



Designation: C533 – 17 (Reapproved 2023)

Standard Specification for Calcium Silicate Block and Pipe Thermal Insulation¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation C533; 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.

This standard has been approved for use by agencies of the U.S. Department of Defense.

1. Scope

1.1 This specification covers calcium silicate block and pipe thermal insulation for use on surfaces with temperatures between 80 and 1700°F (27 to 927°C), unless otherwise agreed upon between the manufacturer and the purchaser.

1.2 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.

1.3 The following safety hazards caveat pertains only to the test method (Section 12) described in this specification: *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, health, and environmental practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

1.4 *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

- C165 Test Method for Measuring Compressive Properties of Thermal Insulations
- C168 Terminology Relating to Thermal Insulation
- C177 Test Method for Steady-State Heat Flux Measurements and Thermal Transmission Properties by Means of the Guarded-Hot-Plate Apparatus
- C203 Test Methods for Breaking Load and Flexural Proper-

ties of Block-Type Thermal Insulation

- C302 Test Method for Density and Dimensions of Preformed Pipe-Covering-Type Thermal Insulation
- C303 Test Method for Dimensions and Density of Preformed Block and Board-Type Thermal Insulation
- C335 Test Method for Steady-State Heat Transfer Properties of Pipe Insulation
- C356 Test Method for Linear Shrinkage of Preformed High-Temperature Thermal Insulation Subjected to Soaking Heat
- C390 Practice for Sampling and Acceptance of Thermal Insulation Lots
- C411 Test Method for Hot-Surface Performance of High-Temperature Thermal Insulation
- C421 Test Method for Tumbling Friability of Preformed Block-Type and Preformed Pipe-Covering-Type Thermal Insulation
- C446 Test Method for Breaking Load and Calculated Modulus of Rupture of Preformed Insulation for Pipes (Withdrawn 2002)³
- C518 Test Method for Steady-State Thermal Transmission Properties by Means of the Heat Flow Meter Apparatus
- C585 Practice for Inner and Outer Diameters of Thermal Insulation for Nominal Sizes of Pipe and Tubing
- C795 Specification for Thermal Insulation for Use in Contact with Austenitic Stainless Steel
- C870 Practice for Conditioning of Thermal Insulating Materials
- C1045 Practice for Calculating Thermal Transmission Properties Under Steady-State Conditions
- C1058 Practice for Selecting Temperatures for Evaluating and Reporting Thermal Properties of Thermal Insulation
- C1114 Test Method for Steady-State Thermal Transmission Properties by Means of the Thin-Heater Apparatus
- C1616 Test Method for Determining the Moisture Content of Organic and Inorganic Insulation Materials by Weight
- C1617 Practice for Quantitative Accelerated Laboratory Evaluation of Extraction Solutions Containing Ions Leached from Thermal Insulation on Aqueous Corrosion of Metals

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee C16 on Thermal Insulation and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee C16.20 on Homogeneous Inorganic Thermal Insulations.

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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.

³ The last approved version of this historical standard is referenced on www.astm.org.

E84 Test Method for Surface Burning Characteristics of Building Materials

E136 Test Method for Assessing Combustibility of Materials Using a Vertical Tube Furnace at 750 °C

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—For definitions used in this specification, see Terminology **C168**.

4. Classification

4.1 Thermal insulation shall be of the following types:

4.1.1 *Type I*—Block for use on surfaces at temperature from 80°F (27°C) to 1200°F (649°C).

4.1.2 *Type I*—Pipe for use on surfaces at temperature from 80°F (27°C) to 1200°F (649°C).

4.1.3 *Type IA*—Block for use on surfaces at temperatures from 80°F (27°C) to 1200°F (649°C).

4.1.4 *Type II*—Block for use on surfaces at temperatures from 80°F (27°C) to 1700°F (927°C).

5. Description

5.1 *Composition*—Calcium silicate thermal insulation shall consist principally of hydrous calcium silicate usually with the incorporation of fibrous reinforcement. Asbestos shall not be used as a component in the manufacture of the material.

6. Physical Requirements

6.1 The insulation shall conform to the physical requirements of **Table 1**.

7. Standard Shapes, Sizes, and Dimensions

7.1 Calcium silicate block-type thermal insulation shall be supplied in the form of pipe insulation, flat block or curved blocks as specified. Standard sizes of the block type insulation shall be as follows:

7.1.1 *Flat Block*—Flat block shall be furnished in lengths of 36 in. (458 or 914 mm), widths of 6 to 36 in. (152 to 914 mm), and thicknesses from 1 to 6 in. (25 to 152 mm) in ½-in. (13-mm) increments. Thicknesses greater than 3 in. (76 mm)

TABLE 1 Physical Requirements

NOTE 1—The physical requirements are based on the properties of samples dried or conditioned, or both, as specified in the referenced test methods. Calcium silicate insulation tends to absorb moisture to varying degrees depending on exposure conditions. It can absorb up to 4 times its dry weight if placed in direct contact with water through improper storage or application.

NOTE 2—The user is advised that some applications could require the knowledge of the thermal conductivity of the insulation material at mean temperatures above those shown. Consult the manufacturer for data at mean temperatures exceeding those listed.

	Type I	Type IA	Type II
	Block and Pipe	Block	Block
Use temperature, max, °F (°C)	1200 (649)	1200 (649)	1700 (927)
Density (dry), max, lb/ft ³ (kg/m ³)	15 (240)	22 (352)	22 (352)
Flexural strength, min, psi (kPa)	50 (344)	50 (344)	50 (344)
Compressive strength, min, at 5 % deformation, psi (kPa)	100 (688)	100 (688)	100 (688)
Mass loss by tumbling, max, %			
after first 10 minutes	20	20	20
after second 10 minutes	40	40	40
Soaking heat linear shrinkage, max, %	2	2	2
Hot surface performance:			
warping, max, in. (mm)	¼ (6)	¼ (6)	¼ (6)
cracking	No cracks completely through the insulation thickness. Surface cracks on hot face are acceptable		
Apparent thermal conductivity ^A (see Note 2)			
Btu-in./h-ft ² -°F (W/m-K) max at mean temperature of:			
100°F (38°C)	0.41 (0.059)	0.50 (0.072)	0.50 (0.072)
200°F (93°C)	0.45 (0.065)	0.54 (0.078)	0.54 (0.078)
300°F (149°C)	0.50 (0.072)	0.58 (0.084)	0.58 (0.084)
400°F (204°C)	0.55 (0.079)	0.61 (0.088)	0.61 (0.088)
500°F (260°C)	0.60 (0.087)	0.64 (0.092)	0.64 (0.092)
600°F (316°C)	0.66 (0.095)	0.67 (0.097)	0.67 (0.097)
700°F (371°C)	0.71 (0.102)	0.70 (0.101)	0.70 (0.101)
800°F (427°C)	...		0.73 (0.105)
900°F (482°C)	...		0.75 (0.108)
1000°F (538°C)	...		0.77 (0.111)
Surface burning characteristics:			
Flame spread index, max	0	0	0
Smoke density index, max	0	0	0
Non-Combustibility	Pass	Pass	Pass
Mass Loss Corrosion Rate	≤ DI Water		
Stress Corrosion	Pass		
Performance			
Moisture content, by weight, max %	20	20	20

^A The thermal transmission properties of calcium silicate block and pipe insulation vary with temperature, temperature gradient, moisture content, thickness, and shape. Note that the apparent thermal conductivity requirements in the table are based on samples tested under the conditions specified in **12.1.2**. These are comparative values for establishing specification compliance. They do not represent the installed performance of the insulation under use conditions differing substantially from the test conditions.