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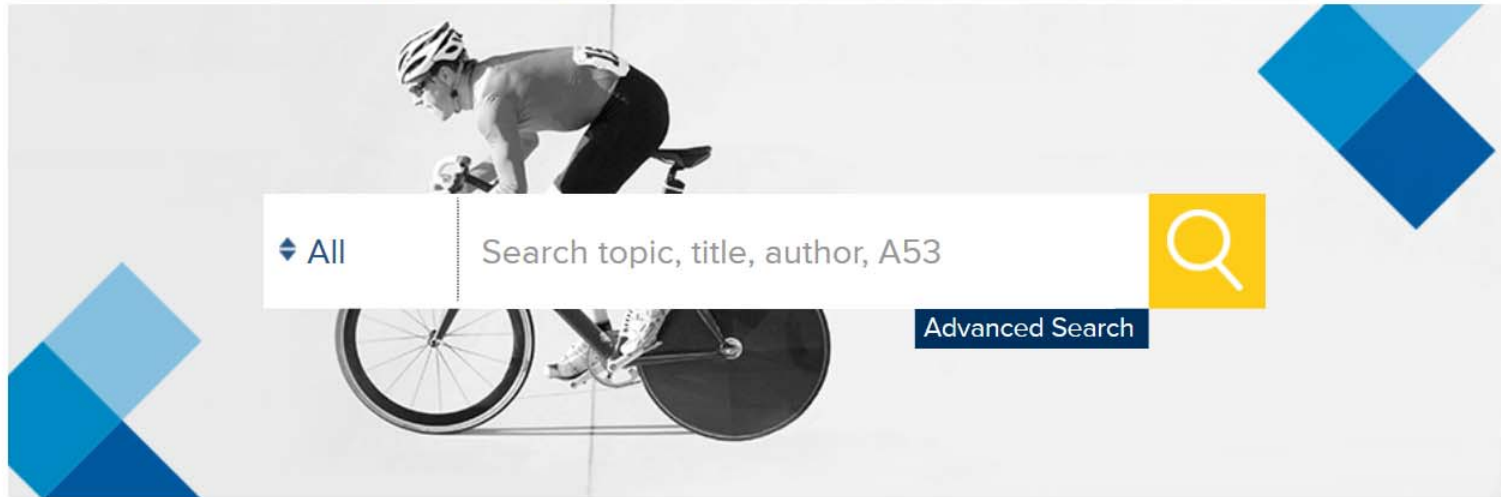
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ASTM C136/C136M-14 Standard Test Method for Sieve Analysis of Fine and Coarse Aggregates

Active Standard (Latest Version)





5.1 This test method is used primarily to determine the grading of materials proposed for use as aggregat... [More](#)

Developed by Subcommittee C09.20 | Book of Standards Volume: 04.02

Historical Versions - previous version(s) of standard

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ICS 91.100.30 (Concrete And Concrete Products)

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ASTM C136 - 06 Standard Test Method for Sieve Analysis of Fine and Coarse Aggregates

Historical Standard

SUPERSEDED BY C136

1.1 This test method covers the determination of the particle size distribution of fine and coarse aggregates by sieving.

1.2 Some specifications for aggregates which reference this method co... [More](#)

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Types of Standards

Standard Specification - requirements to be satisfied by a system, material, product, or service.

ASTM C 33 Standard Specification for Concrete Aggregates

Standard Test Method - instructions for performing one or more specific operations that produces a test result.

ASTM C29 Standard Test Method for Bulk Density and Voids in Aggregate

Standard Practice - instructions for performing specific operations that do not produce a test result.

ASTM C 702 Standard Practice for Reducing Samples of Aggregate to Testing Size

Types of Standards

Standard Guide - information or a series of options that does not recommend a specific course of action.

ASTM E 2392 Standard Guide for Design of Earthen Wall Building Systems

Standard Classification - arrangement of systems, materials, products, or services into groups based on shared characteristics.

