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# Standard Test Method for Performance Testing of Articulating Concrete Block (ACB) Revetment Systems for Hydraulic Stability in Open Channel Flow<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D7277; 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 reappraisal. A superscript epsilon ( $\epsilon$ ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reappraisal.

## 1. Scope

1.1 The purpose of this test method is to provide specifications for the hydraulic testing of full-scale articulating concrete block (ACB) revetment systems under controlled laboratory conditions for purposes of identifying stability performance in steep slope, high-velocity flows. The testing protocols, including system installation, test procedures, measurement techniques, analysis techniques, and reporting requirements are described in this test method.

1.2 The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as standard. The values given in parentheses/brackets are mathematical conversions to SI units that are provided for information only and are not considered standard. Reporting or use of units other than inch-pound shall not be considered non-conformance as long as the selected parameters described regarding flume construction by the inch-pound system used in this method are met as a minimum.

1.2.1 The gravitational system of inch-pound units is used when dealing with inch-pound units. In this system, the pound (lbf) represents a unit of force (weight), while the unit for mass is slugs. The rationalized slug unit is not given, unless dynamic ( $F = ma$ ) calculations are involved.

1.3 All observed and calculated values shall conform to the guidelines for significant digits and rounding established in Practice [D6026](#).

1.3.1 The procedures used to specify how data are collected, recorded and calculated in this Guide are regarded as the industry standard. In addition they are representative of the significant digits that generally be retained. The procedures used do not consider material variation, purpose of obtaining the data, special purpose studies or any considerations for the user's objectives; and it is common practice to increase or reduce significant digits of reported data to be commensurate with these considerations. It is beyond the scope of this standard to consider significant digits used in analysis methods for engineering design.

1.4 *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.*

**NOTE 1**—The quality of the result produced by this standard is dependent on the competence of the personnel performing it and the suitability of the equipment and facilities used. Agencies that meet criteria of Practice [D3740](#) are generally considered capable of competent and objective testing. Users of this standard are cautioned that compliance with Practice [D3740](#) does not in itself assure reliable results. Reliable results depend on many factors and Practice [D3740](#) provides a means of evaluating some of these factors.

## 2. Referenced Documents

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

[D422](#) Test Method for Particle-Size Analysis of Soils (Withdrawn 2016)<sup>3</sup>

[D653](#) Terminology Relating to Soil, Rock, and Contained Fluids

[D698](#) Test Methods for Laboratory Compaction Characteristics of Soil Using Standard Effort (12,400 ft-lbf/ft<sup>3</sup> (600 kN-m/m<sup>3</sup>))

[D1556](#) Test Method for Density and Unit Weight of Soil in Place by Sand-Cone Method

[D2216](#) Test Methods for Laboratory Determination of Water (Moisture) Content of Soil and Rock by Mass

<sup>1</sup> This guide is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee [D18](#) on Soil and Rock and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee [D18.25](#) on Erosion and Sediment Control Technology.

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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.

<sup>3</sup> The last approved version of this historical standard is referenced on [www.astm.org](#).

[D2487 Practice for Classification of Soils for Engineering Purposes \(Unified Soil Classification System\)](#)

[D3740 Practice for Minimum Requirements for Agencies Engaged in Testing and/or Inspection of Soil and Rock as Used in Engineering Design and Construction](#)

[D4318 Test Methods for Liquid Limit, Plastic Limit, and Plasticity Index of Soils](#)

[D5195 Test Method for Density of Soil and Rock In-Place at Depths Below Surface by Nuclear Methods](#)

[D6026 Practice for Using Significant Digits in Geotechnical Data](#)

### 3. Terminology

#### 3.1 Definitions:

3.1.1 For common definitions of technical terms in this test method, refer to Terminology [D653](#).

3.1.2 *articulating concrete block (ACB) revetment system, n—in erosion control*, a matrix of interconnected concrete block units for erosion protection. Units are typically connected by geometric interlock, cables, ropes, geotextile, geogrids or a combination thereof and typically include a geotextile underlayment.

3.1.3 *depth of flow,  $y_p$ , (L), n—in hydraulics*, the distance from the channel thalweg to the water surface, measured normal to the direction of flow, for a given discharge.

3.1.4 *design discharge,  $Q_d$ , ( $L^3T^{-1}$ ), n—in erosion control*, the volumetric quantity of water flow within a channel which is typically used in determining required channel dimensions and suitable lining materials for ensuring adequate channel capacity and stability.

