



Designation: C989/C989M – 24

Standard Specification for Slag Cement for Use in Concrete and Mortars¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation C989/C989M; 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 slag cement for use as a cementitious material in concrete and mortar.

NOTE 1—The material described in this specification may be used to produce a blended cement meeting the requirements of Specification C595/C595M or as a separate ingredient in concrete or mortar mixtures. The material may also be useful in a variety of special grouts and mortars, and when used with an appropriate activator, as the principal cementitious material in some applications.

NOTE 2—Information on technical aspects of the use of the material described in this specification is contained in Appendix X1, Appendix X2, and Appendix X3. More detailed information on that subject is contained in ACI 233R.²

1.2 The values stated in either SI units or inch-pound units are to be regarded separately as standard. The values stated in each system are not necessarily exact equivalents; therefore, to ensure conformance with the standard, each system shall be used independently of the other, and values from the two systems shall not be combined.

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

1.4 The following safety hazards caveat pertains only to the test methods 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.*

1.5 *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 Recom-*

mendations issued by the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:³

- C109/C109M Test Method for Compressive Strength of Hydraulic Cement Mortars (Using 50 mm [2 in.] Cube Specimens)
- C114 Test Methods for Chemical Analysis of Hydraulic Cement
- C125 Terminology Relating to Concrete and Concrete Aggregates
- C150/C150M Specification for Portland Cement
- C185 Test Method for Air Content of Hydraulic Cement Mortar
- C188 Test Method for Density of Hydraulic Cement
- C204 Test Methods for Fineness of Hydraulic Cement by Air-Permeability Apparatus
- C430 Test Method for Fineness of Hydraulic Cement by the 45-μm (No. 325) Sieve
- C465 Specification for Processing Additions for Use in the Manufacture of Hydraulic Cements
- C595/C595M Specification for Blended Hydraulic Cements
- C670 Practice for Preparing Precision and Bias Statements for Test Methods for Construction Materials
- C1012/C1012M Test Method for Length Change of Hydraulic-Cement Mortars Exposed to a Sulfate Solution
- C1038/C1038M Test Method for Expansion of Hydraulic Cement Mortar Bars Stored in Water
- C1437 Test Method for Flow of Hydraulic Cement Mortar
- C1778 Guide for Reducing the Risk of Deleterious Alkali-Aggregate Reaction in Concrete
- D3665 Practice for Random Sampling of Construction Materials

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—For definitions of terms used in this specification, refer to Terminology C125.

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee C09 on Concrete and Concrete Aggregates and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee C09.27 on Slag Cement.

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² ACI 233R Guide to the Use of Slag Cement in Concrete and Mortar. Available from American Concrete Institute (ACI), P.O. Box 9094, Farmington Hills, MI 48333-9094, <http://www.concrete.org>.

³ 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



4. Classification

4.1 Slag cement is classified by performance in the slag activity test in three grades: Grade 80, Grade 100, and Grade 120 (see [Table 1](#)).

5. Ordering Information

5.1 The purchaser shall specify the grade of slag cement desired and the optional chemical or physical data to be reported.

6. Additions

6.1 Slag cement covered by this specification shall contain no additions except as follows:

6.1.1 It is permissible to add calcium sulfate to slag cement provided it has been demonstrated by Test Method [C1038/C1038M](#) that a test mixture will not develop expansion in water exceeding 0.020 % at 14 days. In the test mixture, 50 % of the mass of portland or portland-limestone cement shall be replaced by an equal mass of slag cement. The cement used in the test mixture shall meet the requirements of Specification [C150/C150M](#) Type I or Type II or Specification [C595/C595M](#) Type IL. When the manufacturer supplies cement under this provision, upon request, supporting data shall be supplied to the purchaser.

6.1.2 When processing additions are used in the manufacture of slag cement, the maximum amount used shall comply with the requirements of Specification [C465](#) when tested using a blend that is 50 % slag cement and 50 % portland or portland-limestone cement by mass.