ASTM E 2103 Standard Classification for Bridge Elements

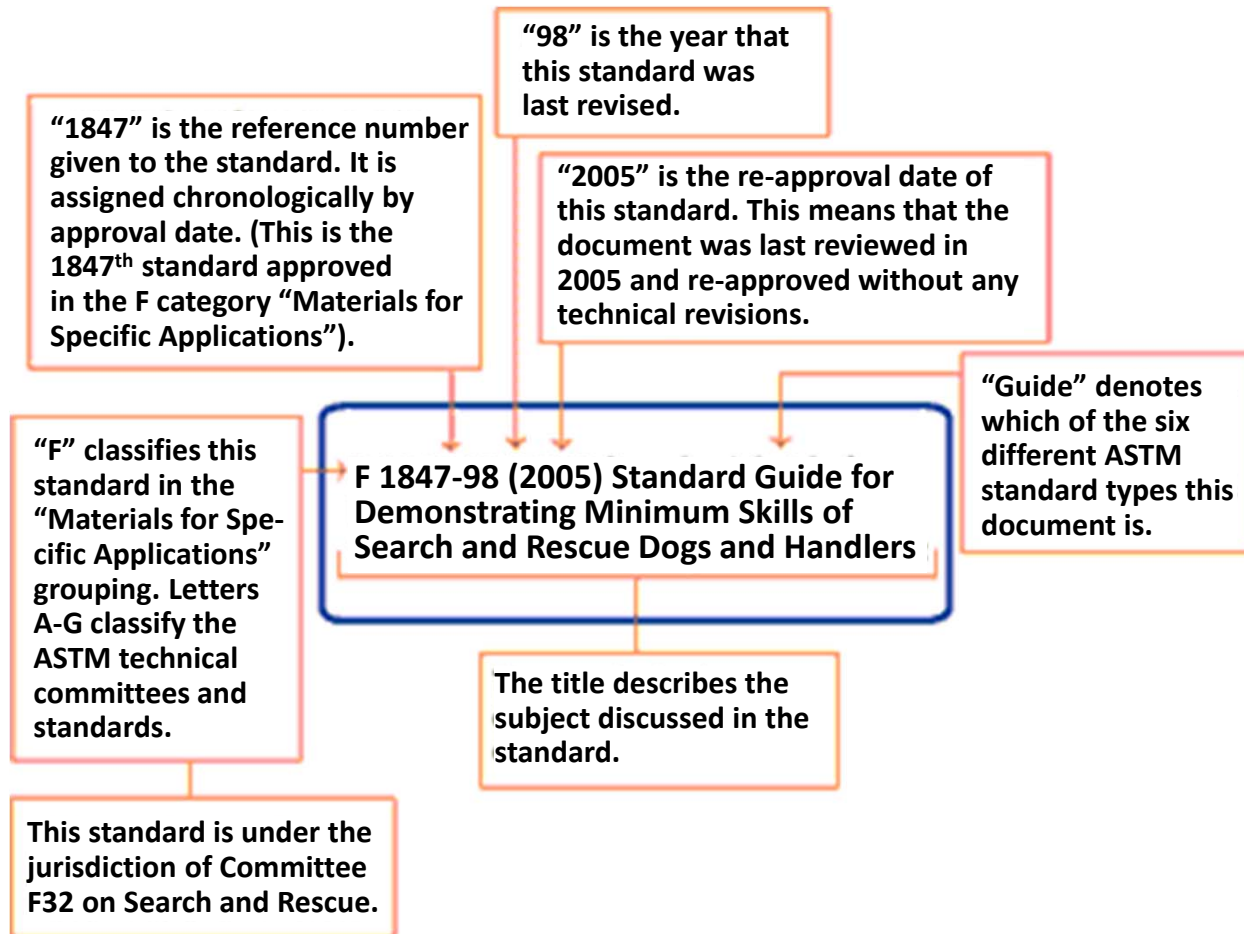
Terminology Standard - definitions of terms; explanations of symbols, abbreviations, or acronyms.

ASTM D 653 Standard Terminology Relating to Soil, Rock, and Contained Fluids

Standard Test Methods

- A—Ferrous metals and products
- B—Nonferrous metals and products
- C—Cementitious, ceramic, concrete, and masonry materials
- D—Miscellaneous materials and products
- E—Miscellaneous subjects
- F—End-use materials and products for specific applications
- G—Corrosion, deterioration, weathering, durability, and degradation of materials and products

Decoding a Standard Title



Anatomy of a Test Specification

1. Scope
2. Referenced Documents
3. Terminology
4. Summary of Test Method
5. Significance and Use
6. Apparatus
7. Sampling
8. Procedure
9. Calculations
10. Report
11. Precision and Bias



Designation: C 136 – 06

Standard Test Method for Sieve Analysis of Fine and Coarse Aggregates¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation C 136; 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.

