

Australian Standard™

Methods of testing soils for engineering purposes

Method 2.1.1: Soil moisture content tests— Determination of the moisture content of a soil— Oven drying method (standard method)

AS 1289.2.1.1—2005

1 SCOPE

This Standard sets out the method for laboratory determination of the moisture content of a soil as a percentage of its dry mass, using a standard oven.

The oven drying method is the standard or reference method.

NOTE: Where subsidiary methods are used, they may be correlated with this method by use of the procedure described in AS 1289.2.3.1.

2 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS

The following documents are referred to in this Standard:

AS	
1289	Methods of testing soils for engineering purposes
1289.0	Method 0: General requirements and list of methods
1289.1.1	Method 1.1: Sampling and preparation of soils—Preparation of disturbed soil samples for testing
1289.2.3.1	Method 2.3.1: Soil moisture content tests—Establishment of correlation—Subsidiary method and the standard method

3 APPARATUS

The following apparatus is required:

- A drying oven complying with AS 1289.0.
- A heat-resistant and corrosion-resistant container.

NOTE: If samples are allowed to cool prior to weighing, which will be required for certain balances, and there is a likelihood of moisture being taken up from the atmosphere, close-fitting lids for containers for fine-grained material will be required. It may also be necessary to allow such materials to cool in a desiccator containing anhydrous silica gel.

- Suitable balance with limit of performance as shown in Table 1.

TABLE 1
BALANCE LIMIT OF PERFORMANCE

Sample size (see AS 1289.1.1) g	Limit of performance of balance not greater than g
<100	±0.05
≥100 and <500	±0.5
≥500	±5