



# Standard Test Method for Compressive Strength of Cylindrical Concrete Specimens<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation C39/C39M; 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.

*This standard has been approved for use by agencies of the U.S. Department of Defense.*

## 1. Scope\*

1.1 This test method covers determination of compressive strength of cylindrical concrete specimens such as molded cylinders and drilled cores. It is limited to concrete having a density in excess of 800 kg/m<sup>3</sup> [50 lb/ft<sup>3</sup>].

1.2 The values stated in either SI units or inch-pound units are to be regarded separately as standard. The inch-pound units are shown in brackets. 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. (Warning—Means should be provided to contain concrete fragments during sudden rupture of specimens. Tendency for sudden rupture increases with increasing concrete strength and it is more likely when the testing machine is relatively flexible. The safety precautions given in the [Manual of Aggregate and Concrete Testing](#) are recommended.)*

1.4 The text of this standard references notes which provide explanatory material. These notes shall not be considered as requirements of the standard.

## 2. Referenced Documents

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

[C31/C31M Practice for Making and Curing Concrete Test Specimens in the Field](#)

[C42/C42M Test Method for Obtaining and Testing Drilled Cores and Sawed Beams of Concrete](#)

<sup>1</sup> This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee [C09](#) on Concrete and Concrete Aggregates and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee [C09.61](#) on Testing for Strength.

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<sup>2</sup> For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, [www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org), or contact ASTM Customer Service at [service@astm.org](mailto:service@astm.org). For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

[C192/C192M Practice for Making and Curing Concrete Test Specimens in the Laboratory](#)

[C617/C617M Practice for Capping Cylindrical Concrete Specimens](#)

[C670 Practice for Preparing Precision and Bias Statements for Test Methods for Construction Materials](#)

[C873/C873M Test Method for Compressive Strength of Concrete Cylinders Cast in Place in Cylindrical Molds](#)

[C1077 Practice for Agencies Testing Concrete and Concrete Aggregates for Use in Construction and Criteria for Testing Agency Evaluation](#)

[C1231/C1231M Practice for Use of Unbonded Caps in Determination of Compressive Strength of Hardened Concrete Cylinders](#)

[E4 Practices for Force Verification of Testing Machines](#)

[E74 Practice of Calibration of Force-Measuring Instruments for Verifying the Force Indication of Testing Machines](#)  
[Manual of Aggregate and Concrete Testing](#)

## 3. Summary of Test Method

3.1 This test method consists of applying a compressive axial load to molded cylinders or cores at a rate which is within a prescribed range until failure occurs. The compressive strength of the specimen is calculated by dividing the maximum load attained during the test by the cross-sectional area of the specimen.

## 4. Significance and Use

4.1 Care must be exercised in the interpretation of the significance of compressive strength determinations by this test method since strength is not a fundamental or intrinsic property of concrete made from given materials. Values obtained will depend on the size and shape of the specimen, batching, mixing procedures, the methods of sampling, molding, and fabrication and the age, temperature, and moisture conditions during curing.

4.2 This test method is used to determine compressive strength of cylindrical specimens prepared and cured in accordance with Practices [C31/C31M](#), [C192/C192M](#), [C617/C617M](#), and [C1231/C1231M](#) and Test Methods [C42/C42M](#) and [C873/C873M](#).

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

4.3 The results of this test method are used as a basis for quality control of concrete proportioning, mixing, and placing operations; determination of compliance with specifications; control for evaluating effectiveness of admixtures; and similar uses.

4.4 The individual who tests concrete cylinders for acceptance testing shall meet the concrete laboratory technician requirements of Practice C1077, including an examination requiring performance demonstration that is evaluated by an independent examiner.

NOTE 1—Certification equivalent to the minimum guidelines for ACI Concrete Laboratory Technician, Level I or ACI Concrete Strength Testing Technician will satisfy this requirement.

## 5. Apparatus

5.1 *Testing Machine*—The testing machine shall be of a type having sufficient capacity and capable of providing the rates of loading prescribed in 7.5.

