Designation: C1364 - 19

Standard Specification for Architectural Cast Stone¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation C1364; 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 specification includes the physical properties, sampling, testing, tolerance, and appearance requirements for architectural cast stone.
- 1.2 Cast stone units covered under this specification include both wet cast and vibratory dry tamp products. Production methods of cast stone can vary among manufacturers; many production methods are acceptable provided the delivered cast stone meets the requirements of this specification.
- 1.3 Surface textures, finish, color, special applications, or other features shall be specified by the purchaser. Slump, manufacturing method, and apparatus shall be selected by the manufacturer and not specified by the purchaser.
- 1.4 The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as standard. The values given in parentheses are mathematical conversions to SI units that are provided for information only and are not considered standard.
- 1.5 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.
- 1.6 This international standard was developed in accordance with internationally recognized principles on standardization 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:²

A615/A615M Specification for Deformed and Plain Carbon-Steel Bars for Concrete Reinforcement C33/C33M Specification for Concrete Aggregates

C150/C150M Specification for Portland Cement

C173/C173M Test Method for Air Content of Freshly Mixed Concrete by the Volumetric Method

C231/C231M Test Method for Air Content of Freshly Mixed Concrete by the Pressure Method

C260/C260M Specification for Air-Entraining Admixtures for Concrete

C426 Test Method for Linear Drying Shrinkage of Concrete Masonry Units

C494/C494M Specification for Chemical Admixtures for Concrete

C595/C595M Specification for Blended Hydraulic Cements C618 Specification for Coal Fly Ash and Raw or Calcined Natural Pozzolan for Use in Concrete

C666/C666M Test Method for Resistance of Concrete to Rapid Freezing and Thawing

C979/C979M Specification for Pigments for Integrally Colored Concrete

C989/C989M Specification for Slag Cement for Use in Concrete and Mortars

C1157/C1157M Performance Specification for Hydraulic Cement

C1194 Test Method for Compressive Strength of Architectural Cast Stone

C1195 Test Method for Absorption of Architectural Cast Stone

D1729 Practice for Visual Appraisal of Colors and Color Differences of Diffusely-Illuminated Opaque Materials

D2244 Practice for Calculation of Color Tolerances and Color Differences from Instrumentally Measured Color Coordinates

2.2 ACI Standards:

318 Building Code Requirements for Reinforced Concrete³

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions:

3.1.1 *cast stone*, *n*—an architectural precast concrete building unit intended to simulate natural cut stone.

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee C27 on Precast Concrete Products and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee C27.20 on Architectural and Structural Products.

Current edition approved Dec. 1, 2019. Published December 2019. Originally approved in 1997. Last previous edition approved in 2018 as C1364 – 18. DOI: 10.1520/C1364-19.

² 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.

³ Available from American Concrete Institute (ACI), 38800 Country Club Dr., Farmington Hills, MI 48331-3439, http://www.concrete.org.

- 3.1.2 *vibrant dry tamp (dry cast) products, n*—cast stone manufactured from zero slump concrete densely compacted by apparatus. (See Note 1.)
- 3.1.3 *wet cast products, n*—cast stone manufactured from measurable slump concrete consolidated by apparatus. (See Note 1.)

Note 1—Apparatus used in the production of cast stone may include automatic, semi-automatic, or manual devices that deploy internal or external vibration, vibrant tamping, vibration under pressure, centrifugal casting, or combinations of these techniques to achieve the specified physical properties.