This standard has been approved for use by agencies of the Department of Defense.

1. Scope*

1.1 This test method covers the determination of the particle size distribution of fine and coarse aggregates by sieving.

1.2 Some specifications for aggregates which reference this test method contain grading requirements including both coarse and fine fractions. Instructions are included for sieve analysis of such aggregates.

1.3 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as the standard. The values in parentheses are provided for information purposes only. Specification E 11 designates the size of sieve frames with inch units as standard, but in this test method the frame size is designated in SI units exactly equivalent to the inch units.

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.*

2. Referenced Documents

E 11 Specification for Wire Cloth and Sieves for Testing Purposes

2.2 AASHTO Standard:

AASHTO No. T 27 Sieve Analysis of Fine and Coarse Aggregates³

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—For definitions of terms used in this standard, refer to Terminology C 125.

4. Summary of Test Method

4.1 A sample of dry aggregate of known mass is separated through a series of sieves of progressively smaller openings for determination of particle size distribution.

5. Significance and Use

5.1 This test method is used primarily to determine the grading of materials proposed for use as aggregates or being used as aggregates. The results are used to determine compliance of the particle size distribution with applicable specifica-



Designation: C 136 – 06

What is the purpose of the standard?
Does it have any known limitations?

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2.1 ASTM Standards:²

- C 117** Test Method for Materials Finer than 75- μm (No. 200) Sieve in Mineral Aggregates by Washing
- C 125** Terminology Relating to Concrete and Concrete Aggregates
- C 637** Specification for Aggregates for Radiation-Shielding Concrete
- C 670** Practice for Preparing Precision and Bias Statements for Test Methods for Construction Materials
- C 702** Practice for Reducing Samples of Aggregate to Testing Size
- D 75** Practice for Sampling Aggregates

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5.2 Accurate determination of material finer than the 75- μm (No. 200) sieve cannot be achieved by use of this test method alone. Test Method **C 117** for material finer than 75- μm sieve by washing should be employed.

5.3 Refer to methods of sampling and testing in Specification **C 637** for heavyweight aggregates.

6. Apparatus

6.1 *Balances*—Balances or scales used in testing fine and coarse aggregate shall have readability and accuracy as follows:

6.1.1 For fine aggregate, readable to 0.1 g and accurate to 0.1 g or 0.1 % of the test load, whichever is greater, at any point within the range of use.

³ Available from American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, 444 North Capitol St. N.W., Suite 225, Washington, DC 20001.

What documents are referenced within this standard?

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



Designation: C 136 – 06

References may be to standards from other organizations (e.g., AASHTO).

Standard Test Method for Sieve Analysis of Fine and Coarse Aggregates¹

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Designation: C 136 – 06

What terms in this standard have very specific meanings that may differ from their common definition.

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Designation: C 136 – 06

Provides a very brief synopsis of the test method

Standard Test Method for Sieve Analysis of Fine and Coarse Aggregates¹

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

C 702 Practice for Reducing Samples of Aggregate to Testing Size

D 75 Practice for Sampling Aggregates

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5.2 Accurate determination of material finer than the 75- μm (No. 200) sieve cannot be achieved by use of this test method alone. Test Method **C 117** for material finer than 75- μm sieve by washing should be employed.

5.3 Refer to methods of sampling and testing in Specification **C 637** for heavyweight aggregates.

6. Apparatus

6.1 *Balances*—Balances or scales used in testing fine and coarse aggregate shall have readability and accuracy as follows:

6.1.1 For fine aggregate, readable to 0.1 g and accurate to 0.1 g or 0.1 % of the test load, whichever is greater, at any point within the range of use.

³ Available from American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, 444 North Capitol St. N.W., Suite 225, Washington, DC 20001.

Why is this standard relevant, how is it typically used, when is it not applicable?

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

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What equipment is required and how accurate does it need to be?

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

a portion of the sample if used for a small sample of coarse aggregate or fine aggregate.

6.4 *Oven*—An oven of appropriate size capable of maintaining a uniform temperature of $110 \pm 5 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ ($230 \pm 9 \text{ }^\circ\text{F}$).