5.1.1 Verify the accuracy of the testing machine in accordance with Practices E4, except that the verified loading range shall be as required in 5.3. Verification is required:

5.1.1.1 Within 13 months of the last calibration,

5.1.1.2 On original installation or immediately after relocation,

5.1.1.3 Immediately after making repairs or adjustments that affect the operation of the force applying system or the values displayed on the load indicating system, except for zero adjustments that compensate for the mass of bearing blocks or specimen, or both, or

5.1.1.4 Whenever there is reason to suspect the accuracy of the indicated loads.

5.1.2 *Design*—The design of the machine must include the following features:

5.1.2.1 The machine must be power operated and must apply the load continuously rather than intermittently, and without shock. If it has only one loading rate (meeting the requirements of 7.5), it must be provided with a supplemental means for loading at a rate suitable for verification. This supplemental means of loading may be power or hand operated.

5.1.2.2 The space provided for test specimens shall be large enough to accommodate, in a readable position, an elastic calibration device which is of sufficient capacity to cover the potential loading range of the testing machine and which complies with the requirements of Practice E74.

NOTE 2—The types of elastic calibration devices most generally available and most commonly used for this purpose are the circular proving ring or load cell.

5.1.3 *Accuracy*—The accuracy of the testing machine shall be in accordance with the following provisions:

5.1.3.1 The percentage of error for the loads within the proposed range of use of the testing machine shall not exceed  $\pm 1.0\%$  of the indicated load.

5.1.3.2 The accuracy of the testing machine shall be verified by applying five test loads in four approximately equal increments in ascending order. The difference between any two successive test loads shall not exceed one third of the difference between the maximum and minimum test loads.

5.1.3.3 The test load as indicated by the testing machine and the applied load computed from the readings of the verification device shall be recorded at each test point. Calculate the error,  $E$ , and the percentage of error,  $E_p$ , for each point from these data as follows:

$$E = A - B \quad (1)$$

$$E_p = 100(A - B)/B$$

where:

$A$  = load, kN [lbf] indicated by the machine being verified, and

$B$  = applied load, kN [lbf] as determined by the calibrating device.

5.1.3.4 The report on the verification of a testing machine shall state within what loading range it was found to conform to specification requirements rather than reporting a blanket acceptance or rejection. In no case shall the loading range be stated as including loads below the value which is 100 times the smallest change of load estimable on the load-indicating mechanism of the testing machine or loads within that portion of the range below 10 % of the maximum range capacity.

5.1.3.5 In no case shall the loading range be stated as including loads outside the range of loads applied during the verification test.

5.1.3.6 The indicated load of a testing machine shall not be corrected either by calculation or by the use of a calibration diagram to obtain values within the required permissible variation.

5.2 The testing machine shall be equipped with two steel bearing blocks with hardened faces (Note 3), one of which is a spherically seated block that will bear on the upper surface of the specimen, and the other a solid block on which the specimen shall rest. Bearing faces of the blocks shall have a minimum dimension at least 3 % greater than the diameter of the specimen to be tested. Except for the concentric circles described below, the bearing faces shall not depart from a plane by more than 0.02 mm [0.001 in.] in any 150 mm [6 in.] of blocks 150 mm [6 in.] in diameter or larger, or by more than 0.02 mm [0.001 in.] in the diameter of any smaller block; and new blocks shall be manufactured within one half of this tolerance. When the diameter of the bearing face of the spherically seated block exceeds the diameter of the specimen by more than 13 mm [0.5 in.], concentric circles not more than 0.8 mm [0.03 in.] deep and not more than 1 mm [0.04 in.] wide shall be inscribed to facilitate proper centering.

NOTE 3—It is desirable that the bearing faces of blocks used for compression testing of concrete have a Rockwell hardness of not less than 55 HRC.

