



Designation: **C1623—16 C1623 – 17**

Standard Specification for Manufactured Concrete Masonry Lintels¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation C1623; 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 (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reappraisal.

1. Scope*

1.1 This specification covers concrete masonry lintels (beams) that are solid in cross-section, are reinforced for flexure, and are made from hydraulic cement, water, and mineral aggregates with or without the inclusion of other materials. These lintels are suitable for both loadbearing and nonloadbearing applications.

NOTE 1—This specification covers only concrete masonry lintels containing reinforcement. Due to building code imposed limitations on the design of masonry lintels, all lintels must contain reinforcement. Concrete masonry lintels are not typically manufactured using shear reinforcement (stirrups or other vertical reinforcement). Therefore, this standard does not address issues related to such. For further guidance, refer to *Building Code Requirements for Masonry Structures*, TMS 402. Prestressed concrete lintels are not covered by this standard.

1.2 Lintels are manufactured using a no-slump concrete mix to provide a surface texture similar to that of concrete masonry. This specification applies to both machine-made and hand-tamped concrete masonry lintels intended for use in concrete masonry applications.

1.3 Concrete masonry lintels covered by this specification are made from lightweight or normal weight aggregates, or both.

1.4 This specification does not address the design or analysis of lintel capacity. Structural evaluations must be performed separately. The strength of a lintel is a function of factors including, but not limited to, the characteristics of the materials used in manufacturing (concrete materials and reinforcement), the amount and location of reinforcement, and the manufacturing and curing procedures. For design and analysis methods, refer to *Building Code Requirements for Masonry Structures*, TMS 402.

1.5 This specification does not cover U-shaped lintels or those of other cross-sections that are not 100 % solid.

1.6 This specification does not cover lintels of grouted concrete masonry lintels, or precast or cast-in-place lintels of slump concrete.

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

1.8 The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as standard. The values given in parentheses are mathematical conversions to SI units that are provided for information only and are not considered standard.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards*:²

- [A615/A615M Specification for Deformed and Plain Carbon-Steel Bars for Concrete Reinforcement](#)
- [A706/A706M Specification for Deformed and Plain Low-Alloy Steel Bars for Concrete Reinforcement](#)
- [A996/A996M Specification for Rail-Steel and Axle-Steel Deformed Bars for Concrete Reinforcement](#)
- [C33 Specification for Concrete Aggregates](#)
- [C140 Test Methods for Sampling and Testing Concrete Masonry Units and Related Units](#)
- [C150 Specification for Portland Cement](#)
- [C331 Specification for Lightweight Aggregates for Concrete Masonry Units](#)
- [C595 Specification for Blended Hydraulic Cements](#)
- [C618 Specification for Coal Fly Ash and Raw or Calcined Natural Pozzolan for Use in Concrete](#)
- [C979 Specification for Pigments for Integrally Colored Concrete](#)

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee C15 on Manufactured Masonry Units and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee C15.03 on Concrete Masonry Units and Related Units.

Current edition approved Dec. 15, 2016 Jan. 1, 2017. Published January 2017. Originally approved in 2005. Last previous edition approved in 2011 as C1623—11-C1623 – 16. DOI: 10.1520/C1623-11.10.1520/C1623-17.

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

- C989 Specification for Slag Cement for Use in Concrete and Mortars
- C1157 Performance Specification for Hydraulic Cement
- C1232 Terminology of Masonry
- C1240 Specification for Silica Fume Used in Cementitious Mixtures
- C1262 Test Method for Evaluating the Freeze-Thaw Durability of Dry-Cast Segmental Retaining Wall Units and Related Concrete Units

2.2 *Other Standards:*³

- TMS 402 Building Code Requirements for Masonry Structures
- TMS 602 Specification for Masonry Structures

3. Terminology

3.1 Terminology defined in Terminology C1232 shall apply for this specification.

4. Material

4.1 *Cementitious Materials*—Materials shall conform to the following applicable specifications:

- 4.1.1 *Portland Cement*—Specification C150.
- 4.1.2 *Modified Portland Cement*—Portland cement conforming to Specification C150, modified as follows:
 - (1) *Limestone*—If calcium carbonate is added to the cement, the CaCO₃ content shall be not less than 85 %.
 - (2) *Limitation on Insoluble Residue*—1.5 %.
 - (3) *Limitation on Air Content of Mortar*—Volume percent, 22 % max.
 - (4) *Limitation on Loss on Ignition*—7 %.
- 4.1.3 *Blended Hydraulic Cements*—Specification C595
- 4.1.4 *Hydraulic Cement*—Specification C1157.
- 4.1.5 *Pozzolans*—Specification C618.
- 4.1.6 *Ground Granulated Blast Furnace Slag*—Specification C989.
- 4.1.7 *Silica Fume*—Specification C1240.

4.2 *Aggregates*—Aggregates shall conform to the following specifications, except that grading requirements shall not necessarily apply:

- 4.2.1 *Normal Weight Aggregates*—Specification C33.
- 4.2.2 *Lightweight Aggregates*—Specification C331.

4.3 *Pigments for Integrally Colored Concrete*—Specification C979.

4.4 *Steel Reinforcement*—Steel reinforcement shall consist of deformed bars conforming to Specifications A615/A615M, A706/A706M, or A996/A996M.

4.5 *Other Constituents*—Air-entraining agents, integral water repellents, and other constituents shall be previously established as suitable for use in concrete masonry lintels and shall conform to applicable ASTM standards or shall be shown by test or experience not to be detrimental to the durability of the concrete masonry lintels or any material customarily used in masonry construction.

5. Physical Requirements

5.1 At the time of delivery to the purchaser, the concrete within the lintel shall conform to the requirements prescribed in Table 1.

