



Designation: **C120/C120M—12 C120/C120M – 15**

Standard Test Methods of Flexure Testing of Slate (Breaking Load, Modulus of Rupture, Modulus of Elasticity)¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation C120/C120M; 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.

INTRODUCTION

Due to the unique properties of slate, the flexure test is better adapted to use for strength and elasticity determinations than either compression or tension tests. Furthermore, several uses of slates are such that these determinations are of special interest and value, besides furnishing comparative data.

The property of slate termed “grain” causes a slab of the material to break transversely in one direction somewhat more readily than at right angles to this direction. For this reason it is desirable to test the strength and elasticity both parallel and perpendicular to the grain.

Breaking load test results for samples of roofing slate are only valid for the commercial supply of slates of that thickness or greater. For the commercial supply of thinner roofings slates, testing on samples of the minimum specified thickness must be conducted.

When comparing slates of equal thickness, but from various sources, slates which meet the required breaking load at the lowest specimen thickness will yield the best performance on the roof in terms of resistance to impact damage.

1. Scope

1.1 These test methods cover determination of the breaking load, modulus of rupture and modulus of elasticity of slate by means of flexure tests.

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 limitations prior to use.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*²

[C119 Terminology Relating to Dimension Stone](#)

[C1799 Guide to Dimension Stone Test Specimen Sampling and Preparation](#)

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—All definitions are in accordance with Terminology [C119](#).

4. Significance and Use

4.1 These test methods are useful in indicating the differences in flexure (breaking load, modulus of rupture, modulus of elasticity) between various slates. These test methods also provide one element in the comparison of slates.

¹ These test methods are under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee [C18](#) on Dimension Stone and are the direct responsibility of Subcommittee [C18.01](#) on Test Methods. Current edition approved Oct. 15, 2012/Nov. 1, 2015. Published November 2012/November 2015. Originally approved in 1925. Last previous edition approved in 2009/2012 as C120/C120M-09/-12. DOI: [10.1520/C0120-C0120M-12-10.1520/C0120_C0120M-15](https://doi.org/10.1520/C0120-C0120M-12-10.1520/C0120_C0120M-15).

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.

5. Apparatus

5.1 *Testing Machine*—The accuracy of the testing machine shall be within 1 % for the range from 10 to 1000 lbf [50 to 5000 N].

5.2 *Load Application and Support Blocks*—The supports for the specimen shall be of the rocker type (Fig. 1) with the edges at least as long as the width of the specimen. The load application block may be of either the rocker or rigid type. The portions of the load application and support blocks contacting the stone shall be rounded, with a nominal radius of ½ in. [13 mm].

6. Sampling

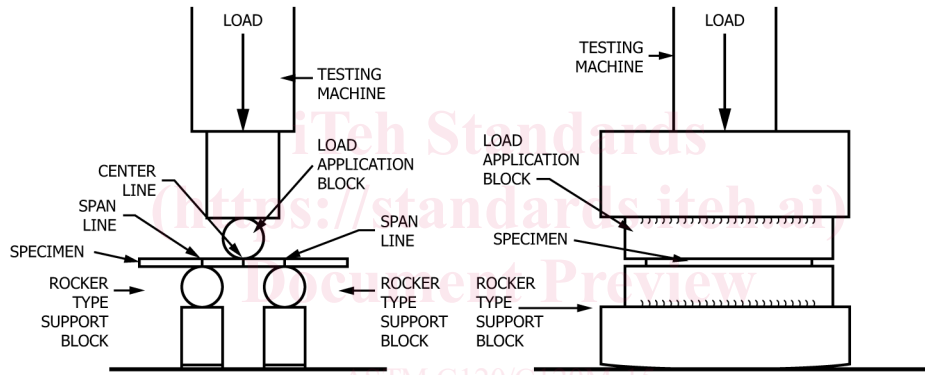
6.1 Select the sample to represent a true average of the type or grade of stone under consideration and of the quality supplied to the market under the type designation to be tested. The sample may be selected by the purchaser or his authorized representative from the quarried stone or taken from the natural ledge and shall be of adequate size to permit the preparation of the desired number of test specimens. When perceptible variations occur, the purchaser may select as many samples as are necessary for determining the variations in flexure (breaking load, modulus of rupture, modulus of elasticity).

NOTE 1—Refer to Guide C1799 for additional information on selecting, preparing, and conditioning test specimens.

BREAKING LOAD AND MODULUS OF RUPTURE

7. Test Specimens

7.1 *Structural or Electrical Slate*—Six representative specimens, 12 by 1½ by 1 in. [300 by 40 by 25 mm] in size, of the particular slate under consideration shall be tested.



Specimen in Position for Testing

The test apparatus shown is one example of an acceptable configuration. Other configurations meeting the requirements of Section 5 are also acceptable.

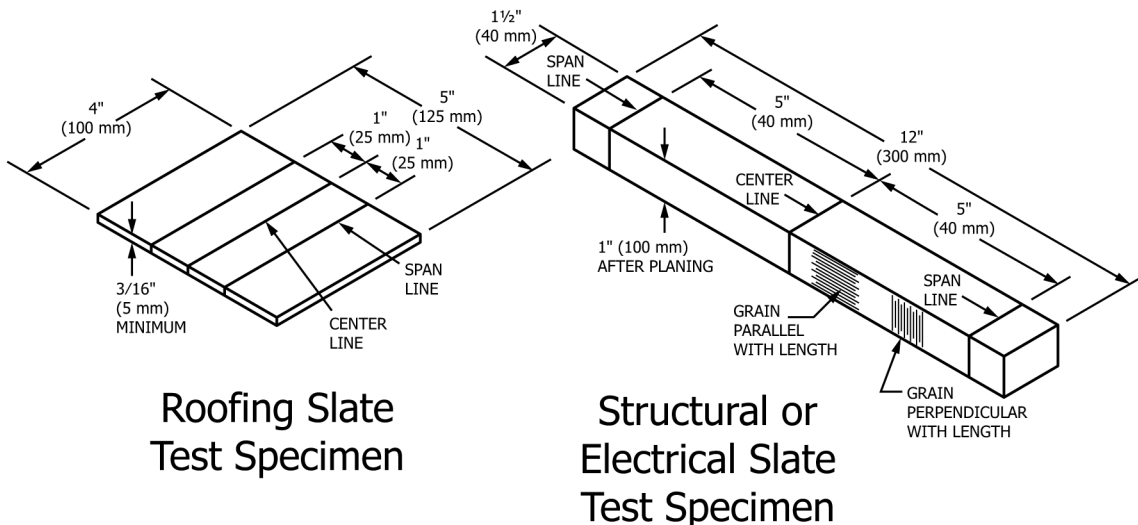


FIG. 1 Specimens and Preferred Type of Loading Application and Support Blocks for Determining the Breaking Load, Modulus of Rupture and Modulus of Elasticity of Slate