5.2.1 Bottom bearing blocks shall conform to the following requirements:

5.2.1.1 The bottom bearing block is specified for the purpose of providing a readily machinable surface for maintenance of the specified surface conditions (Note 4). The top and bottom surfaces shall be parallel to each other. If the testing machine is so designed that the platen itself is readily maintained in the specified surface condition, a bottom block is not required. Its least horizontal dimension shall be at least 3 %

greater than the diameter of the specimen to be tested. Concentric circles as described in 5.2 are optional on the bottom block.

NOTE 4—The block may be fastened to the platen of the testing machine.

5.2.1.2 Final centering must be made with reference to the upper spherical block. When the lower bearing block is used to assist in centering the specimen, the center of the concentric rings, when provided, or the center of the block itself must be directly below the center of the spherical head. Provision shall be made on the platen of the machine to assure such a position.

5.2.1.3 The bottom bearing block shall be at least 25 mm [1 in.] thick when new, and at least 22.5 mm [0.9 in.] thick after any resurfacing operations.

5.2.2 The spherically seated bearing block shall conform to the following requirements:

5.2.2.1 The maximum diameter of the bearing face of the suspended spherically seated block shall not exceed the values given below:

Diameter of Test Specimens, mm [in.]	Maximum Diameter of Bearing Face, mm [in.]
50 [2]	105 [4]
75 [3]	130 [5]
100 [4]	165 [6.5]
150 [6]	255 [10]
200 [8]	280 [11]

NOTE 5—Square bearing faces are permissible, provided the diameter of the largest possible inscribed circle does not exceed the above diameter.

5.2.2.2 The center of the sphere shall coincide with the surface of the bearing face within a tolerance of  $\pm 5\%$  of the radius of the sphere. The diameter of the sphere shall be at least 75 % of the diameter of the specimen to be tested.

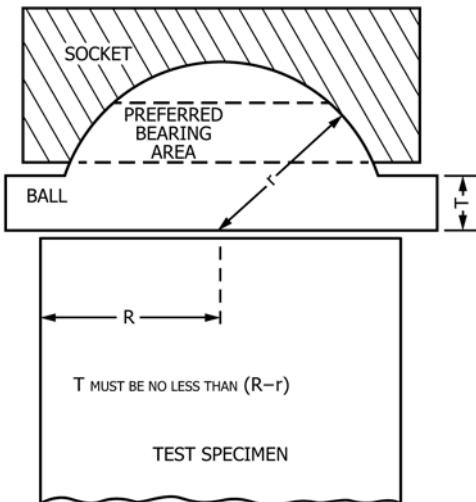
5.2.2.3 The ball and the socket shall be designed so that the steel in the contact area does not permanently deform when loaded to the capacity of the testing machine.

NOTE 6—The preferred contact area is in the form of a ring (described as “preferred bearing area”) as shown on Fig. 1.

5.2.2.4 At least every six months, or as specified by the manufacturer of the testing machine, clean and lubricate the curved surfaces of the socket and of the spherical portion of the machine. The lubricant shall be a petroleum-type oil such as conventional motor oil or as specified by the manufacturer of the testing machine.

NOTE 7—To ensure uniform seating, the spherically seated head is designed to tilt freely as it comes into contact with the top of the specimen. After contact, further rotation is undesirable. Friction between the socket and the spherical portion of the head provides restraint against further rotation during loading. Petroleum-type oil such as conventional motor oil has been shown to permit the necessary friction to develop. Pressure-type greases can reduce the desired friction and permit undesired rotation of the spherical head and should not be used unless recommended by the manufacturer of the testing machine.

5.2.2.5 If the radius of the sphere is smaller than the radius of the largest specimen to be tested, the portion of the bearing face extending beyond the sphere shall have a thickness not less than the difference between the radius of the sphere and



NOTE 1—Provision shall be made for holding the ball in the socket and for holding the entire unit in the testing machine.

FIG. 1 Schematic Sketch of a Typical Spherical Bearing Block

radius of the specimen. The least dimension of the bearing face shall be at least as great as the diameter of the sphere (see Fig. 1).

