **C183**.

8.2 Practice **C183** is not designed for manufacturing quality control and is not required for manufacturer's certification.

9. Test Methods

9.1 Determine the applicable properties enumerated in this specification in accordance with the following test methods:

- 9.1.1 *Chemical Analysis*—Test Methods **C114**.
- 9.1.2 *Air Content of Mortar*—Test Method **C185**.
- 9.1.3 *Fineness by Air Permeability*—Test Method **C204**.
- 9.1.4 *Autoclave Expansion*—Test Method **C151**.

9.1.5 *Strength*—Test Method **C109/C109M**.

9.1.6 *Time of Setting by Vicat Needles*—Test Method **C191**.

9.1.7 *False Set*—Test Method **C451**.

9.1.8 *Heat of Hydration*—Test Method **C186**.

9.1.9 *Sulfate Resistance*—Test Method **C452** (sulfate expansion).

9.1.10 *Time of Setting by Gillmore Needles*—Test Method **C266**.

9.1.11 *Fineness by Turbidimeter*—Test Method **C115**.

9.1.12 *Calcium Sulfate (Expansion of) Mortar*—Test Method **C1038**.

10. Inspection

10.1 Inspection of the material shall be made as agreed upon between the purchaser and the seller as part of the purchase contract.

11. Rejection

11.1 The cement shall be rejected if it fails to meet any of the requirements of this specification.

11.2 At the option of the purchaser, retest, before using, cement remaining in bulk storage for more than 6 months or cement in bags in local storage in the custody of a vendor for more than 3 months after completion of tests and reject the cement if it fails to conform to any of the requirements of this specification. Cement so rejected shall be the responsibility of the owner of record at the time of resampling for retest.

11.3 Packages shall identify the mass contained as net weight. At the option of the purchaser, packages more than 2 % below the mass marked thereon shall be rejected and if the average mass of packages in any shipment, as shown by determining the mass of 50 packages selected at random, is less than that marked on the packages, the entire shipment shall be rejected.

12. Manufacturer's Statement

12.1 At the request of the purchaser, the manufacturer shall state in writing the nature, amount, and identity of any air-entraining addition and of any processing addition used, and also, if requested, shall supply test data showing compliance of such air-entraining addition with Specification **C226** and of such processing addition with Specification **C465**.



TABLE 3 Standard Physical Requirements

Cement Type ^A	Applicable Test Method	I	IA	II	IIA	II(MH)	II(MH)A	III	IIIA	IV	V
Air content of mortar, ^B volume %:	C185	12	22	12	22	12	22	12	22	12	12
max		...	16	...	16	...	16	...	16	...	...
Fineness, specific surface, m ² /kg	C204	260	260	260	260	260	260	...	...	260	260
Air permeability test		430 ^C	430 ^C	430
Autoclave expansion, max, %	C151	0.80	0.80	0.80	0.80	0.80	0.80	0.80	0.80	0.80	0.80
Strength, not less than the values shown for the ages indicated as follows: ^D	
Compressive strength, MPa [psi]:	C109/ C109M	...	...	...	...	...	...	12.0	10.0	...	...
1 day		[1740]	[1450]	...
3 days	...	12.0	10.0	10.0	8.0	10.0	8.0	24.0	19.0	...	8.0
	...	[1740]	[1450]	[1450]	[1160]	7.0 ^E	[1160]	[3480]	[2760]	...	[1160]
7 days	...	19.0	16.0	17.0	14.0	[1020] ^E	6.0 ^E	...	...	7.0	15.0
	...	[2760]	[2320]	[2470]	[2030]	17.0	[870] ^E	...	...	[1020]	[2180]
	...	...	...	...	...	[1740] ^E	[2030]	...	...	...	...
	...	...	...	...	...	12.0 ^E	9.0 ^E	...	...	...	...
	...	...	...	...	...	[1740] ^E	[1310] ^E	...	...	17.0	21.0
28 days	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	[2470]	[3050]
Time of setting: Vicat test: ^F	C191	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45
Time of setting, min, not less than		375	375	375	375	375	375	375	375	375	375
Time of setting, min, not more than	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

^A See Note 2.

^B Compliance with the requirements of this specification does not necessarily ensure that the desired air content will be obtained in concrete.

^C Maximum fineness limits do not apply if the sum of C₃S + 4.75C₂S is less than or equal to 90.

^D The strength at any specified test age shall be not less than that attained at any previous specified test age.

^E When the optional heat of hydration in Table 4 is specified.

^F The time of setting is that described as initial setting time in Test Method C191.