

Australian Standard™

Methods of testing soils for engineering purposes

Method 2.1.2: Soil moisture content tests— Determination of the moisture content of a soil— Sand bath method (subsidiary method)

AS 1289.2.1.2—2005

1 SCOPE

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

The sand bath method is a rapid method and is considered less accurate than the standard method (see AS 1289.2.1.1).

This method is not suitable for soils containing gypsum, calcareous material or organic matter since the temperature of drying cannot be controlled.

2 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS

The following documents are referred to in this Standard.

AS

1289	Methods of testing soils for engineering purposes
1289.1.1	Method 1.1: Preparation of disturbed soil samples for testing
1289.2.1.1	Method 2.1.1: Soil moisture content tests—Determination of the moisture content of a soil—Oven drying method (standard method)
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) A heat-resistant and corrosion-resistant metal container or tray.
- (b) Suitable balance with limit of performance as shown in Table 1.
- (c) A sand bath large enough to take the container and clean sand to a depth of at least 25 mm. A larger bath may be used to heat several samples at once.
- (d) Equipment for heating the sand bath, e.g., a gas, electric or fuel stove.
- (e) A palette knife of convenient size.