5.2.2.6 The movable portion of the bearing block shall be held closely in the spherical seat, but the design shall be such that the bearing face can be rotated freely and tilted at least 4° in any direction.

5.2.2.7 If the ball portion of the upper bearing block is a two-piece design composed of a spherical portion and a bearing plate, a mechanical means shall be provided to ensure that the spherical portion is fixed and centered on the bearing plate.

### 5.3 Load Indication:

5.3.1 If the load of a compression machine used in concrete testing is registered on a dial, the dial shall be provided with a graduated scale that is readable to at least the nearest 0.1 % of the full scale load (Note 8). The dial shall be readable within 1 % of the indicated load at any given load level within the loading range. In no case shall the loading range of a dial be considered to include loads below the value that is 100 times the smallest change of load that can be read on the scale. The scale shall be provided with a graduation line equal to zero and so numbered. The dial pointer shall be of sufficient length to reach the graduation marks; the width of the end of the pointer shall not exceed the clear distance between the smallest graduations. Each dial shall be equipped with a zero adjustment located outside the dialcase and easily accessible from the front of the machine while observing the zero mark and dial pointer. Each dial shall be equipped with a suitable device that at all times, until reset, will indicate to within 1 % accuracy the maximum load applied to the specimen.

NOTE 8—Readability is considered to be 0.5 mm [0.02 in.] along the arc described by the end of the pointer. Also, one half of a scale interval is readable with reasonable certainty when the spacing on the load indicating mechanism is between 1 mm [0.04 in.] and 2 mm [0.06 in.]. When the spacing is between 2 and 3 mm [0.06 and 0.12 in.], one third of a scale interval is readable with reasonable certainty. When the spacing is 3 mm

[0.12 in.] or more, one fourth of a scale interval is readable with reasonable certainty.

5.3.2 If the testing machine load is indicated in digital form, the numerical display must be large enough to be easily read. The numerical increment must be equal to or less than 0.10 % of the full scale load of a given loading range. In no case shall the verified loading range include loads less than the minimum numerical increment multiplied by 100. The accuracy of the indicated load must be within 1.0 % for any value displayed within the verified loading range. Provision must be made for adjusting to indicate true zero at zero load. There shall be provided a maximum load indicator that at all times until reset will indicate within 1 % system accuracy the maximum load applied to the specimen.

5.4 Documentation of the calibration and maintenance of the testing machine shall be in accordance with Practice [C1077](#).

## 6. Specimens

6.1 Specimens shall not be tested if any individual diameter of a cylinder differs from any other diameter of the same cylinder by more than 2 %.

NOTE 9—This may occur when single use molds are damaged or deformed during shipment, when flexible single use molds are deformed during molding, or when a core drill deflects or shifts during drilling.

6.2 Prior to testing, neither end of test specimens shall depart from perpendicularity to the axis by more than 0.5° (approximately equivalent to 1 mm in 100 mm [0.12 in. in 12 in.]). The ends of compression test specimens that are not plane within 0.050 mm [0.002 in.] shall be sawed or ground to meet that tolerance, or capped in accordance with either Practice [C617/C617M](#) or, when permitted, Practice [C1231/C1231M](#). The diameter used for calculating the cross-sectional area of the test specimen shall be determined to the nearest 0.25 mm [0.01 in.] by averaging two diameters measured at right angles to each other at about midheight of the specimen.

6.3 The number of individual cylinders measured for determination of average diameter is not prohibited from being reduced to one for each ten specimens or three specimens per day, whichever is greater, if all cylinders are known to have been made from a single lot of reusable or single-use molds which consistently produce specimens with average diameters within a range of 0.5 mm [0.02 in.]. When the average diameters do not fall within the range of 0.5 mm [0.02 in.] or when the cylinders are not made from a single lot of molds, each cylinder tested must be measured and the value used in calculation of the unit compressive strength of that specimen. When the diameters are measured at the reduced frequency, the cross-sectional areas of all cylinders tested on that day shall be computed from the average of the diameters of the three or more cylinders representing the group tested that day.