4. Materials and Design

- 4.1 *Raw Materials*—Materials shall conform to the following specifications:
 - 4.1.1 *Cement:*
 - 4.1.1.1 Portland Cement—Specification C150/C150M.
 - 4.1.1.2 Blended Cement—Specification C595/C595M.
 - 4.1.1.3 Hydraulic Cement—Specification C1157/C1157M.
- 4.1.2 *Aggregates*—Specification C33/C33M, except for grading requirements.
- 4.1.3 *Coloring Pigment*—Specification C979/C979M, except that carbon black pigment shall not be used.
 - 4.1.4 Reinforcement—Specification A615/A615M.
- 4.1.5 *Chemical Admixtures*—Chemical admixtures shall conform to the following applicable specifications:
- 4.1.5.1 *Air Entraining Admixtures*—Specification C260/C260M, except for vibrant dry tamp products.
- 4.1.5.2 Water Reducing and Accelerating Admixtures—Specification C494/C494M.
- 4.1.5.3 *Other Constituents*—Integral water repellents and other chemicals for which no ASTM standard exists shall be previously established as suitable for use in concrete by proven field performance or through laboratory testing.
 - 4.1.6 Ground Slag—Specification C989/C989M.
 - 4.1.7 Fly Ash or Natural Pozzolan—Specification C618.
- 4.2 *Design*—Samples shall be submitted for approval of color and texture. The manufacturer shall prepare drawings for approval showing shapes, sizes, reinforcement, exposed faces, and anchorage provisions. The purchaser or his authorized representative shall approve the samples and drawings before manufacture.
 - 4.3 Reinforcement:
- 4.3.1 Reinforcement shall be new billet steel reinforcing bars meeting the requirements of Specification A615/A615M unless specified otherwise by the purchaser.
- 4.3.2 Reinforce units when necessary for safe handling and structural stress.
- 4.3.3 Reinforcement shall be noncorrosive where faces exposed to weather are covered with less than 1.5 in. (38 mm) of concrete material. All reinforcement shall have minimum coverage of twice the diameter of the bars.
- 4.3.4 Area of reinforcement in units greater than 24 in. (600 mm) in more than one direction shall be not less than 0.25% of the cross section area [in that direction]. Units less than 24 in. (600 mm) in both their length and width dimension shall be non-reinforced unless otherwise specified.

5. Physical Requirements

- 5.1 Compressive Strength—At 28 days after manufacture, not less than 6500 psi (45 MPa), when tested in accordance with Test Method C1194.
- 5.2 Absorption, Cold Water—At 28 days after manufacture, not greater than 6.0 %, when tested in accordance with Method A, Cold Water of Test Method C1195.
- 5.3 *Air Content*—Provide sufficient air content to meet the freeze-thaw requirements for wet cast products, when the air content is tested in accordance with Test Method C173/C173M or Test Method C231/C231M.
- 5.4 Field Testing of cast stone shall be in accordance with Test Methods C1194 and C1195. Field tested specimens shall have a minimum compressive strength of 85 % with no single specimen testing less than 75 % of the design requirement as allowed by ACI 318.
 - 5.5 Resistance to Freezing and Thawing:
- 5.5.1 The cast stone shall be tested using Test Method C666/C666M, Procedure A, except the method of evaluation is to be based on cumulative percent loss in mass and not relative dynamic modulus of elasticity and durability factor. Follow the procedure modifications to Test Method C666/C666M in 5.5.1.1 through 5.5.1.5.
- 5.5.1.1 After the cast stone is 14 days of age, saw-cut three 3 by 4 by 16 in. (76 by 102 by 406 mm) beams from a single sample of cast stone to represent three specimens for a single test. One surface of each beam shall be from the exposed, formed face of the sample and the remaining sides shall be saw cut. The allowable size tolerance of the specimens shall be $\pm \frac{1}{8}$ in. (3 mm).
- 5.5.1.2 Do not oven dry the beam specimens until all testing for resistance to freezing and thawing has been completed.
- 5.5.1.3 Submerge each beam specimen in lime-saturated water at 73.4 \pm 3°F (23 \pm 1.7°C) at least 24 h prior to subjection to freezing and thawing. Subject each specimen to freezing and thawing as described in Test Method C666/ C666M, Procedure A. Inspect each specimen every 30 to 36 cycles and collect the fragments caused by freeze-thaw cycling from each specimen individually to monitor loss in mass during testing. For each specimen, oven dry the spalled material and determine its mass until the loss in mass due to drying is not more than 0.2 % in 2 h of drying. Record the data individually and cumulatively for each specimen throughout the test until 300 cycles are completed or the mass lost is at least 10 %, whichever occurs first. Specimens shall then be oven dried at a temperature of 212 to 230°F (100 to 110°C) until the loss in mass due to drying is not more than 0.1 % in 48 h of drying. They shall be removed from the oven and allowed to cool at room temperature for approximately 30 min before measuring final dry mass. The initial dry mass of each specimen is considered to be the final dry mass of the specimen plus the total dry mass of fragments collected from the beam throughout the test.
- 5.5.1.4 Calculate the cumulative percent mass loss (CPWL) for each beam specimen as follows:

$$CPWL (Beam), \% = \frac{S}{S+B} \times 100 \tag{1}$$

where:

CPWL (Beam) = cumulative percent mass loss,

S = total dry mass of spalled material, and B = oven dried beam mass at the end of the test.

