



Standard Practice for Use of Unbonded Caps in Determination of Compressive Strength of Hardened Cylindrical Concrete Specimens¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation C1231/C1231M; 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 practice covers requirements for a capping system using unbonded caps for testing concrete cylinders molded in accordance with Practice C31/C31M or C192/C192M, or cores obtained in accordance with Test Method C42/C42M. *Unbonded neoprene caps of a defined hardness are permitted to be used for testing for a specified maximum number of reuses without qualification testing up to a certain concrete compressive strength level. Above that strength, level neoprene caps will require qualification testing. Qualification testing is required for all elastomeric materials other than neoprene regardless of the concrete strength.*

1.2 Unbonded caps are not to be used for acceptance testing of concrete with compressive strength below 10 MPa [1500 psi] or above 80 MPa [12 000 psi].

1.3 The values stated in either SI units or inch-pound units are to be regarded separately as standard. 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.

1.4 *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. (Warning—Concrete specimens tested with unbonded caps rupture more violently than comparable specimens tested with bonded caps. The safety precautions given in the Manual of Aggregate and Concrete Testing are recommended.)*²

¹ This practice 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.

Current edition approved Dec. 1, 2015. Published February 2016. Originally approved in 1993. Last previous edition approved in 2014 as C1231/C1231M – 14. DOI: 10.1520/C1231_C1231M-15.

² Section on Safety Precautions, Manual of Aggregate and Concrete Testing, *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 04.02.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:³

C31/C31M Practice for Making and Curing Concrete Test Specimens in the Field
C39/C39M Test Method for Compressive Strength of Cylindrical Concrete Specimens
C42/C42M Test Method for Obtaining and Testing Drilled Cores and Sawed Beams of Concrete
C192/C192M Practice for Making and Curing Concrete Test Specimens in the Laboratory
C617 Practice for Capping Cylindrical Concrete Specimens
D2000 Classification System for Rubber Products in Automotive Applications

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.1.1 *pad, n*—an unbonded elastomeric pad.

3.1.2 *unbonded cap, n*—a metal retainer and an elastomeric pad.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 This practice provides for using an unbonded capping system in testing hardened concrete cylinders made in accordance with Practices C31/C31M or C192/C192M, or cores obtained in accordance with Test Method C42/C42M in lieu of the capping systems described in Practice C617.

4.2 The elastomeric pads deform in initial loading to conform to the contour of the ends of the test specimens and are restrained from excessive lateral spreading by plates and metal rings to provide a uniform distribution of load from the bearing blocks of the testing machine to the ends of the concrete or mortar specimens.

³ 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.