7. Sampling

7.1 Sample the aggregate in accordance with Practice D 75. The size of the field sample shall be the quantity shown in Practice D 75 or four times the quantity required in 7.4 and 7.5 (except as modified in 7.6), whichever is greater.

7.2 Thoroughly mix the sample and reduce it to an amount suitable for testing using the applicable procedures described in Practice C 702. The sample for test shall be approximately the quantity desired when dry and shall be the end result of the reduction. Reduction to an exact predetermined quantity shall not be permitted.

NOTE 3—Where sieve analysis, including determination of material finer than the 75- μm sieve, is the only testing proposed, the size of the sample may be reduced in the field to avoid shipping excessive quantities of extra material to the laboratory.

7.3 *Fine Aggregate*—The size of the test sample, after drying, shall be 300 g minimum.

7.4 *Coarse Aggregate*—The size of the test sample of coarse aggregate shall conform with the following:

Nominal Maximum Size, Square Openings, mm (in.)	Test Sample Size, min, kg (lb)
9.5 (3/8)	1 (2)
12.5 (1/2)	2 (4)
19.0 (3/4)	5 (11)
25.0 (1)	10 (22)
37.5 (1 1/2)	15 (33)
50 (2)	20 (44)
63 (2 1/2)	35 (77)
75 (3)	60 (130)
90 (3 1/2)	100 (220)

than 12.5 mm (1/2 in.), use a single test sample as described in 7.7.1, or optionally use separate test samples for Test Method C 117 and this test method.

7.7.3 Where the specifications require determination of the total amount of material finer than the 75- μm sieve by washing and dry sieving, use the procedure described in 7.7.1.

8. Procedure

8.1 Dry the sample to constant mass at a temperature of $110 \pm 5 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ ($230 \pm 9 \text{ }^\circ\text{F}$).

NOTE 4—For control purposes, particularly where rapid results are desired, it is generally not necessary to dry coarse aggregate for the sieve analysis test. The results are little affected by the moisture content unless: (1) the nominal maximum size is smaller than about 12.5 mm (1/2 in.); (2) the coarse aggregate contains appreciable material finer than 4.75 mm (No. 4); or (3) the coarse aggregate is highly absorptive (a lightweight aggregate, for example). Also, samples may be dried at the higher temperatures associated with the use of hot plates without affecting results, provided steam escapes without generating pressures sufficient to fracture the particles, and temperatures are not so great as to cause chemical breakdown of the aggregate.

8.2 Select sieves with suitable openings to furnish the information required by the specifications covering the material to be tested. Use additional sieves as desired or necessary to provide other information, such as fineness modulus, or to regulate the amount of material on a sieve. Nest the sieves in order of decreasing size of opening from top to bottom and place the sample on the top sieve. Agitate the sieves by hand or by mechanical apparatus for a sufficient period, established by trial or checked by measurement on the actual test sample, to meet the criterion for adequacy or sieving described in 8.4.

8.3 Limit the quantity of material on a given sieve so that all particles have opportunity to reach sieve openings a number of times during the sieving operation. For sieves with openings

a portion of the sample if used for a small sample of coarse aggregate or fine aggregate.

6.4 *Oven*—An oven of appropriate size capable of maintaining a uniform temperature of $110 \pm 5 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ ($230 \pm 9 \text{ }^\circ\text{F}$).

7. Sampling

7.1 Sample the aggregate in accordance with Practice D 75. The size of the field sample shall be the quantity shown in Practice D 75 or four times the quantity required in 7.4 and 7.5 (except as modified in 7.6), whichever is greater.

7.2 Thoroughly mix the sample and reduce it to an amount suitable for testing using the applicable procedures described in Practice C 702. The sample for test shall be approximately the quantity desired when dry and shall be the end result of the reduction. Reduction to an exact predetermined quantity shall not be permitted.

NOTE 3—Where sieve analysis, including determination of material finer than the 75- μm sieve, is the only testing proposed, the size of the sample may be reduced in the field to avoid shipping excessive quantities of extra material to the laboratory.

7.3 *Fine Aggregate*—The size of the test sample, after drying, shall be 300 g minimum.