6.4 If the purchaser of the testing services requests measurement of density of test specimens, determine the mass of specimens before capping. Remove any surface moisture with a towel and measure the mass of the specimen using a balance or scale that is accurate to within 0.3 % of the mass being measured. Measure the length of the specimen to the nearest 1

mm [0.05 in.] at three locations spaced evenly around the circumference. Compute the average length and record to the nearest 1 mm [0.05 in.]. Alternatively, determine the cylinder density by weighing the cylinder in air and then submerged under water at  $23.0 \pm 2.0^{\circ}\text{C}$  [ $73.5 \pm 3.5^{\circ}\text{F}$ ], and computing the volume according to [8.3.1](#).

6.5 When density determination is not required and the length to diameter ratio is less than 1.8 or more than 2.2, measure the length of the specimen to the nearest 0.05 D.

## 7. Procedure

7.1 Compression tests of moist-cured specimens shall be made as soon as practicable after removal from moist storage.

7.2 Test specimens shall be kept moist by any convenient method during the period between removal from moist storage and testing. They shall be tested in the moist condition.

7.3 All test specimens for a given test age shall be broken within the permissible time tolerances prescribed as follows:

Test Age	Permissible Tolerance
24 h	$\pm 0.5$ h or 2.1 %
3 days	$\pm 2$ h or 2.8 %
7 days	$\pm 6$ h or 3.6 %
28 days	$\pm 20$ h or 3.0 %
90 days	$\pm 2$ days or 2.2 %

7.4 *Placing the Specimen*—Place the plain (lower) bearing block, with its hardened face up, on the table or platen of the testing machine directly under the spherically seated (upper) bearing block. Wipe clean the bearing faces of the upper and lower bearing blocks and of the test specimen and place the test specimen on the lower bearing block. If using unbonded caps, wipe clean the bearing surfaces of the retaining ring or rings and center the unbonded cap or caps on the cylinder. Carefully align the axis of the specimen with the center of thrust of the spherically seated block.

7.4.1 *Zero Verification and Block Seating*—Prior to testing the specimen, verify that the load indicator is set to zero. In cases where the indicator is not properly set to zero, adjust the indicator ([Note 10](#)). After placing the specimen in the machine but prior to applying the load on the specimen, tilt the movable portion of the spherically seated block gently by hand so that the bearing face appears to be parallel to the top of the test specimen.

NOTE 10—The technique used to verify and adjust load indicator to zero will vary depending on the machine manufacturer. Consult your owner's manual or compression machine calibrator for the proper technique.

7.4.2 *Verification of Alignment When Using Unbonded Caps*—If using unbonded caps, verify the alignment of the specimen after application of load, but before reaching 10 % of the anticipated specimen strength. Check to see that the axis of the cylinder does not depart from vertical by more than 0.5° ([Note 11](#)) and that the ends of the cylinder are centered within the retaining rings. If the cylinder alignment does not meet these requirements, release the load, and carefully recenter the specimen. Reapply load and recheck specimen centering and alignment. A pause in load application to check cylinder alignment is permissible.

NOTE 11—An angle of 0.5° is equal to a slope of approximately 1 mm

in 100 mm [ $\frac{1}{8}$  inches in 12 inches]

**7.5 Rate of Loading**—Apply the load continuously and without shock.

7.5.1 The load shall be applied at a rate of movement (platen to crosshead measurement) corresponding to a stress rate on the specimen of  $0.25 \pm 0.05$  MPa/s [ $35 \pm 7$  psi/s] (see Note 12). The designated rate of movement shall be maintained at least during the latter half of the anticipated loading phase.

NOTE 12—For a screw-driven or displacement-controlled testing machine, preliminary testing will be necessary to establish the required rate of movement to achieve the specified stress rate. The required rate of movement will depend on the size of the test specimen, the elastic modulus of the concrete, and the stiffness of the testing machine.