³ Available from The Masonry Society, 105 South Sunset Street, Suite Q, Longmont, CO 80501–6172, <https://www.masonrysociety.org>.

TABLE 1 Strength, Absorption, and Density Classification Requirements^A

Density Classification	Oven-Dry Density of Concrete, lb/ft ³ (kg/m ³)	Maximum Water Absorption, lb/ft ³ (kg/m ³)		Minimum Net Area Compressive Strength, psi (MPa)	
	Average of 3 Specimens ^B	Average of 3 Specimens ^B	Individual Specimen ^B	Average of 3 Specimens ^B	Individual Specimen ^B
Lightweight	Less than 105 (1680)	18 (288)	20 (320)	2500 (17.2)	2250 (15.5)
Medium Weight	105 to less than 125 (1680–2000)	15 (240)	17 (272)	2500 (17.2)	2250 (15.5)
Normal Weight	125 (2000) or more	13 (208)	15 (240)	2500 (17.2)	2250 (15.5)

^A Consult manufacturers for available densities.

^B Refer to section 9.2.1 for specimen requirements.

5.1.1 When higher compressive strengths than those listed in **Table 1** are specified, the tested average net area compressive strength of three specimens shall equal or exceed the specified compressive strength, and the tested individual specimen net area compressive strength of all three units shall exceed 90 % of the specified compressive strength.

NOTE 2—When particular features are desired such as surface textures for appearance or bond, finish, color, or particular properties such as specific reinforcing schedules, flexural strength, weight per unit length, higher compressive strength, or fire resistance, these features are specified separately by the purchaser. Consult suppliers as to the availability of lintels having the desired features.

5.2 All lintels shall be sound and free of cracks or other defects that interfere with proper placement unless defects are considered to be not detrimental to structural capacity of the lintel before or after defects are repaired using practices satisfactory to the engineer.

NOTE 3—The purchaser is the public body or authority, association, corporation, partnership, or individual entering into a contract or agreement to purchase or install, or both, concrete masonry lintels. The time of delivery to the purchaser is FOB plant when the purchaser or the purchaser's agent transports the concrete masonry lintels, or at the time unloaded at the worksite if the manufacturer or the manufacturer's agent transports the concrete masonry lintels.

NOTE 4—When these lintels are used in above-grade applications as part of a vertical, free-draining assemblage, the physical requirements in this specification have been shown to result in durable products. In applications where the lintels are frequently exposed to deicing chemicals or saturated conditions in conjunction with freezing and thawing temperatures, testing should be considered to evaluate freezing and thawing resistance using ASTM **C1262**.

6. Permissible Variations in Dimensions

6.1 Overall dimensions for width, and height shall differ by not more than $\pm 1/8$ in. (3.2 mm) from the specified standard dimensions. Overall dimension for length shall differ by not more than 0.5 % from the specified length.

6.2 Warpage

6.2.1 The longitudinal straightness of each of the four faces shall not deviate from a straight line more than $1/4$ in. (6 mm) over 10 ft (3.05 m). Measure deviations with lintel resting on flat, horizontal surface.

6.2.2 The cross-section of the lintel shall not deviate from square more than $1/8$ in. (3 mm) over 8 in. (203 mm) in height.

7. Requirements for Reinforcement

7.1 Reinforcement and its placement shall comply with Building Code Requirements for Masonry Structures, TMS 402 and Specification for Masonry Structures, TMS 602 with the following exceptions.

7.1.1 Specified vertical depth of longitudinal reinforcement shall be equal to or greater than the specified depth minus 0.5 in. (12.7 mm) (**Fig. 1a**):

7.1.2 When a single longitudinal reinforcing bar is used at a given depth, the specified horizontal depth of that reinforcement shall be ± 1 in. (25.4 in.) from the specified depth (**Fig. 1b**):

7.1.3 When multiple longitudinal reinforcing bars are used at a given depth, the specified horizontal depth of each bar shall be equal to or greater than the specified depth minus 0.5 in. (12.7 mm) (**Fig. 1c**):

7.2 Splicing of reinforcing bars is not permitted:

7.1 End of reinforcing bars shall be terminated not less than 1.5 in. (38 mm) and not more than 3 in. (76 mm) from the end of the lintel. These requirements do not apply to non-structural reinforcing bars (i.e. those used to facilitate handling and transportation) nor to those reinforcing bars manufactured to extend past the end of the lintel. Reinforcement and its placement shall comply with Building Code Requirements for Masonry Structures, TMS 402 and Specification for Masonry Structures, TMS 602 with the following exceptions. See **Appendix XI** for further guidance.

NOTE 5—Lintels are sometimes manufactured with reinforcing bars extending past the end of the lintel. Consult applicable codes to determine if such bars need to be embedded in grout or otherwise connected to the structure or protected:

7.1.1 Actual vertical depth of longitudinal reinforcement shall be within 0.5 in. (12.7 mm) of the specified depth.

7.1.2 End of reinforcing bars shall be terminated not more than 3 in. (76 mm) from the end of the lintel.

NOTE 5—Lintels are sometimes manufactured with reinforcing bars extending past the end of the lintel. Consult applicable codes to determine if such bars need to be embedded in grout or otherwise connected to the structure or protected.

7.2 Manufacturer shall maintain records of mill certifications for reinforcement and shall make such records available on request by the purchaser.

8. Finish and Appearance

8.1 Where lintels are to be used in exposed wall construction, the face or faces that are to be exposed shall not show chips or cracks, not otherwise permitted, or other imperfections when viewed from a distance of not less than 20 ft (6.1 m) under diffused lighting.

8.2 The purchaser shall specify the color and texture of lintels. The finished surfaces that will be exposed in place shall conform to an approved sample consisting of not less than four lintels, representing the range of texture and color permitted on the project.