#### 3.1.4.1 Discussion—

The discharge associated with a specified frequency of recurrence, for example, an  $n$ -year flood. The  $n$ -year flood event has a probability of  $1/n$  of being equaled or exceeded in any given year.

3.1.5 *discharge,  $Q$ , ( $L^3T^{-1}$ ), n—in channel flow*, the volume of water flowing through a cross-section in a unit of time, including sediment or other solids that may be dissolved in or mixed with the water; usually cubic feet per second ( $ft^3/s$ ) or cubic meters per second ( $m^3/s$ ).

3.1.6 *hydraulic radius, (L), n—in channel flow*, the cross-sectional area of flow divided by the wetted perimeter.

3.1.7 *local velocity, ( $L^3T^{-1}$ ), n—in channel flow*, the velocity at a specific point in the flow region. May be defined as a direction-dependent quantity with components  $V_x$ ,  $V_y$ , or  $V_z$ .

3.1.8 *mean velocity, ( $LT^{-1}$ ), n—in hydraulics*, the average velocity throughout a channel cross section. Defined as the discharge divided by the cross-sectional area of flow usually expressed in meters per second (m/s) or feet per second (ft/s).

3.1.9 *subcritical flow, ( $LT^{-1}$ ), n—in channel flow*, a characteristic of flowing water whereby gravitational forces dominate over inertial forces, quantified by a Froude Number less than 1.

3.1.10 *supercritical flow, ( $LT^{-1}$ ), n—in channel flow*, a characteristic of flowing water whereby inertial forces dominate over gravitational forces, quantified by a Froude Number greater than 1.

3.1.11 *uniform flow, ( $LT^{-1}$ ), n—in hydraulics*, the condition of flow where the rate of energy loss due to frictional and form resistance is equal to the bed slope of the channel.

#### 3.1.11.1 Discussion—

Where uniform flow exists, the slopes of the energy grade line, the water surface, and the channel bed are identical. Cross-sectional area and velocity of flow do not change from cross section to cross section in uniform flow.

3.1.12 *velocity,  $V$ , ( $LT^{-1}$ ), n—in channel flow*, time rate of linear motion in a given direction.

### 4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 The test method is designed to determine the stability threshold values of shear stress and velocity of articulating concrete block (ACB) revetment systems under controlled laboratory conditions of steep-slope, high-velocity flow (flume test). Systems are tested as full-scale production units.

4.2 The procedures associated with test set-up, testing, data collection, and reporting are provided in this test method.

### 5. Significance and Use

5.1 An articulating concrete block revetment system is comprised of a matrix of individual concrete blocks placed together to form an erosion-resistant revetment with specific hydraulic performance characteristics. The system includes a filter layer compatible with the subsoil which allows infiltration and exfiltration to occur while providing particle retention. The filter layer

may be comprised of a geotextile, properly graded granular media, or both. The concrete blocks within the matrix shall be dense and durable, and the matrix shall be flexible and porous.

5.2 ACB revetment system are used to provide erosion protection to underlying soil materials from the forces of flowing water. The term “articulating,” as used in this standard, implies the ability of individual concrete blocks of the system to conform to changes in subgrade while remaining interconnected by virtue of geometric interlock, cables, ropes, geotextiles, geogrids, or combination thereof.