7.5.2 During application of the first half of the anticipated loading phase, a higher rate of loading shall be permitted. The higher loading rate shall be applied in a controlled manner so that the specimen is not subjected to shock loading.

7.5.3 Make no adjustment in the rate of movement (platen to crosshead) as the ultimate load is being approached and the stress rate decreases due to cracking in the specimen.

7.6 Apply the compressive load until the load indicator shows that the load is decreasing steadily and the specimen displays a well-defined fracture pattern (Types 1 to 4 in Fig. 2). For a testing machine equipped with a specimen break detector,

automatic shut-off of the testing machine is prohibited until the load has dropped to a value that is less than 95 % of the peak load. When testing with unbonded caps, a corner fracture similar to a Type 5 or 6 pattern shown in Fig. 2 may occur before the ultimate capacity of the specimen has been attained. Continue compressing the specimen until the user is certain that the ultimate capacity has been attained. Record the maximum load carried by the specimen during the test, and note the type of fracture pattern according to Fig. 2. If the fracture pattern is not one of the typical patterns shown in Fig. 2, sketch and describe briefly the fracture pattern. If the measured strength is lower than expected, examine the fractured concrete and note the presence of large air voids, evidence of segregation, whether fractures pass predominantly around or through the coarse aggregate particles, and verify end preparations were in accordance with Practice C617/C617M or Practice C1231/C1231M.

## 8. Calculation

8.1 Calculate the compressive strength of the specimen by dividing the maximum load resisted by the specimen during the test by the average cross-sectional area determined as described in Section 6.

