



Designation: **C1232—10e C1232 – 12**

## Standard Terminology of Masonry<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation C1232; 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 standard incorporates generic terms and generic definitions of terms specifically associated with manufactured masonry units and masonry constructed with manufactured 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 [C32](#), [C34](#), [C56](#), [C62](#), [C126](#), [C212](#), [C216](#), [C279](#), [C410](#), [C530](#), [C652](#), [C902](#), [C1088](#), [C1167](#), [C1261](#), [C1272](#), and [C1405](#), and to Test Methods [C67](#).

1.3 This standard incorporates terms and definitions of terms associated with the standards specific to concrete masonry units in particular to Specifications [C55](#), [C73](#), [C90](#), [C129](#), [C139](#), [C744](#), [C1319](#), [C1372](#), [C1491](#), [C1623](#), and [C1634](#) and to Test Methods [C140](#), [C426](#), and [C1262](#).

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 [C1555](#)/[C1692](#) and to Specification Specifications [C1386](#), [C1691](#), and [C1693](#).

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 [C1167](#) and [C1492](#) and to Test Methods [C1568](#), [C1569](#), and [C1570](#).

1.6 For terminology specific to mortar and grout, see Terminology [C1180](#).

### 2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards*:<sup>2</sup>

[C32](#) Specification for Sewer and Manhole Brick (Made From Clay or Shale)

[C34](#) Specification for Structural Clay Load-Bearing Wall Tile

~~[C43](#) Terminology of Structural Clay Products (Withdrawn 2009)~~<sup>3</sup>

[C55](#) Specification for Concrete Building Brick

[C56](#) Specification for Structural Clay Nonloadbearing Tile

[C62](#) Specification for Building Brick (Solid Masonry Units Made From Clay or Shale)

[C67](#) Test Methods for Sampling and Testing Brick and Structural Clay Tile

[C73](#) Specification for Calcium Silicate Brick (Sand-Lime Brick)

[C90](#) Specification for Loadbearing Concrete Masonry Units

[C126](#) Specification for Ceramic Glazed Structural Clay Facing Tile, Facing Brick, and Solid Masonry Units

[C129](#) Specification for Nonloadbearing Concrete Masonry Units

[C139](#) Specification for Concrete Masonry Units for Construction of Catch Basins and Manholes

[C140](#) Test Methods for Sampling and Testing Concrete Masonry Units and Related Units

[C212](#) Specification for Structural Clay Facing Tile

[C216](#) Specification for Facing Brick (Solid Masonry Units Made from Clay or Shale)

[C279](#) Specification for Chemical-Resistant Masonry Units

[C410](#) Specification for Industrial Floor Brick

[C426](#) Test Method for Linear Drying Shrinkage of Concrete Masonry Units

<sup>1</sup> 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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<sup>2</sup> 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

- C530 Specification for Structural Clay Nonloadbearing Screen Tile
- C652 Specification for Hollow Brick (Hollow Masonry Units Made From Clay or Shale)
- C744 Specification for Prefaced Concrete and Calcium Silicate Masonry Units
- C902 Specification for Pedestrian and Light Traffic Paving Brick
- C936 Specification for Solid Concrete Interlocking Paving Units
- C1088 Specification for Thin Veneer Brick Units Made From Clay or Shale
- C1167 Specification for Clay Roof Tiles
- C1180 Terminology of Mortar and Grout for Unit Masonry
- C1209 Terminology of Concrete Masonry Units and Related Units (Withdrawn 2009)<sup>3</sup>
- C1261 Specification for Firebox Brick for Residential Fireplaces
- C1262 Test Method for Evaluating the Freeze-Thaw Durability of Dry-Cast Segmental Retaining Wall Units and Related Concrete Units
- C1272 Specification for Heavy Vehicular Paving Brick
- C1319 Specification for Concrete Grid Paving Units
- C1372 Specification for Dry-Cast Segmental Retaining Wall Units
- C1386 Specification for Precast Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (AAC) Wall Construction Units
- C1405 Specification for Glazed Brick (Single Fired, Brick Units)
- C1491 Specification for Concrete Roof Pavers
- C1492 Specification for Concrete Roof Tile
- ~~C1555 Practice for Autoclaved Aerated Concrete Masonry (Withdrawn 2009)<sup>3</sup>~~
- C1568 Test Method for Wind Resistance of Concrete and Clay Roof Tiles (Mechanical Uplift Resistance Method)
- C1569 Test Method for Wind Resistance of Concrete and Clay Roof Tiles (Wind Tunnel Method)
- C1570 Test Method for Wind Resistance of Concrete and Clay Roof Tiles (Air Permeability Method)
- C1623 Specification for Manufactured Concrete Masonry Lintels
- C1634 Specification for Concrete Facing Brick
- C1691 Specification for Unreinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (AAC) Masonry Units
- C1692 Practice for Construction and Testing of Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (AAC) Masonry
- C1693 Specification for Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (AAC)

### 3. Terminology

3.1 *Generic Definitions*—The definitions apply to manufactured masonry units and masonry constructed with manufactured masonry units. 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.