- 5.5.1.5 Calculate the CPWL for the sample. The CPWL of the sample is the average CPWL (Beam) of the three specimens
- 5.5.1.6 It is not possible to specify the precision of the procedure in this specification for freeze-thaw because data is not yet available. Since there is no accepted reference material suitable for determining the bias of results of this test, no statement on bias is being made.
- 5.5.2 The CPWL shall be less than 5.0% after 300 cycles of freezing and thawing.

6. Dimensions and Permissible Variations

- 6.1 Cross section dimensions shall not deviate by more than $\pm \frac{1}{8}$ in. (3 mm) from approved dimensions.
- 6.2 Length of units shall not deviate by more than length/ $360 \text{ or } \pm \frac{1}{8} \text{ in. } (3 \text{ mm}), \text{ whichever is greater, not to exceed } \pm \frac{1}{4} \text{ in. } (6 \text{ mm}).$

7. Sampling and Testing

- 7.1 Sample and test units of cast stone for compressive strength and absorption in accordance with Test Methods C1194 and C1195, respectively.
- 7.2 Freeze/thaw durability shall be based on tests of cast stone units of any configuration or dimension made with the same materials, concrete mix design, manufacturing process, and curing method, conducted in accordance with 5.5 and within 24 months of production of the units.
- 7.3 Total linear drying shrinkage shall be based on tests of cast stone units of any configuration or dimension made with the same materials, concrete mix design, manufacturing process, and curing method, conducted in accordance with Test Method C426 and within 24 months of production of the units.
 - 7.4 Visually examine units in accordance with Section 8.
- 7.5 Visually examine color differences between units and the approved sample under daylight illumination as defined under Spectral Power Distribution in paragraph 5.1.1.1 of Practice D1729.
- 7.6 Instrumentally examine color differences, if required, in accordance with Test Method D2244.

8. Visual Inspection

- 8.1 All surfaces intended to be exposed to view shall have a fine-grained texture similar to natural stone, with no air voids in excess of $\frac{1}{32}$ in. (0.8 mm) and the density of such voids shall be less than three occurrences per any 1 in.² (25 mm²) and not obvious under direct daylight illumination from a 5-ft (1.5-m) distance, unless otherwise specified.
- 8.2 Minor chipping resulting from shipment and delivery shall not be grounds for rejection. Minor chipping shall not be obvious under direct daylight illumination from a 20-ft (6-m) distance.
- 8.3 Units shall exhibit a texture approximately equal to the approved sample when viewed under direct daylight illumination at a 10-ft (3-m) distance.
- 8.4 The occurrence of crazing or efflorescence shall not constitute a cause for rejection.

9. Permissible Variation in Color

- 9.1 *Total Color Difference*—Not greater than 6 units from the approved sample or between units of comparable age subjected to similar weathering when tested in accordance with the color difference equation in paragraph 6.2.1 of Test Method D2244.
- 9.2 *Hue Difference*—Not greater than 2 units from the approved sample or between units of comparable age subjected to similar weathering when tested in accordance with the color difference equation in paragraph 6.2.7 of Test Method D2244.

10. Rejection

- 10.1 If the shipment fails to conform to physical or visual requirements in Sections 5 and 7, the manufacturer may recall the shipment, sort it, and new specimens shall be selected by the purchaser and tested at the expense of the manufacturer. If the second set of specimens fails to conform to the test requirements, the entire shipment shall be rejected.
- 10.2 Units shall be visually inspected and tested prior to installation.

11. Keywords

11.1 architectural cast stone; precast building unit; simulate natural stone

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