



Standard Practice for Evaluation of Rock to be Used for Erosion Control¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D 4992; 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.

ε¹ NOTE—Paragraph 1.9 was added editorially October 1998.

1. Scope

1.1 This practice covers the evaluation of rock to be used for erosion control. The complexity and extent of this evaluation will be governed by the size and design requirements of the individual project, the quantity and quality of rock required, and the potential risk for property damage or loss of human life.

1.2 It is not intended that all of the evaluations listed in this practice be addressed for every project. For some small, less critical jobs, a visual inspection of the rock may be all that is necessary. Several of the evaluations listed may be necessary on large, complex, high-hazard projects. The intensity and number of evaluations made on any one project must be determined by the designer.

1.3 Examination of the rock at the source, evaluation of similar rock exposed to the environment at any field installations, as well as laboratory tests may be necessary to determine the properties of the rock as related to its predicted performance at the site of intended use (**1, 2, 3**).²

1.4 The examination of the rock at its source is essential to its evaluation for erosion control and aids in the planning of the subsequent laboratory examinations. Very large pieces of rock up to several tons weight are used in the control of erosion; thus great care must be taken with the field descriptions and in the sampling program to assure that zones of impurities or weaknesses that might not occur in ordinary size specimens are recorded and evaluated for their deleterious potential under the conditions of intended use. It is necessary that the intended method of rock removal be studied to ascertain whether the samples taken will correspond to the blasting, handling, and weathering history of the rock that will finally be used (**1**).

1.5 The specific procedures employed in the laboratory examinations depend on the kind of rock, its characteristics, mineral components, macro and micro structure, and perhaps most importantly, the intended use, size of the pieces, and the exposure conditions at the site of use (**3**).

1.6 It is assumed that this practice will be used by personnel who are qualified by education and experience to plan the necessary evaluations and to conduct them so that the necessary parameters of the subject rock will be defined. Therefore, this practice does not attempt to detail the laboratory techniques required, but rather to mention them and only detail those properties that must be of special concern in the course of the examination for rock to be used for erosion control.

1.7 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as the standard. The inch-pound units given in parentheses are for information only.

1.8 *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.*

1.9 *This practice offers a set of instructions for performing one or more specific operations. This document cannot replace education or experience and should be used in conjunction with professional judgment. Not all aspects of this practice may be applicable in all circumstances. This ASTM standard is not intended to represent or replace the standard of care by which the adequacy of a given professional service must be judged, nor should this document be applied without consideration of a project's many unique aspects. The word "Standard" in the title of this document means only that the document has been approved through the ASTM consensus process.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:

- C 88 Test Methods for Soundness of Aggregates by Use of Sodium Sulfate or Magnesium Sulfate³
- C 127 Test Method for Specific Gravity and Absorption of Coarse Aggregate³
- C 294 Descriptive Nomenclature of Constituents of Natural Mineral Aggregates³
- C 295 Practice for Petrographic Examination of Aggregates for Concrete³
- C 535 Test Method for Resistance to Degradation of Large-Size Coarse Aggregate by Abrasion and Impact in the Los Angeles Machine³

¹ This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D-18 on Soil and rock and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D18.17 on Rock for Erosion Control.

Current edition approved March 15, 1994. Published May 1994. Originally published as D 4992 – 89. Last previous edition D 4992 – 89.

² The boldface numbers in parentheses refer to the list of references at the end of this standard.

³ Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 04.02.