

Australian Standard™

**Methods of sampling and testing mortar  
for masonry construction**



Standards Australia

This Australian Standard was prepared by Committee BD-004, Masonry Structures. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 20 October 2000 and published on 25 January 2001.

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The following interests are represented on Committee BD-004:

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Australian Building Codes Board  
Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry  
Building Designers Association of Australia  
Calcium Silicate Brick Manufacturers  
Cement and Concrete Association of Australia  
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**Methods of sampling and testing mortar  
for masonry construction**

Originated as AS 123—1963.

Previous editions: AS 2701.1—1984, AS 2701.2—1984, AS 2701.3—1984, AS 2701.6—1984,  
AS 2701.7—1984, AS 2701.8—1984 and AS 2701.10—1984.

AS 2701.1—1984, AS 2701.2—1984, AS 2701.3—1984, AS 2701.6—1984, AS 2701.7—1984,  
AS 2701.8—1984 and AS 2701.10—1984 revised, amalgamated and redesignated  
AS 2701—2001.

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Published by Standards Australia International Ltd  
GPO Box 5420, Sydney, NSW 2001, Australia

ISBN 0 7337 3638 6

## PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Committee BD-004, Masonry Structures, to supersede all parts of test methods AS 2701, *Methods of sampling and testing mortar for masonry construction*, excluding AS 2701.4—1984, AS 2701.5—1984 and AS 2701.9—1984 which are to be withdrawn.

This Standard covers tests that can be used for masonry mortar.

The objective of this Standard is to provide laboratory staff with test methods for the testing of mortar that may be required for specific purposes.

It is considered that compression testing is inappropriate in the Standard but is being considered by Committee BD/33, Chemical Admixtures for Concrete, for inclusion in the newly proposed for the AS 1478 series. A method of test for compressive strength of masonry (the combination of mortar with masonry units) is contained in AS 3700—1998, *Masonry structures*.

Statements expressed in mandatory terms in notes to tables are deemed to be requirements of this Standard.

The term 'normative' has been used in this Standard to define the application of the Appendix to which it applies. A 'normative' appendix is an integral part of a Standard.

## CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
<b>SECTION 1 SCOPE AND GENERAL</b>	
1.1 SCOPE.....	5
1.2 OTHER METHODS .....	5
1.3 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS.....	5
1.4 DEFINITIONS.....	5
1.5 DESCRIPTION OF MORTAR TYPES .....	5
1.6 LIST OF METHODS .....	6
<b>SECTION 2 METHODS OF SAMPLING</b>	
2.1 SCOPE.....	7
2.2 GENERAL REQUIREMENT FOR SAMPLES.....	7
2.3 FRESH MORTAR .....	7
2.4 HARDENED MORTARS.....	8
2.5 MORTAR MATERIALS .....	9
2.6 SIZE OF SAMPLE .....	11
2.7 INFORMATION TO ACCOMPANY SAMPLE .....	11
2.8 TRANSPORTATION OF SAMPLE.....	12
2.9 TIME BETWEEN SAMPLING AND TESTING OF MORTARS.....	12
2.10 REDUCTION OF SAMPLE SIZE .....	12
<b>SECTION 3 METHOD FOR LABORATORY PREPARATION OF FRESH MORTAR FOR TESTING</b>	
3.1 SCOPE.....	13
3.2 APPARATUS .....	13
3.3 MIXING PROCEDURE FOR SAMPLES TAKEN IN THE LABORATORY .....	14
3.4 REMIXING OF SAMPLES TAKEN ELSEWHERE THAN IN THE LABORATORY .....	14
3.5 PERIOD BETWEEN MIXING AND TESTING .....	14
<b>SECTION 4 METHOD FOR DETERMINATION OF CONSISTENCE— CONE IMPRESSION TEST</b>	
4.1 SCOPE.....	16
4.2 PRINCIPLE .....	16
4.3 APPARATUS .....	16
4.4 PREPARATION OF SAMPLE.....	16
4.5 PROCEDURE.....	16
4.6 REPORTING OF RESULTS .....	17
<b>SECTION 5 METHOD FOR DETERMINATION OF WATER RETENTION</b>	
5.1 SCOPE.....	18
5.2 PRINCIPLE .....	18
5.3 APPARATUS .....	18
5.4 PREPARATION OF MORTAR .....	18
5.5 DETERMINATION OF FLOW.....	18
5.6 PROCEDURE.....	19
5.7 CALCULATIONS .....	20
5.8 REPORTING OF RESULTS .....	20

**SECTION 6 METHOD FOR DETERMINATION OF AIR CONTENT—  
GRAVIMETRIC METHOD**

6.1	SCOPE.....	21
6.2	PRINCIPLE .....	21
6.3	APPARATUS .....	21
6.4	CALIBRATION OF MEASURE.....	21
6.5	DETERMINATION OF DENSITY OF MATERIALS .....	21
6.6	PREPARATION OF SAMPLE.....	22
6.7	TESTING PROCEDURE.....	22
6.8	CALCULATIONS .....	23
6.9	REPORTING OF RESULTS .....	23

**SECTION 7 METHOD FOR DETERMINATION OF SOLUBLE SILICA AND  
CALCIUM OXIDE CONTENT**

7.1	SCOPE.....	24
7.2	REAGENTS .....	24
7.3	APPARATUS .....	24
7.4	PROCEDURE.....	25
7.5	REPORTING.....	27

**APPENDICES**

A	WATER RETENTION APPARATUS.....	28
B	FLOW TABLE AND FRAME.....	30
C	MOULD.....	36

## STANDARDS AUSTRALIA

**Australian Standard****Methods of sampling and testing mortar for masonry construction**

## SECTION 1 SCOPE AND GENERAL

**1.1 SCOPE**

This Standard sets out a range of methods for testing mortar used or being investigated for use in the construction of masonry in accordance with AS 3700 excluding mortars intended to be used in thin bed construction. Each method provides a method for obtaining a single sample. The way in which it is applied would depend on the particular circumstance of the investigation and should be specified accordingly.

NOTE: Information on the selection of mortar type, the use of mortar in masonry construction, and tests for the determination of flexural strength and compressive strength of masonry units bonded with mortar are given in AS 3700.

**1.2 OTHER METHODS**

These methods shall not be interpreted as preventing the use of methods that are not specifically referred to herein.

**1.3 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS**

The following documents are referred to in this Standard:

## AS

- 1141 Methods for sampling and testing aggregates
- 1141.1 Method 1: Definitions
- 1141.3 Method 3: Sampling
- 1141.3.1 Method 3.1: Sampling—Aggregates
- 1141.5 Method 5: Particle density and water absorption of fine aggregate

1152 Specification for test sieves

1316 Masonry cement

2162 Verification and use of volumetric apparatus

2162.1 Part 1: General—Volumetric glassware

3700 Masonry structures

3972 Portland and blended cements

## AS TM

C 01 Standard Specification for Masonry Cement

C 230 Flow Tables for Use in Tests of Hydraulic Cement

**1.4 DEFINITIONS**

For the purposes of this Standard, the definitions below apply.

**1.4.1 Cement**

Cement as defined in AS 3972 and AS 1316, as appropriate.