7. Chemical Composition

7.1 Slag cement shall conform to the chemical requirements prescribed in [Table 2](#) (see [Note 3](#)).

NOTE 3—Sulfur in granulated blast-furnace slag is present predominantly as sulfide sulfur. In most cases, instrumental analyses, such as x-ray fluorescence, cannot differentiate sulfide sulfur from sulfate. Determine and report the sulfide sulfur content separately, and do not include it in the SO₃ calculations.

8. Physical Properties

8.1 Slag cement shall conform to the physical requirements of [Table 1](#).

TABLE 1 Physical Requirements

Item		
Fineness:		
Amount retained when wet screened on a 45-μm (No. 325) sieve, max %		20
Specific surface by air permeability, Test Methods C204 shall be determined and reported although no limits are required.		...
Air Content of Slag Mortar, max %		12
	Average of Last Five Consecutive Samples	Any Individual Sample
Slag Activity Index ^A		
28-Day Index, min %		
Grade 80	75	70
Grade 100	95	90
Grade 120	115	110

^A 7-Day Slag Activity Index shall be determined on Grades 100 and 120, and reported for informational purposes.

TABLE 2 Chemical Requirements

Sulfide sulfur (S), max, %	2.5
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9. Sampling

9.1 The following sampling and testing procedures shall be used by the purchaser to verify compliance with this specification ([Note 4](#)).

NOTE 4—The sampling procedure is not intended for the purpose of process control.

9.2 Take random grab samples either from a delivery unit or at some point in the loading or unloading process so that no sample represents more than 115 Mg [125 tons] ([Note 5](#)). If samples are taken from rail cars or trucks, take at least two separate 2 kg [5 lb] portions and thoroughly mix them to obtain a test sample ([Note 6](#)). Sample by removing approximately a 300 mm [12 in.] layer of slag cement. Make a hole before obtaining a sample to avoid dust collector material that has discharged into the delivery unit after the predominant slag cement flow has ceased. Sample at a rate of one sample per month or one sample for each 2300 Mg [2500 tons] of shipments, whichever is more frequent.

NOTE 5—Standard statistical procedures are recommended for ensuring that samples are selected by a random procedure; see Practice [D3665](#). These procedures can be used to select the days within a month or within a week that samples will be taken. The delivery unit or time of day then should be chosen randomly.

NOTE 6—The quantity of sample specified is more than adequate for the testing required. A 2 kg [5 lb] portion should be retained in a sealed container for retesting if that is considered necessary to verify compliance.

10. Test Methods

10.1 Slag-Activity Tests with Reference Cement:

10.1.1 Slag activity shall be evaluated by determining the compressive strength of reference cement mortars and the corresponding mortars made with the same mass of a blend that is 50 % slag cement and 50 % reference cement by mass.

NOTE 7—[Appendix X1](#) discusses the effects of cement, temperature, and amount of slag cement used on performance with portland or blended cement.

10.1.2 *Reference Cement*—The cement used in the slag activity tests shall be the common reference cement supplied by CCRL⁴ that complies with the standard chemical and physical requirements of Specification [C150/C150M](#), Type I or Type II, or Specification [C595/C595M](#) Type IL, and with the additional requirements of total alkali content and compressive strength limits as shown in [Table 3](#). Alternatively, a portland cement source meeting the standard chemical and physical requirements for a Specification [C150/C150M](#), Type I or Type II, or Specification [C595/C595M](#) Type IL, including the additional limits in [Table 3](#), is permitted to be used. Sufficient cement shall be reserved to avoid changing reference cement

⁴ The sole source of commercially available reference cement known to the committee at this time is CCRL, 4441 Buckeystown Pike, Suite C; Frederick, Maryland 21704; www.CCRL.us. If you are aware of alternative suppliers, please provide this information to ASTM International Headquarters. Your comments will receive careful consideration at a meeting of the responsible technical committee,¹ which you may attend.