



# Standard Practice for Preparation and Conditioning of Cast, Drilled, or Sawed Specimens of Hydraulic-Cement Mortar and Concrete Used for Length Change Measurements<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation C341/C341M; 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 practice covers the procedures for the preparation and conditioning of cast, drilled, or sawed specimens of hydraulic-cement mortar and concrete for length change due to causes other than externally applied forces. It can be readily adapted, if desired, to studies of length change involving alternate schedules or environmental treatment other than the standard procedures prescribed by this practice.

1.2 The values stated in either inch-pound units or SI units shall be regarded separately as standard. The units stated in each system may not be exact equivalents; therefore, each system must be used independently of the other, without combining in any way. The inch-pound units are shown in brackets.

1.3 *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

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

- [A276 Specification for Stainless Steel Bars and Shapes](#)
- [C31/C31M Practice for Making and Curing Concrete Test Specimens in the Field](#)
- [C42/C42M Test Method for Obtaining and Testing Drilled Cores and Sawed Beams of Concrete](#)
- [C157/C157M Test Method for Length Change of Hardened Hydraulic-Cement Mortar and Concrete](#)
- [C192/C192M Practice for Making and Curing Concrete Test Specimens in the Laboratory](#)

<sup>1</sup> This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee C09 on Concrete and Concrete Aggregates and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee C09.68 on Volume Change.

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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.

[C490 Practice for Use of Apparatus for the Determination of Length Change of Hardened Cement Paste, Mortar, and Concrete](#)

[C666/C666M Test Method for Resistance of Concrete to Rapid Freezing and Thawing](#)

## 3. Terminology

### 3.1 Definition

3.1.1 *length change, n*—an increase or decrease in a linear dimension of a test specimen, which has been caused to change by any factor other than externally applied forces and temperature changes.

## 4. Significance and Use

4.1 Measurements of length change permit assessment of the potential for volumetric expansion or contraction of cast, drilled, or sawed specimens of hydraulic-cement mortar, and concrete due to various causes other than externally applied forces and temperature changes. This practice is particularly useful for comparative evaluation of this potential in different mortar or concrete specimens.

## 5. Apparatus

5.1 *Length Comparator*—The length comparator shall generally conform to the requirements of Specification C490, except that it shall be constructed to accommodate the specimens to be tested under this practice, which shall have gauge lengths of 75 mm [3 in.] or more.

5.1.1 *Gauge Studs in Ends of Specimens*—When the comparator is to be used to measure between gauge studs in the ends of specimens, the gauge length for computing percentage length change shall be considered to be the distance between the innermost ends of the gauge studs, and the contact terminals of the comparator shall be plane, polished, heat-treated surfaces as described in Specification C490. Fig. 3 of Specification C490 shows one type of comparator that has been found suitable for such specimens. A horizontal comparator is desirable for specimens that are considered too large to be handled by the type of comparator illustrated in Fig. 3 of Specification C490.

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

5.1.2 *Gauge Studs on Sides of Specimen*—When the comparator is to be used to measure between gauge studs on the sides of specimens, the contact terminals shall be conical, heat-treated surfaces as shown in Fig. 1, which illustrates a type of comparator that has been found satisfactory for this type of specimen. In this case, the gauge length shall be the distance between the reference points located in the exposed ends of the gauge studs (see 5.2).

5.2 *Gauge Studs*—Gauge studs shall be Type 316 stainless steel, meeting Specification A276.

5.2.1 *For Ends of Specimens*—Gauge studs that are to be located in the ends of specimens shall have a rounded surface to provide point contact with the terminals of the comparator. The types of studs described in Specification C490 are suitable for insertion in drilled holes. Spherical studs having a diameter of 6 to 10 mm [ $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{3}{8}$  in.], or studs that are sections of spheres of similar diameter, are suitable for cementing to the ends of specimens.

5.2.2 *For Sides of Specimens*—The exposed end of gauge studs that are to be located on the sides of specimens shall have a plane surface with a diameter or diagonal of 10 to 13 mm [ $\frac{3}{8}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  in.]. For dry setting, the length of the stud shall be 13 to 16 mm [ $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{5}{8}$  in.]. Shorter lengths of stud, including plane disks, shall be satisfactory for studs that are to be cemented.

5.3 *Drying Room and Controls*—A drying room and controls as described in Test Method C157/C157M shall be used for storing specimens in air.

## 6. Sampling

6.1 Samples of drilled or sawed hydraulic cement mortar or concrete shall be obtained in accordance with the section on Sampling of Test Method C42/C42M.

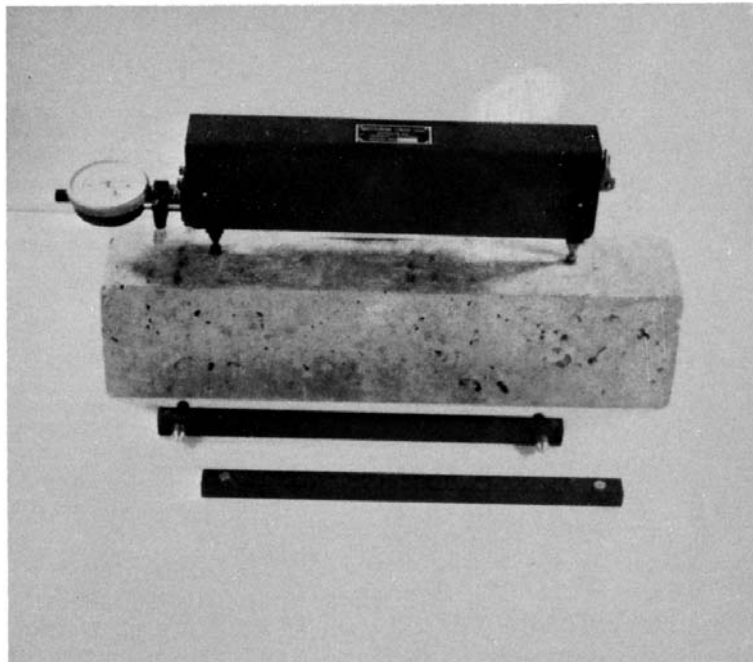
6.2 Samples of field cast hydraulic cement mortar or concrete shall be cast in accordance with Practice C31/C31M.

6.3 Constituent materials for concrete or mortar specimens made in the laboratory for use in this practice shall be sampled using applicable standard methods.

6.3.1 The specimens for use in this practice prepared from the constituent materials in the laboratory shall be cast prisms or cylinders made and cured in accordance with the applicable requirements of Practice C192/C192M and Practice C490.

## 7. Test Specimens

7.1 Test specimen geometry shall be either cylindrical or rectangular prisms. Specimens shall be either cast from freshly mixed materials or drilled or sawn from existing concrete or mortar structures. Specimens shall be free from reinforcing steel, visible cracks, or other structural defects. They shall be of any size but specimens that are to be compared shall not differ in their cross-sectional dimensions by more than 10 % or in length by more than 20 % (Note 1). The gauge length shall be at least six times the maximum nominal size of the coarse aggregate but not less than 75 mm [3 in.], and that the minimum cross-sectional dimension be at least three times the maximum nominal size of the coarse aggregate but not less



**FIG. 1 Type of Suitable Extensometer for Measurement of Length Change of Specimens Having Gauge Studs on Sides**