**cryptofluorescence, *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, *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, *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 manufactured masonry units laid with mortar, grout, or other methods of joining.

**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.

~~**permeable paving unit**, *n*—a manufactured masonry unit for pavement applications configured to achieve a minimum percentage of open area in the wearing surface of the pavement by coring, a specially-shaped perimeter, or larger spacer lugs, or combinations thereof.~~

DISCUSSION—

~~Permeable paving units may be specified under [C902](#) for Pedestrian and Light Traffic Paving Brick, [C936](#) for Solid Concrete Interlocking Paving Units, [C1272](#) for Heavy Vehicular Paving Brick, or [C1319](#) for Concrete Grid Paving Units. Permeable pavement systems can also be made with standard units and a laying pattern that permits sufficient water entry.~~

**permeable unit pavement system**, *n*—pavement with a wearing surface made from clay or concrete units that allows infiltration of water to an open-graded aggregate bed, base, or subbase, or combinations thereof.

DISCUSSION—

Permeable pavement systems are utilized to reduce stormwater runoff. Permeable pavements have wearing surfaces with a high initial water infiltration through open spaces to drain water into open-graded bedding and base materials. The open spaces in the wearing surface are designed to enable sufficient infiltration rates to handle runoff from designated storm types (for example, 1 year, 24 hour event).

With unit pavers the open spaces can be achieved with exposed coring, a specially-shaped perimeter configuration, or wider joints, or combinations thereof. Permeable pavement systems can also be made with standard units and a laying pattern that permits sufficient water entry.

**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**, *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**, *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.

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

**unit, facing**, *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.

**unit, hollow masonry**, *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.

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

**unit, permeable paving**, *n*—a manufactured masonry unit for pavement applications configured to achieve a minimum percentage of open area in the wearing surface of the pavement by coring, a specially-shaped perimeter, or larger spacer lugs, or combinations thereof.

DISCUSSION—

Permeable paving units may be specified under [C902](#) for Pedestrian and Light Traffic Paving Brick, [C936](#) for Solid Concrete Interlocking Paving Units, [C1272](#) for Heavy Vehicular Paving Brick, or [C1319](#) for Concrete Grid Paving Units. Permeable pavement systems can also be made with standard units and a laying pattern that permits sufficient water entry.

**unit, solid masonry**, *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.

**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, absorption, initial rate of**, *n*—~~the range of color obtained when materials used to form the brick react to the effects of firing temperature and atmosphere;~~ a measure of the suction of water upward into a dry brick from a bed face during one minute of exposure.

DISCUSSION—

Initial rate of absorption (IRA) is a distinct property that offers different information from absorption. It is expressed as grams of water picked up in one minute by a net area of 30 in.<sup>2</sup> (194 cm<sup>2</sup>).

~~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.~~ Initial rate of absorption is one factor influencing the quality of bond between brick and mortar. It is used in brick standards to recommend construction practices for enhancing mortar to brick bonding.

**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 **C279**.

**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 **C62** and Specification **C652**.

**brick, facing**, *n*—brick for general purposes where appearance properties such as color, texture, and chippage are important; see Specification **C216** and Specification **C652**.

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 **C410**.

DISCUSSION—

Other brick are used as flooring in non-industrial applications; see Specification **C902**. Floor brick manufactured to meet the requirements in Specification **C410** are typically smooth and dense.

**brick, paving**, *n*—brick made to provide the wearing surface of highways, streets, driveways, walkways, patios, and similar applications; see Specifications **C902** and **C1272**.

**brick, sewer**, *n*—low absorption, abrasive-resistant brick intended for use in drainage structures; see Specification **C32**.

**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.<sup>2</sup> (645 mm<sup>2</sup>) under Specification **C34**, and 1½ in.<sup>2</sup> (968 mm<sup>2</sup>) under Specification **C652**.

**ceramic, *adj***—pertaining to products containing hydrous silicates of alumina that are treated to develop fired bond.

DISCUSSION—

Ceramic materials used for brick and clay tile typically consist of clay or other similar earthy materials that have been fired in a kiln to temperatures above 1500°F (655°C). The exposure to high temperature begins the transformation of the constituent materials from their natural state to that of a glassy state (incipient fusion).