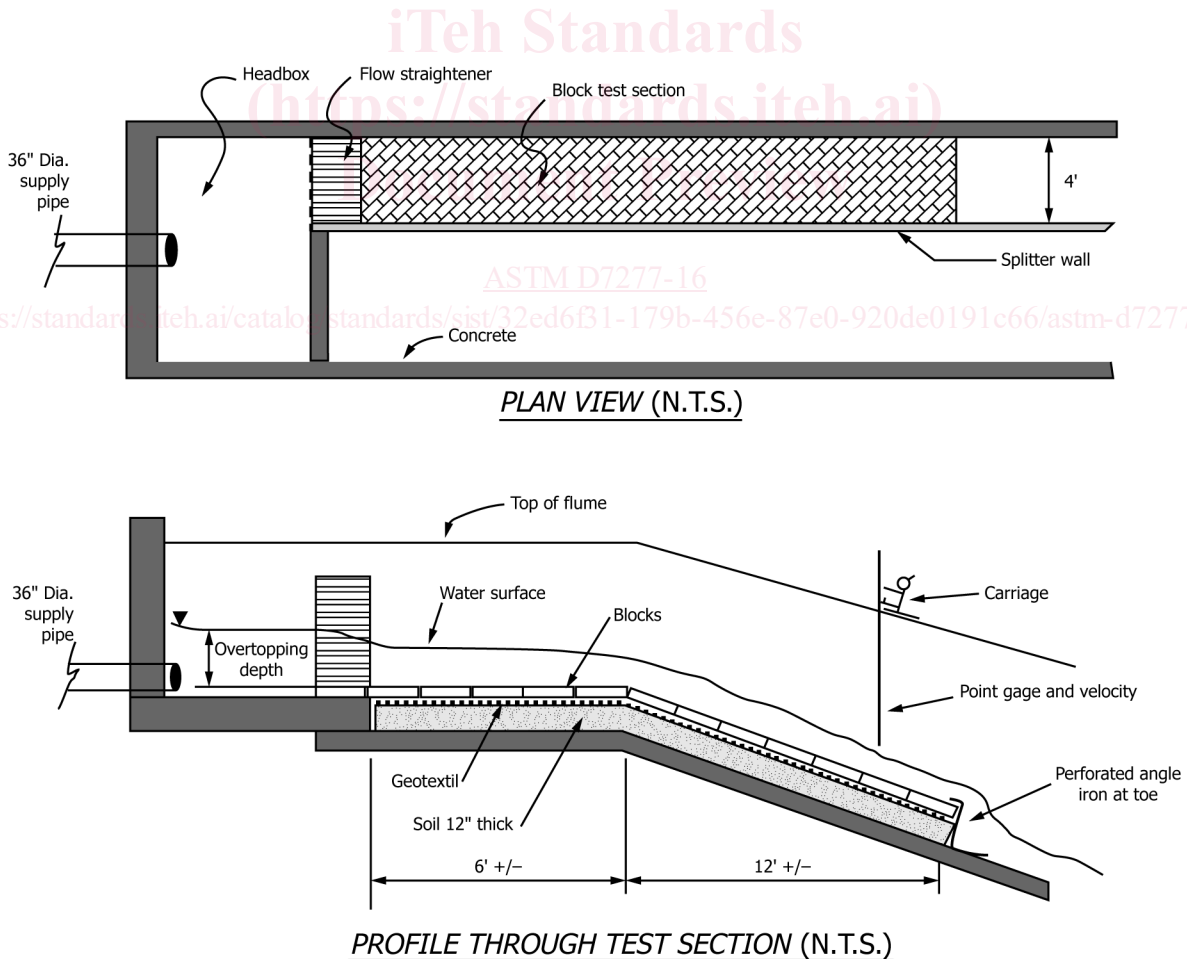
5.3 The definition of ACB revetment system does not distinguish between interlocking and non-interlocking block geometries, between cable-tied and non-cable-tied systems, between vegetated and non-vegetated systems or between methods of manufacturing or placement. Furthermore, the definition does not restrict or limit the block size, shape, strength, or longevity; however, guidelines and recommendations regarding these factors are incorporated into this standard. Blocks are available in either open-cell or closed-cell configurations.

**6. Preparation of Test Section**

*6.1 Soil Subgrade Construction:*

6.1.1 The testing program includes the construction of an earthen test subgrade compacted between vertical walls of the testing flume (Fig. 1). The soil subgrade shall be placed and compacted in horizontal lifts of 4 to 6 in. (100 to 150 mm) in thickness to a minimum subgrade thickness of 12 in. (300 mm). The distance between the walls shall be a minimum of 4.0 ft (1.2 m); installation shall be reflective of standard field usage and shall accommodate full-scale block units such that at least one block is not adjacent to a sidewall, at least every other row of the revetment matrix.

6.1.2 The soil subgrade shall consist of a silty sand with a plasticity index (PI) in the range of 2 to 6 %, and will be compacted at optimum water content to between 90 and 95 % of Standard Effort density (Test Methods D698). The embankment shall be constructed to a height such that the finished surface of the revetment consists of a horizontal crest section at least 6 ft (1.8 m) in length followed by a downstream slope angle typically set at 2H:1V.



NOTE 1—Drawing not to scale, and slope, as shown, is not 2H:1V.

NOTE 2—1 ft = 0.305 m.

**FIG. 1 Schematic Profile of Typical Testing Flume**