



Designation: C1623 – 23

Standard Specification for Manufactured Concrete Masonry Lintels¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation C1623; 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.

1. Scope*

1.1 This specification covers concrete masonry lintels (beams) that are solid in cross-section, are reinforced for flexure, and are made from hydraulic cement, water, and mineral aggregates with or without the inclusion of other materials. These lintels are suitable for both loadbearing and nonloadbearing applications.

NOTE 1—This specification covers only concrete masonry lintels containing reinforcement. Due to building code imposed limitations on the design of masonry lintels, all lintels must contain reinforcement. Concrete masonry lintels are not typically manufactured using shear reinforcement (stirrups or other vertical reinforcement). Therefore, this standard does not address issues related to such. For further guidance, refer to *Building Code Requirements for Masonry Structures*, TMS 402. Prestressed concrete lintels are not covered by this standard.

1.2 Lintels are manufactured using a no-slump concrete mix to provide a surface texture similar to that of concrete masonry. This specification applies to both machine-made and hand-tamped concrete masonry lintels intended for use in concrete masonry applications.

1.3 Concrete masonry lintels covered by this specification are made from lightweight or normal weight aggregates, or both.

1.4 This specification does not address the design or analysis of lintel capacity. Structural evaluations must be performed separately. The strength of a lintel is a function of factors including, but not limited to, the characteristics of the materials used in manufacturing (concrete materials and reinforcement), the amount and location of reinforcement, and the manufacturing and curing procedures. For design and analysis methods, refer to *Building Code Requirements for Masonry Structures*, TMS 402.

1.5 This specification does not cover U-shaped lintels or those of other cross-sections that are not 100 % solid.

1.6 This specification does not cover lintels of grouted concrete masonry lintels, or precast or cast-in-place lintels of slump concrete.

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee C15 on Manufactured Masonry Units and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee C15.03 on Concrete Masonry Units and Related Units.

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1.7 The text of this standard references notes and footnotes that provide explanatory material. These notes and footnotes (excluding those in tables and figures) shall not be considered as requirements of the standard.

1.8 The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as standard. The values given in parentheses are mathematical conversions to SI units that are provided for information only and are not considered standard.

1.9 *This international standard was developed in accordance with internationally recognized principles on standardization established in the Decision on Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations issued by the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

- A615/A615M Specification for Deformed and Plain Carbon-Steel Bars for Concrete Reinforcement
- A706/A706M Specification for Deformed and Plain Low-Alloy Steel Bars for Concrete Reinforcement
- A996/A996M Specification for Rail-Steel and Axle-Steel Deformed Bars for Concrete Reinforcement
- C33/C33M Specification for Concrete Aggregates
- C140/C140M Test Methods for Sampling and Testing Concrete Masonry Units and Related Units
- C150/C150M Specification for Portland Cement
- C331/C331M Specification for Lightweight Aggregates for Concrete Masonry Units
- C595/C595M Specification for Blended Hydraulic Cements
- C618 Specification for Coal Ash and Raw or Calcined Natural Pozzolan for Use in Concrete
- C979/C979M Specification for Pigments for Integrally Colored Concrete
- C989/C989M Specification for Slag Cement for Use in Concrete and Mortars
- C1157/C1157M Performance Specification for Hydraulic Cement

² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

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

- C1232 Terminology for Masonry
 C1240 Specification for Silica Fume Used in Cementitious Mixtures
 C1262/C1262M Test Method for Evaluating the Freeze-Thaw Durability of Dry-Cast Segmental Retaining Wall Units and Related Concrete Units
 2.2 Other Standards:³
 TMS 402 Building Code Requirements for Masonry Structures
 TMS 602 Specification for Masonry Structures

3. Terminology

3.1 Terminology defined in Terminology C1232 shall apply for this specification.

4. Material

4.1 *Cementitious Materials*—Cementitious materials shall conform to the following applicable specifications:

- 4.1.1 *Portland Cement*—Specification C150/C150M.
 4.1.2 *Modified Portland Cement*—Portland cement conforming to Specification C150/C150M, modified as follows:
 (1) *Limestone*—If calcium carbonate is added to the cement, the CaCO₃ content shall be not less than 85 %.
 (2) *Limitation on Insoluble Residue*—1.5 %.
 (3) *Limitation on Air Content of Mortar*—Volume percent, 22 % max.
 (4) *Limitation on Loss on Ignition*—7 %.

