



Designation: D3967 – 23

# Standard Test Method for Splitting Tensile Strength of Intact Rock Core Specimens with Flat Loading Platens<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D3967; 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.

## 1. Scope\*

1.1 This test method covers testing apparatus, specimen preparation, and testing procedures for determining the splitting tensile strength of rock by diametral line compression of disk shaped specimens.

NOTE 1—The tensile strength of rock determined by tests other than the straight pull test is designated as the “indirect” tensile strength and, specifically, the value obtained in Section 9 of this test is termed the “splitting” tensile strength. This test method is also sometimes referred to as the Brazilian test method.

1.2 *Units*—The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as standard. The values given in parentheses are mathematical conversions to inch-pound units, which are provided for information only and are not considered standard. Reporting of test results in units other than SI shall not be regarded as nonconformance with this test method.

1.3 All observed and calculated values shall conform to the guidelines for significant digits and rounding established in Practice D6026.

1.3.1 The procedures used to specify how data are collected/recorded or calculated, in this standard are regarded as the industry standard. In addition, they are representative of the significant digits that generally should be retained. The procedures used do not consider material variation, the purpose for obtaining the data, special purpose studies, or any considerations for the user’s objectives; and it is common practice to increase or reduce significant digits of reported data to be commensurate with these considerations. It is beyond the scope of this standard to consider significant digits used in analysis methods for engineering design.

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, health, and environmental practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

1.5 *This international standard was developed in accordance with internationally recognized principles on standard-*

*ization established in the Decision on Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations issued by the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.*

## 2. Referenced Documents

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

- D653 Terminology Relating to Soil, Rock, and Contained Fluids
- D2216 Test Methods for Laboratory Determination of Water (Moisture) Content of Soil and Rock by Mass
- D3740 Practice for Minimum Requirements for Agencies Engaged in Testing and/or Inspection of Soil and Rock as Used in Engineering Design and Construction
- D6026 Practice for Using Significant Digits and Data Records in Geotechnical Data
- E4 Practices for Force Calibration and Verification of Testing Machines
- E691 Practice for Conducting an Interlaboratory Study to Determine the Precision of a Test Method
- E2586 Practice for Calculating and Using Basic Statistics

## 3. Terminology

### 3.1 Definitions:

3.1.1 For definitions of common technical terms used in this standard, refer to Terminology D653.

## 4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 Samples are selected from rock cores or cored from platen samples for testing as described. A section of rock core sample is cut perpendicular to the core axis to produce disk shape specimens until the required number of specimens are obtained. Each specimen is then marked to indicate the desired orientation of the applied loading on the specimen by drawing a diametral line on each end surface of the specimen. Each specimen is positioned inside the testing machine in such a way that the diametral line is coincidental with the loading axis of the testing machine fitted with flat loading platens. Each

<sup>1</sup> This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D18 on Soil and Rock and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D18.12 on Rock Mechanics.

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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.

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