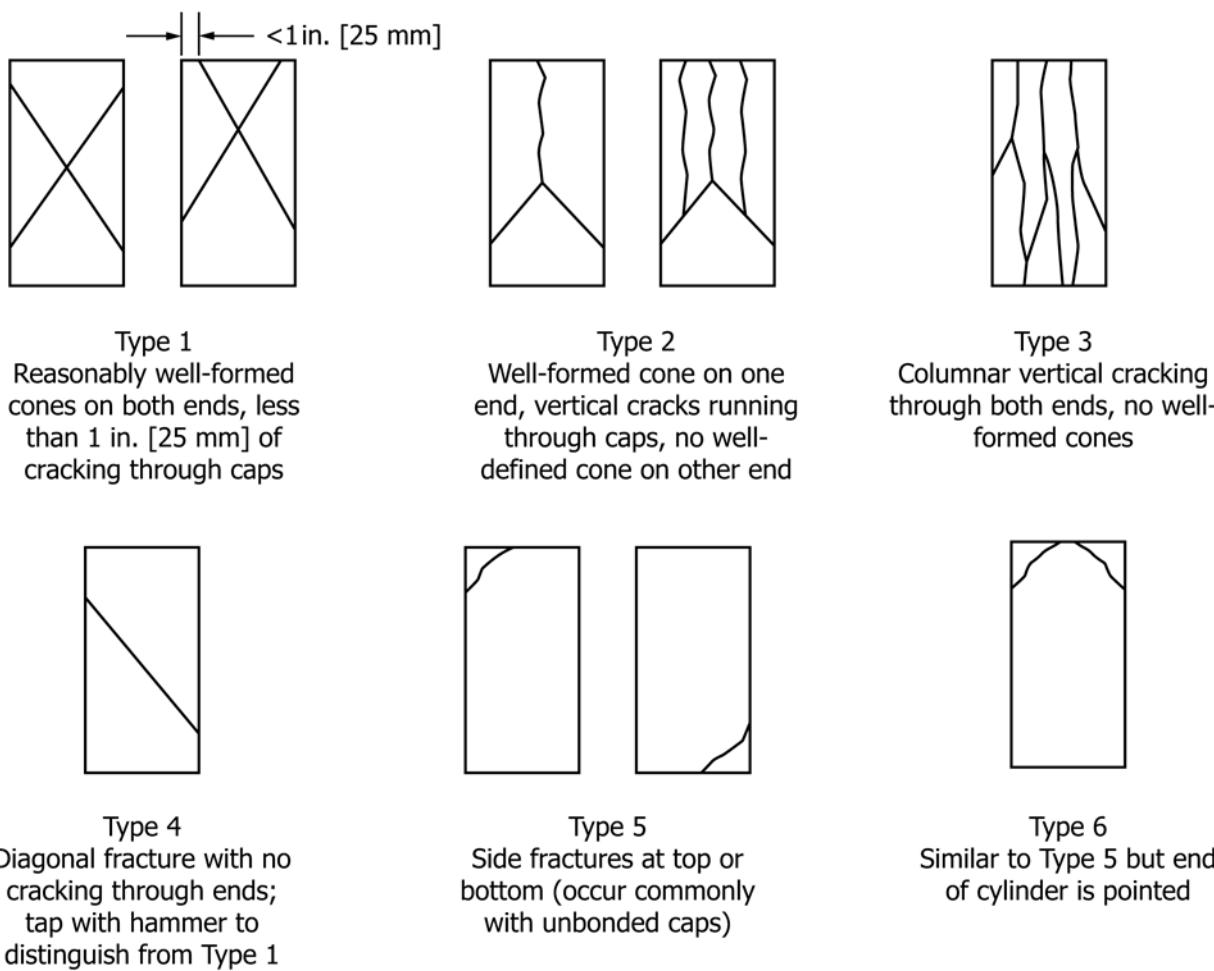


FIG. 2 Schematic of Typical Fracture Patterns

8.2 If the specimen length to diameter ratio is 1.75 or less, correct the result obtained in 8.1 by multiplying by the appropriate correction factor shown in the following table **Note 13:**

L/D:	1.75	1.50	1.25	1.00
Factor:	0.98	0.96	0.93	0.87

Use interpolation to determine correction factors for L/D values between those given in the table.

NOTE 13—Correction factors depend on various conditions such as moisture condition, strength level, and elastic modulus. Average values are given in the table. These correction factors apply to low-density concrete weighing between 1600 and 1920 kg/m<sup>3</sup> [100 and 120 lb/ft<sup>3</sup>] and to normal-density concrete. They are applicable to concrete dry or soaked at the time of loading and for nominal concrete strengths from 14 to 42 MPa [2000 to 6000 psi]. For strengths higher than 42 MPa [6000 psi] correction factors may be larger than the values listed above<sup>3</sup>.

8.3 When required, calculate the density of the specimen to the nearest 10 kg/m<sup>3</sup> [1 lb/ft<sup>3</sup>] as follows:

$$\text{Density} = \frac{W}{V} \quad (2)$$

where:

$W$  = mass of specimen, kg [lb], and

$V$  = volume of specimen computed from the average diameter and average length or from weighing the cylinder in air and submerged, m<sup>3</sup> [ft<sup>3</sup>].

8.3.1 When the volume is determined from submerged weighing, calculate the volume as follows:

$$V = \frac{W - W_s}{\gamma_w} \quad (3)$$

where:

$W_s$  = apparent mass of submerged specimen, kg [lb], and

$\gamma_w$  = density of water at 23 °C [73.5 °F] = 997.5 kg/m<sup>3</sup> [62.27 lbs/ft<sup>3</sup>].

## 9. Report

9.1 Report the following information:

9.1.1 Identification number,

9.1.2 Average measured diameter (and measured length, if outside the range of 1.8  $D$  to 2.2  $D$ ), in millimetres [inches],

9.1.3 Cross-sectional area, in square millimetres [square inches],

9.1.4 Maximum load, in kilonewtons [pounds-force],

9.1.5 Compressive strength rounded to the nearest 0.1 MPa [10 psi],

9.1.6 When the average of two or more companion cylinders tested at the same age is reported, calculate the average compressive strength using the unrounded individual compressive strength values. Report the average compressive-strength rounded to the nearest 0.1 MPa [10 psi].

