



Designation: C1532/C1532M – 12

Standard Practice for Selection, Removal, and Shipment of Manufactured Masonry Units and Masonry Specimens from Existing Construction¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation C1532/C1532M; 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.

1. Scope*

1.1 This practice covers the process of selection, removal, and shipment of masonry specimens from existing construction that are intended for testing. These specimens can be either individual masonry units or assemblages. Assemblages are a portion of existing masonry, typically consisting of masonry units, mortar, grout, reinforcing steel, collar joint, and masonry accessories. The specimens may be taken from single- or multiple-wythe construction, or portions thereof. This practice also covers procedures for reporting as part of this process.

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.

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 requirements prior to use.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*²

[C1180 Terminology of Mortar and Grout for Unit Masonry](#)

[C1232 Terminology of Masonry](#)

[E122 Practice for Calculating Sample Size to Estimate, With Specified Precision, the Average for a Characteristic of a Lot or Process](#)

¹ This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee C15 on Manufactured Masonry Units and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee C15.04 on Research.

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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.

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions:*

3.1.1 For definitions of terms used in this practice, refer to Terminologies [C1180](#) and [C1232](#).

4. Significance and Use

4.1 Masonry specimens are sometimes removed as part of an assessment of the condition of masonry construction. Such specimens are commonly prepared for shipment to a laboratory where the specimens are assessed with visual techniques, petrographic techniques, or standard test methods. The process of selecting, removing, and shipping the specimens can have an effect on test results. This practice provides procedures for selecting, removing, and shipping masonry specimens removed from existing construction.

4.2 The selection and removal processes described in this practice are primarily intended for walls. Selection and removal of masonry specimens from locations other than walls requires user judgment in order to obtain appropriate specimens.

4.3 This practice also covers reporting of the selection, removal, and shipping processes. This information allows interested parties to assess the impact of these processes on test results.

4.4 This practice does not address the use of test results conducted on removed masonry specimens. This practice does not determine whether the removed masonry materials met original specification requirements.

5. Selection and Removal

5.1 *Selection of Test Samples:*

5.1.1 *Visual Assessment*—Prior to selecting specimens for removal, perform a visual survey of the exposed surface to assess the in-place, undisturbed condition of the masonry wall and other related construction.

5.1.1.1 Record observations from the visual survey with photographs or drawings, or both, that represent the appearance of the masonry. Include sample locations identified in [5.2](#).

5.1.1.2 Conduct the visual assessment either over the whole construction or on a representative sample of the whole. Examine locations with different exposures.

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



NOTE 1—Locations with different exposures, such as walls exposed to rain and walls protected from rain may be used to distinguish different segments of construction to be examined.

5.1.2 *Sampling*—Select specimens representative of the entire masonry construction or a portion thereof. Sample by one or more of the following techniques:

NOTE 2—When sampling a portion of the entire construction consider aspects such as the orientation of the units (for example, stretcher, header, or soldier); location in the structure (for example, parapet, corbel, or quoin); or where different masonry units are blended to produce a range of color, architectural effect within the entire construction; and required specimen size to accommodate further testing.

5.1.2.1 *Random Sampling*—Within the entire construction, or in a selected part of the entire construction, select specimen sample locations based on a random sampling process. Designate a numbering system associated with specimen locations and randomly select numbers, or use a similar random sampling method.

NOTE 3—When specimens are to be removed for testing in accordance with test methods that include requirements for selection and sampling of samples, those requirements should be replaced with 5.1 of this practice.

NOTE 4—Practice E122 provides information on how to calculate the number and locations of samples necessary in order to estimate with a prescribed precision, a measure of quality representing all the sampling area.

5.1.2.2 *Location-Specific Sampling*—Select specimens sample locations specific to a particular installed location.

5.1.2.3 *Condition-Specific Sampling*—Select specimen sample locations specific to a physical condition of the masonry, such as units or mortar visually assessed to be deteriorated or units or mortar visually assessed to be undamaged.

NOTE 5—Selecting specimens for condition-specific sampling could include considering masonry visually assessed to be deteriorated, or masonry assessed to be undamaged, for examples.