7.4 *Coarse Aggregate*—The size of the test sample of coarse aggregate shall conform with the following:

Nominal Maximum Size, Square Openings, mm (in.)	Test Sample Size, min, kg (lb)
9.5 (3/8)	1 (2)
12.5 (1/2)	2 (4)
19.0 (3/4)	5 (11)
25.0 (1)	10 (22)
37.5 (1 1/2)	15 (33)
50 (2)	20 (44)
63 (2 1/2)	35 (77)
75 (3)	60 (130)
90 (3 1/2)	100 (220)

than 12.5 mm (1/2 in.), use a single test sample as described in 7.7.1, or optionally use separate test samples for Test Method C 117 and this test method.

7.7.3 Where the specifications require determination of the total amount of material finer than the 75- μm sieve by washing and dry sieving, use the procedure described in 7.7.1.

8. Procedure

8.1 Dry the sample to constant mass at a temperature of $110 \pm 5 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ ($230 \pm 9 \text{ }^\circ\text{F}$).

NOTE 4—For control purposes, particularly where rapid results are desired, it is generally not necessary to dry coarse aggregate for the sieve analysis test. The results are little affected by the moisture content unless: (1) the nominal maximum size is smaller than about 12.5 mm (1/2 in.); (2) the coarse aggregate contains appreciable material finer than 4.75 mm (No. 4); or (3) the coarse aggregate is highly absorptive (a lightweight aggregate, for example). Also, samples may be dried at the higher temperatures associated with the use of hot plates without affecting results, provided steam escapes without generating pressures sufficient to fracture the particles, and temperatures are not so great as to cause chemical breakdown of the aggregate.

8.2 Select sieves with suitable openings to furnish the information required by the specifications covering the material to be tested. Use additional sieves as desired or necessary to provide other information, such as fineness modulus, or to regulate the amount of material on a sieve. Nest the sieves in order of decreasing size of opening from top to bottom and place the sample on the top sieve. Agitate the sieves by hand or by mechanical apparatus for a sufficient period, established by trial or checked by measurement on the actual test sample, to meet the criterion for adequacy or sieving described in 8.4.

8.3 Limit the quantity of material on a given sieve so that all particles have opportunity to reach sieve openings a number of times during the sieving operation. For sieves with openings

the material retained on any individual sieve will pass that sieve during 1 min of continuous hand sieving performed as follows: Hold the individual sieve, provided with a snug-fitting pan and cover, in a slightly inclined position in one hand. Strike the side of the sieve sharply and with an upward motion against the heel of the other hand at the rate of about 150 times per minute, turn the sieve about one sixth of a revolution at

TABLE 1 Maximum Allowable Quantity of Material Retained on a Sieve, kg

Sieve Opening Size, mm	Nominal Dimensions of Sieve ^A				
	203.2-mm dia ^B	254-mm dia ^B	304.8-mm dia ^B	350 by 350 mm	372 by 580 mm
	Sieving Area, m ²				
	0.0285	0.0457	0.0670	0.1225	0.2158
125	C	C	C	C	67.4
100	C	C	C	30.6	53.9
90	C	C	15.1	27.6	48.5
75	C	8.6	12.6	23.0	40.5
63	C	7.2	10.6	19.3	34.0
50	3.6	5.7	8.4	15.3	27.0
37.5	2.7	4.3	6.3	11.5	20.2
25.0	1.8	2.9	4.2	7.7	13.5
19.0	1.4	2.2	3.2	5.8	10.2
12.5	0.89	1.4	2.1	3.8	6.7
9.5	0.67	1.1	1.6	2.9	5.1
4.75	0.33	0.54	0.80	1.5	2.6

^A Sieve frame dimensions in inch units: 8.0-in. diameter; 10.0-in. diameter, 12.0-in. diameter; 13.8 by 13.8 in. (14 by 14 in. nominal); 14.6 by 22.8 in. (16 by 24 in. nominal).

^B The sieve area for round sieve frames is based on an effective diameter 12.7 mm (½ in.) less than the nominal frame diameter, because Specification E 11 permits the sealer between the sieve cloth and the frame to extend 6.35 mm (¼ in.) over the sieve cloth. Thus the effective sieving diameter for a 203.2-mm (8.0-in.) diameter sieve frame is 190.5 mm (7.5 in.). Sieves produced by some manufacturers do not infringe on the sieve cloth by the full 6.35 mm (¼ in.).

^C Sieves indicated have less than five full openings and should not be used for sieve testing except as provided in 8.6.

necessary, in order to determine whether they will pass through a particular opening; however, do not force particles to pass through an opening.