9.1.7 Type of fracture (see Fig. 2),

9.1.8 Defects in either specimen or caps, and,

9.1.9 Age of specimen.

9.1.10 When determined, the density to the nearest 10 kg/m<sup>3</sup> [1 lb/ft<sup>3</sup>].

## 10. Precision and Bias

### 10.1 Precision

10.1.1 *Within-Test Precision*—The following table provides the within-test precision of tests of 150 by 300 mm [6 by 12 in.] and 100 by 200 mm [4 by 8 in.] cylinders made from a well-mixed sample of concrete under laboratory conditions and under field conditions (see 10.1.2).

	Coefficient of Variation <sup>4</sup>	Acceptable Range <sup>4</sup> of Individual Cylinder Strengths	
		2 cylinders	3 cylinders
150 by 300 mm [6 by 12 in.]			
Laboratory conditions	2.4 %	6.6 %	7.8 %
Field conditions	2.9 %	8.0 %	9.5 %
100 by 200 mm [4 by 8 in.]			
Laboratory conditions	3.2 %	9.0 %	10.6 %

10.1.2 The within-test coefficient of variation represents the expected variation of measured strength of companion cylinders prepared from the same sample of concrete and tested by one laboratory at the same age. The values given for the within-test coefficient of variation of 150 by 300 mm [6 by 12 in.] cylinders are applicable for compressive strengths between 2000 and 15 to 55 MPa [8000 psi] and those for 100 by 200 mm [4 by 8 in.] cylinders are applicable for compressive strengths between 17 to 32 MPa [2500 and 4700 psi]. The within-test coefficients of variation for 150 by 300 mm [6 by 12 in.] cylinders are derived from CCRL concrete proficiency sample data for laboratory conditions and a collection of 1265 test reports from 225 commercial testing laboratories in 1978.<sup>5</sup> The within-test coefficient of variation of 100 by 200 mm [4 by 8 in.] cylinders are derived from CCRL concrete proficiency sample data for laboratory conditions.

10.1.3 *Multilaboratory Precision*—The multi-laboratory coefficient of variation for compressive strength test results of 150 by 300 mm [6 by 12 in.] cylinders has been found to be 5.0 %<sup>4</sup>; therefore, the results of properly conducted tests by two laboratories on specimens prepared from the same sample of concrete are not expected to differ by more than 14 %<sup>4</sup> of the average (see Note 14). A strength test result is the average of two cylinders tested at the same age.

NOTE 14—The multilaboratory precision does not include variations associated with different operators preparing test specimens from split or independent samples of concrete. These variations are expected to increase the multilaboratory coefficient of variation.

10.1.4 The multilaboratory data were obtained from six separate organized strength testing round robin programs where 150 by 300 mm [6 by 12 in.] cylindrical specimens were prepared at a single location and tested by different laboratories. The range of average strength from these programs was 17.0 to 90 MPa [2500 to 13 000 psi].

NOTE 15—Subcommittee C09.61 will continue to examine recent

<sup>4</sup> These numbers represent respectively the (1s %) and (d2s %) limits as described in Practice C670.

<sup>5</sup> Supporting data have been filed at ASTM International Headquarters and may be obtained by requesting Research Report RR:C09-1006. Contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org.

<sup>3</sup> Bartlett, F.M. and MacGregor, J.G., "Effect of Core Length-to-Diameter Ratio on Concrete Core Strength," *ACI Materials Journal*, Vol 91, No. 4, July-August, 1994, pp. 339–348.

concrete proficiency sample data and field test data and make revisions to precisions statements when data indicate that they can be extended to cover a wider range of strengths and specimen sizes.

10.2 *Bias*—Since there is no accepted reference material, no statement on bias is being made.

## 11. Keywords

11.1 concrete core; concrete cylinder; concrete specimen; concrete strength; compressive strength; core; cylinder; drilled core; strength

## SUMMARY OF CHANGES

Committee C09 has identified the location of selected changes to this standard since the last issue (C39/C39M – 15) that may impact the use of this standard. (Approved April 1, 2015.)

(I) Modified **7.3.**

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