NOTE 6—Sampling is useful for identification of differences in masonry construction in different locations or exposures, that is, the difference between the masonry on different building elevations, or the difference between masonry exposed to environmental or atmospheric conditions and those not exposed. Under these circumstances, sampling should be representative of each usage condition. For example, select masonry visually considered to be in the best physical condition, in the worst physical condition, and the most representative of the overall physical condition.

5.2 *Identification*—Identify each specimen on the wall with a permanent marker and photograph before removal. Do not mark on more than 10 % of any face of the specimen. Reference the marked specimen to the specific location where the specimen was obtained as recorded in 5.1.1.1.

5.3 *Pre-removal Documentation*—Prior to removing specimens, thoroughly document the visual condition of the masonry within the proposed sampling locations. Prepare a sketch of or photograph each sample location. Trace over any cracks on the specimens with a felt-tipped marker and document the cracks' maximum width(s). Trace along the outer limits of all other areas of distress using a felt tip pen and document the approximate depth of the distress at each individual location, if any.

NOTE 7—The pre-removal documentation will be used for judging the specimen's pre-removal condition and for comparative purposes to

determine if it is damaged during removal or shipping. Documenting the condition of cracks and other distress, if any, will be used in judging if the extent and size of existing distress has increased during specimen removal or shipping.

NOTE 8—Distress is any damage not typically associated with sound masonry. It may be manifested as spalling, chipping, crazing, stains, efflorescence, or other types of visually assessable defects.

5.4 *Specimen Removal*:

5.4.1 *Specimen Size*—Each specimen shall be sufficient size to allow the proposed testing as specified in the test procedure(s).

5.4.2 *Specimen Removal*—Remove existing masonry construction (units and mortar) at the perimeter of the specimen as necessary to allow removal of accessories (such as ties, joint reinforcement across wythes, and so forth), within the specimen perimeter, without causing damage to the specimen. Remove adjacent masonry or adjoining construction by saw-cutting or by chiseling, as necessary, to obtain properly sized specimens. Do not use electric or hydraulic impact equipment that damages the specimen. Remove the specimen from the construction and set on stable horizontal surface (such as the ground, scaffolding, and so forth), taking care to avoid damage during removal and transport to the stable surface.

NOTE 9—While removing the specimens, do not detrimentally affect the structural or serviceability performance of the remaining masonry and other related construction. Provide adequate shoring and weather protection.

NOTE 10—Specimens with a nominal thickness of 100 mm [4 in.] are normally removed with a power-driven rotary saw with a diamond-tipped blade having a diameter of 300 to 350 mm [12 to 14 in.].

NOTE 11—One successful way to minimize damage to specimens removed from existing masonry walls by way of cutting is to first make the bottom cut and shim it to take up the weight of the specimen, then make the top cut, and finally make the two side cuts. These cuts should extend past the specimen corners a distance at least equal to the thickness of the specimen and extend completely through the specimen at the corners.

5.4.3 *Specimen Condition after Removal*—Move specimen to site of preparation for shipping and document the specimen's condition on all exposed sides as described in 5.3.

NOTE 12—The purpose of documenting the specimen condition after removal is to judge if the specimen has been damaged during the removal process.

5.4.4 *Assemblage Specimen Confinement Prior to Transport*—Prior to packing assemblage specimens for shipment, place rigid material cut to the specimen's thickness and width plus any additional over-sizing to allow installation of the system of confinement, on the top and bottom of the specimen and confine the specimen without damage during packaging and shipment. Record description of specimen confinement for shipping.

NOTE 13—19 mm [$\frac{3}{4}$ in.] thick plywood pieces or other equally rigid materials have been successfully used for confinement plates.

NOTE 14—If a specimen is confined with steel banding straps applied with banding machines, or nylon or cotton shipping straps tightened with a self-contained ratchet, the specimen may be compressed eccentrically, bending the specimen and possibly damaging it. To guard against this, specimens may be gently compressed longitudinally between two confining plates cushioned by a compressible material such as Type I (0.07 MPa [10 psi] compressive strength at 10 % deformation) expanded polystyrene sheets (EPS). Use one or more threaded rods installed through the plates and tighten to compress the cushioning material so it makes full contact