8.7 Determine the mass of each size increment on a scale or balance conforming to the requirements specified in 5.1 to the nearest 0.1 % of the total original dry sample mass. The total mass of the material after sieving should check closely with original mass of sample placed on the sieves. If the amounts differ by more than 0.3 %, based on the original dry sample mass, the results should not be used for acceptance purposes.

8.8 If the sample has previously been tested by Test Method C 117, add the mass finer than the 75-µm (No. 200) sieve determined by that test method to the mass passing the 75-µm (No. 200) sieve by dry sieving of the same sample in this test method.

9. Calculation

9.1 Calculate percentages passing, total percentages retained, or percentages in various size fractions to the nearest 0.1 % on the basis of the total mass of the initial dry sample. If the same test sample was first tested by Test Method C 117, include the mass of material finer than the 75-µm (No. 200) size by washing in the sieve analysis calculation; and use the total dry sample mass prior to washing in Test Method C 117 as the basis for calculating all the percentages.

9.1.1 When sample increments are tested as provided in 7.6, total the masses of the portion of the increments retained on each sieve, and use these masses to calculate the percentages as in 9.1.

9.2 Calculate the fineness modulus, when required, by adding the total percentages of material in the sample that is coarser than each of the following sieves (cumulative percentages retained), and dividing the sum by 100: 150-µm (No.

100), 300- μm (No. 50), 600- μm (No. 30), 1.18-mm (No. 16), 2.36-mm (No. 8), 4.75-mm (No. 4), 9.5-mm ($\frac{3}{8}$ -in.), 19.0-mm ($\frac{3}{4}$ -in.), 37.5-mm ($1\frac{1}{2}$ -in.), and larger, increasing in the ratio of 2 to 1.

10. Report

10.1 Depending upon the form of the specifications for use of the material under test, the report shall include the following:

10.1.1 Total percentage of material passing each sieve, or

10.1.2 Total percentage of material retained on each sieve, or

10.1.3 Percentage of material retained between consecutive sieves.

10.2 Report percentages to the nearest whole number, except if the percentage passing the 75- μm (No. 200) sieve is less than 10 %, it shall be reported to the nearest 0.1 %.

10.3 Report the fineness modulus, when required, to the nearest 0.01.

11. Precision and Bias

11.1 *Precision*—The estimates of precision for this test method are listed in Table 2. The estimates are based on the results from the AASHTO Materials Reference Laboratory Proficiency Sample Program, with testing conducted by Test Method C 136 and AASHTO No. T 27. The data are based on the analyses of the test results from 65 to 233 laboratories that tested 18 pairs of coarse aggregate proficiency test samples and test results from 74 to 222 laboratories that tested 17 pairs of fine aggregate proficiency test samples (Samples No. 21 through 90). The values in the table are given for different ranges of total percentage of aggregate passing a sieve.

TABLE 2 Precision

	Total Percentage of Material Passing	Standard Deviation (1s), % ^A	Acceptable Range of Two Results (d2s), % ^A	
<i>Coarse Aggregate:^B</i>				
Single-operator precision	<100	≥ 95	0.32	0.9
	<95	≥ 85	0.81	2.3
	<85	≥ 80	1.34	3.8
	<80	≥ 60	2.25	6.4
	<60	≥ 20	1.32	3.7
	<20	≥ 15	0.96	2.7
	<15	≥ 10	1.00	2.8
	<10	≥ 5	0.75	2.1
	<5	≥ 2	0.53	1.5
	<2	>0	0.27	0.8
Multilaboratory precision	<100	≥ 95	0.35	1.0
	<95	≥ 85	1.37	3.9
	<85	≥ 80	1.92	5.4
	<80	≥ 60	2.82	8.0
	<60	≥ 20	1.97	5.6
	<20	≥ 15	1.60	4.5
	<15	≥ 10	1.48	4.2
	<10	≥ 5	1.22	3.4
	<5	≥ 2	1.04	3.0
	<2	>0	0.45	1.3
<i>Fine Aggregate:</i>				
Single-operator precision	<100	≥ 95	0.26	0.7
	<95	≥ 60	0.55	1.6
	<60	≥ 20	0.83	2.4
	<20	≥ 15	0.54	1.5
	<15	≥ 10	0.36	1.0
	<10	≥ 2	0.37	1.1
	<2	>0	0.14	0.4
	<100	≥ 95	0.23	0.6
Multilaboratory precision	<95	≥ 60	0.77	2.2
	<60	≥ 20	1.41	4.0
	<20	≥ 15	1.10	3.1
	<15	≥ 10	0.73	2.1
	<10	≥ 2	0.65	1.8
	<2	>0	0.31	0.9

