



Standard Test Method for Sieve Analysis of Fine and Coarse Aggregates¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation C 136; 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.

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

1. Scope

1.1 This test method covers the determination of the particle size distribution of fine and coarse aggregates by sieving.

1.2 Some specifications for aggregates which reference this method contain grading requirements including both coarse and fine fractions. Instructions are included for sieve analysis of such aggregates.

1.3 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as the standard. The values in parentheses are provided for information purposes only. Specification E 11 designates the size of sieve frames with inch units as standard, but in this test method the frame size is designated in SI units exactly equivalent to the inch units.

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.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:

C 117 Test Method for Materials Finer Than 75-μm (No. 200) Sieve in Mineral Aggregates by Washing²

C 125 Terminology Relating to Concrete and Concrete Aggregates²

C 670 Practice for Preparing Precision and Bias Statements for Test Methods for Construction Materials²

C 702 Practice for Reducing Field Samples of Aggregate to Testing Size²

D 75 Practice for Sampling Aggregates³

E 11 Specification for Wire-Cloth Sieves for Testing Purposes⁴

2.2 AASHTO Standard:

AASHTO No. T 27 Sieve Analysis of Fine and Coarse Aggregates⁵

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—For definitions of terms used in this standard, refer to Terminology C 125.

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 A sample of dry aggregate of known mass is separated through a series of sieves of progressively smaller openings for determination of particle size distribution.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 This test method is used primarily to determine the grading of materials proposed for use as aggregates or being used as aggregates. The results are used to determine compliance of the particle size distribution with applicable specification requirements and to provide necessary data for control of the production of various aggregate products and mixtures containing aggregates. The data may also be useful in developing relationships concerning porosity and packing.

5.2 Accurate determination of material finer than the 75-μm (No. 200) sieve cannot be achieved by use of this method alone. Test Method C 117 for material finer than 75-μm sieve by washing should be employed.

6. Apparatus

6.1 *Balances*—Balances or scales used in testing fine and coarse aggregate shall have readability and accuracy as follows:

6.1.1 For fine aggregate, readable to 0.1 g and accurate to 0.1 g or 0.1 % of the test load, whichever is greater, at any point within the range of use.

6.1.2 For coarse aggregate, or mixtures of fine and coarse aggregate, readable and accurate to 0.5 g or 0.1 % of the test load, whichever is greater, at any point within the range of use.

6.2 *Sieves*—The sieve cloth shall be mounted on substantial frames constructed in a manner that will prevent loss of material during sieving. The sieve cloth and standard sieve frames shall conform to the requirements of Specification E 11. Nonstandard sieve frames shall conform to the requirements of

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee C-9 on Concrete and Concrete Aggregates and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee C09.20 on Normal Weight Aggregates.

Current edition approved Nov. 10, 1996. Published January 1997. Originally published as C 136 – 38 T. Last previous edition C 136 – 96.

² Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 04.02.

³ Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 04.03.

⁴ Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 14.02.

⁵ Available from American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, 444 North Capitol St. N.W., Suite 225, Washington, DC 20001.