**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, color, body, *n***—~~the surface color and texture resulting from the application of mineral particles to the finished faces in the manufacturing process.~~ range of color obtained when materials used to form the brick react to the effects of firing temperature and atmosphere.

DISCUSSION—

Coatings include engobes, glazes, sands, and slips, and these may contain clays, colorants, fluxes, sands, and other materials. Coatings may be applied wet or dry and alone or in combinations. 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.

~~**combed finish, color, through-body, *n***—the texture resulting when faces are altered by more or less parallel scratches or scarfs in manufacture.~~ range of surface color obtained when units without materials added to the surfaces for appearance purposes are fired without flashing.

DISCUSSION—

Through-body color results from the materials used to form the brick reacting to the effects of firing temperature. There may be additives in the body to produce a desired color.

**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.

**finish, coated, *n***—~~the surface color and texture resulting from the application of mineral particles to the finished faces in the manufacturing process.~~

DISCUSSION—

Coatings include engobes, glazes, sands, and slips, and these may contain clays, colorants, fluxes, sands, and other materials. Coatings may be applied wet or dry and alone or in combinations.

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

**finish, flashed, *n***—~~the range of color produced by the presence of a reduced oxygen atmosphere in the kiln during firing.~~

**finish, plaster-base, *n***—~~the texture intended for the direct application of plaster.~~

DISCUSSION—

Plaster-base finishes may be smooth, scored, combed, or roughened.



**finish, sand, *n***—the color and texture resulting when faces have sand applied either to the clay column in the extrusion process for appearance purposes or as the lubricant to the molds in the molding process.

**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.

The higher the heat treatment, the greater the extent of bonding and consequently the greater the developed strength and the lower the resulting porosity. The bond development should be sufficient to provide the specified strength, porosity, and durability for any particular product.

~~**fireproofing tile, *n***—tile for use as a protection for structural members against fire.~~

**firing, *v***—process of heating the material to elevated temperatures.

DISCUSSION—

The temperatures are usually in excess of 1706°F (930°C). The extent of firing is a function of both time and temperature. The firing develops the inter-particulate bond, the strengths, the pore structure, and the color of the product. The extent of firing should be sufficient to produce the levels of these properties required by the specifications for the particular product.

~~**flashed finish, *n***—the range of color produced by the presence of a reduced oxygen atmosphere in the kiln during firing.~~

~~**furring tile, *n***—tile for lining the inside of walls and carrying no superimposed loads.~~

**glaze, *n***—an impervious finish composed of ceramic materials, fused during firing with the body of brick or tile, which is a semivitreous or vitreous surface and may be clear, white, or colored.

~~**header tile, glaze, salt, *n***—tile designed to provide recesses for brick header units in masonry faced walls; the color and texture resulting when faces have a lustrous glazed finish from the thermochemical reaction of the silicates of the clay body with vapors of salt or chemicals.~~

**impervious, *adj***—describes the state of having obtained that degree of vitrification evidenced visually by resistance to penetration of a specified dye.

**incipient fusion, *n***—beginning of the development of fired bond.

~~**initial rate of absorption, *n***—a measure of the suction of water upward into a dry brick from a bed face during one minute of exposure.~~

DISCUSSION—

Initial rate of absorption (IRA) is a distinct property that offers different information from absorption. It is expressed as grams of water picked up in one minute by a net area of 30 in.<sup>2</sup> (194 cm<sup>2</sup>).

Initial rate of absorption is one factor influencing the quality of bond between brick and mortar. It is used in brick standards to recommend construction practices for enhancing mortar to brick bonding.

~~**loadbearing tile, *n***—tile for use in masonry constructions designed to carry superimposed loads; see Specification C34.~~

**molding, *v***—shaping of brick by dropping, throwing, or vibrating wet clay or shale in a mold cavity shaped to provide the peripheral dimensions of the brick.

DISCUSSION—

Sufficient water is mixed with the clay or shale to produce a soft consistency.

When insides of molds are sanded to prevent sticking of clay, the product is sand-struck brick. When the molds are wetted to prevent sticking, the product is water-struck brick.

~~**nonloadbearing tile, *n***—tile for use in masonry constructions carrying no superimposed loads; see Specification C56.~~

~~**partition tile, *n***—tile for use in building interior partitions, subdividing areas into rooms, or similar constructions, and carrying no superimposed loads.~~

**pressing, *v***—shaping of brick by pressing clay or shale into a mold cavity which forms the peripheral dimensions of the brick.