^A These numbers represent, respectively, the (1s) and (d2s) limits described in

100), 300- μm (No. 50), 600- μm (No. 30), 1.18-mm (No. 16), 2.36-mm (No. 8), 4.75-mm (No. 4), 9.5-mm ($\frac{3}{8}$ -in.), 19.0-mm ($\frac{3}{4}$ -in.), 37.5-mm ($1\frac{1}{2}$ -in.), and larger, increasing in the ratio of 2 to 1.

10. Report

10.1 Depending upon the form of the specifications for use of the material under test, the report shall include the following:

10.1.1 Total percentage of material passing each sieve, or

10.1.2 Total percentage of material retained on each sieve,

or

10.1.3 Percentage of material retained between consecutive sieves.

10.2 Report percentages to the nearest whole number, except if the percentage passing the 75- μm (No. 200) sieve is less than 10 %, it shall be reported to the nearest 0.1 %.

10.3 Report the fineness modulus, when required, to the nearest 0.01.

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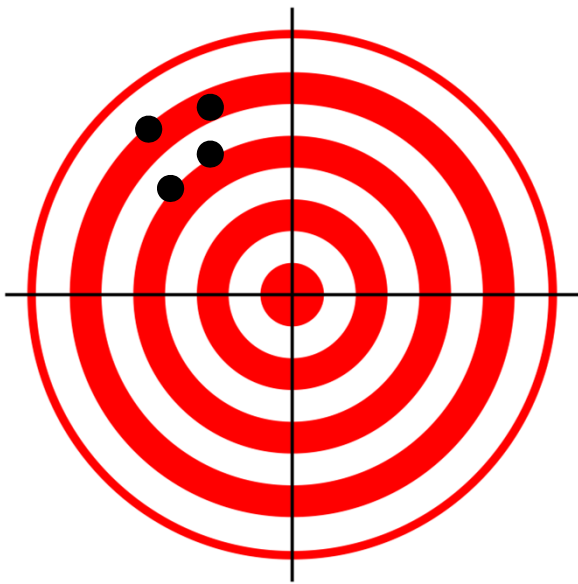
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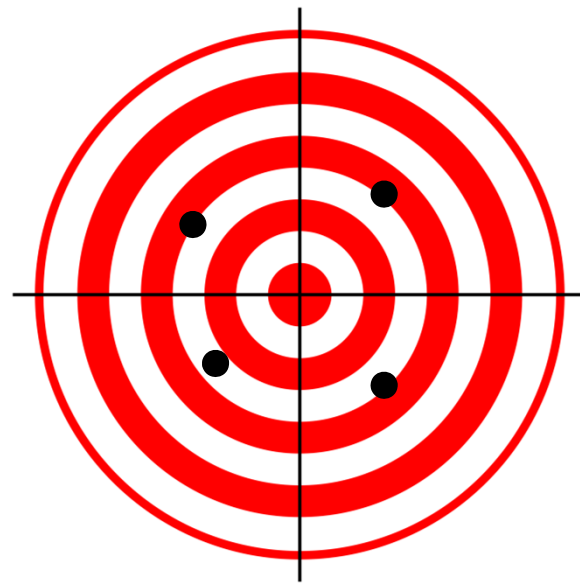
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Precision

The closeness of agreement among test results obtained under prescribed conditions.



Precise but not Accurate



Accurate but not Precise

Repeatability and Reproducibility

Repeatability - addresses variability between independent test results gathered from within a single laboratory (“intralaboratory testing”).

Reproducibility - addresses variability among single test results gathered from different laboratories (“interlaboratory testing”).

100), 300- μm (No. 50), 600- μm (No. 30), 1.18-mm (No. 16), 2.36-mm (No. 8), 4.75-mm (No. 4), 9.5-mm ($\frac{3}{8}$ -in.), 19.0-mm ($\frac{3}{4}$ -in.), 37.5-mm ($1\frac{1}{2}$ -in.), and larger, increasing in the ratio of 2 to 1.

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