4.1.3 *Blended Hydraulic Cements*—Specification C595/C595M

- 4.1.4 *Hydraulic Cement*—Specification C1157/C1157M.
 4.1.5 *Pozzolans*—Specification C618.
 4.1.6 *Slag Cement*—Specification C989/C989M.
 4.1.7 *Silica Fume*—Specification C1240.

4.2 *Aggregates*—Aggregates shall conform to the following specifications, except for grading requirements:

- 4.2.1 *Normal Weight Aggregates*—Specification C33/C33M.
 4.2.2 *Lightweight Aggregates*—Specification C331/C331M.

NOTE 2—The grading requirements of Specifications C33/C33M and C331/C331M may not be suitable for manufactured concrete masonry lintel production. Because of this, producers are allowed to modify grading to meet their needs and the requirements of this specification.

³ Available from The Masonry Society, 105 South Sunset Street, Suite Q, Longmont, CO 80501–6172, <https://www.masonrysociety.org>.

4.3 *Pigments for Integrally Colored Concrete*—Specification C979/C979M.

4.4 *Steel Reinforcement*—Steel reinforcement shall consist of deformed bars conforming to Specifications A615/A615M, A706/A706M, or A996/A996M.

4.5 *Other Constituents*—Air-entraining agents, integral water repellents, and other constituents shall be previously established as suitable for use in concrete masonry lintels and shall conform to applicable ASTM standards or shall be shown by test or experience not to be detrimental to the durability of the concrete masonry lintels or any material customarily used in masonry construction.

5. Physical Requirements

5.1 At the time of delivery to the purchaser, the concrete within the lintel shall conform to the requirements prescribed in Table 1.

5.1.1 When higher compressive strengths than those listed in Table 1 are specified, the tested average net area compressive strength of three specimens shall equal or exceed the specified compressive strength, and the tested individual specimen net area compressive strength of all three units shall exceed 90 % of the specified compressive strength.

NOTE 3—When particular features are desired such as surface textures for appearance or bond, finish, color, or particular properties such as specific reinforcing schedules, flexural strength, weight per unit length, higher compressive strength, or fire resistance, these features are specified separately by the purchaser. Consult suppliers as to the availability of lintels having the desired features.

5.2 All lintels shall be sound and free of cracks or other defects that interfere with proper placement unless defects are considered to be not detrimental to structural capacity of the lintel before or after defects are repaired using practices satisfactory to the engineer.

NOTE 4—The purchaser is the public body or authority, association, corporation, partnership, or individual entering into a contract or agreement to purchase or install, or both, concrete masonry lintels. The time of delivery to the purchaser is FOB plant when the purchaser or the purchaser's agent transports the concrete masonry lintels, or at the time unloaded at the worksite if the manufacturer or the manufacturer's agent transports the concrete masonry lintels.

NOTE 5—When these lintels are used in above-grade applications as part of a vertical, free-draining assemblage, the physical requirements in this specification have been shown to result in durable products. In applications where the lintels are frequently exposed to deicing chemicals or saturated conditions in conjunction with freezing and thawing temperatures, testing should be considered to evaluate freezing and

TABLE 1 Strength, Absorption, and Density Classification Requirements^A

Density Classification	Oven-Dry Density of Concrete, lb/ft ³ (kg/m ³)	Maximum Water Absorption, lb/ft ³ (kg/m ³)		Minimum Net Area Compressive Strength, psi (MPa)	
	Average of 3 Specimens ^B	Average of 3 Specimens ^B	Individual Specimen ^B	Average of 3 Specimens ^B	Individual Specimen ^B
Lightweight	Less than 105 (1680)	18 (288)	20 (320)	2500 (17.2)	2250 (15.5)
Medium Weight	105 to less than 125 (1680–2000)	15 (240)	17 (272)	2500 (17.2)	2250 (15.5)
Normal Weight	125 (2000) or more	13 (208)	15 (240)	2500 (17.2)	2250 (15.5)

^A Consult manufacturers for available densities.

^B Refer to section 9.2.1 for specimen requirements.