



Standard Test Method for Fineness of Hydraulic Cement by Air-Permeability Apparatus¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation C 204; 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.

1. Scope

1.1 This test method covers determination of the fineness of hydraulic cement, using the Blaine air-permeability apparatus, in terms of the specific surface expressed as total surface area in square centimetres per gram, or square metres per kilogram, of cement. Although the test method may be, and has been, used for the determination of the measures of fineness of various other materials, it should be understood that, in general, relative rather than absolute fineness values are obtained.

1.1.1 This test method is known to work well for portland cements. However, the user should exercise judgement in determining its suitability with regard to fineness measurements of cements with densities, or porosities that differ from those assigned to Standard Reference Material No. 114.

1.2 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as 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:

A 582/A 582M Specification for Free-Machining Stainless and Heat-Resisting Steel Bars²

C 670 Practice for Preparing Precision and Bias Statements for Test Methods for Construction Materials³

E 832 Specification for Laboratory Filter Papers⁴

2.2 Other Document:

No. 114 National Institute of Standards and Technology Standard Reference Material⁵

3. Apparatus

3.1 *Nature of Apparatus*—The Blaine air-permeability apparatus consists essentially of a means of drawing a definite quantity of air through a prepared bed of cement of definite porosity. The number and size of the pores in a prepared bed of definite porosity is a function of the size of the particles and determines the rate of airflow through the bed. The apparatus, illustrated in Fig. 1, shall consist specifically of the parts described in 3.2-3.8.

3.2 *Permeability Cell*—The permeability cell shall consist of a rigid cylinder 12.70 ± 0.10 mm in inside diameter, constructed of austenitic stainless steel. The interior of the cell shall have a finish of $0.81 \mu\text{m}$ (32 $\mu\text{in.}$). The top of the cell shall be at right angles to the principal axis of the cell. The lower portion of the cell must be able to form an airtight fit with the upper end of the manometer, so that there is no air leakage between the contacting surfaces. A ledge $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 mm in width shall be an integral part of the cell or be firmly fixed in the cell 55 ± 10 mm from the top of the cell for support of the perforated metal disk. The top of the permeability cell shall be fitted with a protruding collar to facilitate the removal of the cell from the manometer.

NOTE 1—ASTM A 582 Type 303 stainless steel (UNS designation S30300) has been found to be suitable for the construction of the permeability cell and the plunger.

3.3 *Disk*—The disk shall be constructed of noncorroding metal and shall be 0.9 ± 0.1 mm in thickness, perforated with 30 to 40 holes 1 mm in diameter equally distributed over its area. The disk shall fit the inside of the cell snugly. The center portion of one side of the disk shall be marked or inscribed in a legible manner so as to permit the operator always to place that side downwards when inserting it into the cell. The marking or inscription shall not extend into any of the holes, nor touch their peripheries, nor extend into that area of the disk that rests on the cell ledge.

3.4 *Plunger*—The plunger shall be constructed of austenitic stainless steel and shall fit into the cell with a clearance of not more than 0.1 mm. The bottom of the plunger shall sharply meet the lateral surfaces and shall be at right angles to the principal axis. An air vent shall be provided by means of a flat 3.0 ± 0.3 mm wide on one side of the plunger. The top of the

¹ This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee C01 on Cement and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee C01.25 on Fineness.

Current edition approved July 10, 2000. Published September 2000. Originally published as C 204 – 46 T. Last previous edition C 204 – 96a.

² *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 01.03.

³ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 04.02.

⁴ *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 14.04.

⁵ Available from National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, MD 20899.