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Standard Terminology of Mortar and Grout for Unit Masonry¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This terminology contains terms, definitions of terms, descriptions of terms, nomenclature, and explanations of abbreviations, acronyms, and symbols specifically associated with standards under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee C12 on Mortars for Unit Masonry.

1.2 The definitions and descriptions of terms in this terminology pertain to Test Methods C 780, C 952, C 1019, and C 1148 and Specifications C 144, C 270, C 404, C 476, C 887, C 1142, and C 1384.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:

- C 144 Specification for Aggregate for Masonry Mortar²
- C 270 Specification for Mortar for Unit Masonry²
- C 404 Specification for Aggregates for Masonry Grout²
- C 476 Specification for Grout for Masonry²
- C 780 Test Method for Preconstruction and Construction Evaluation of Mortars for Plain and Reinforced Unit Masonry²
- C 887 Specification for Packaged, Dry, Combined Materials for Surface Bonding Mortar²
- C 952 Test Method for Bond Strength of Mortar to Masonry Units²
- C 1019 Test Method of Sampling and Testing Grout²
- C 1142 Specification for Extended Life Mortar for Unit Masonry²
- C 1148 Test Method for Measuring the Drying Shrinkage of Masonry Mortar²
- C 1384 Specification for Modifiers for Masonry Mortars²

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions:

admixed mortar, *n*—masonry mortar that deviates from those combinations of materials recognized by Specification C 270 in that it also contains an admixture. **C 1384**

admixture, *n*—substance other than the Specification C 270

prescribed materials of water, aggregate, and cementitious materials that is added to a masonry mortar as an ingredient to improve one or more chemical or physical properties of the conventional masonry mortar. **C 1384**

aggregates, *n*—a granular mineral material such as natural sand, manufactured sand, gravel, crushed stone, and air cooled blast furnace slag.

bond enhancer, *n*—admixture incorporated into a masonry mortar to increase the bond strength between the mortar and the masonry unit. **C 1384**

cementitious material, *n*—when proportioning masonry mortars, the following are considered cementitious material: portland cement, blended hydraulic cement, masonry cement, lime putty, and hydrated lime.

cementitious material, hydraulic, *n*—an inorganic material or a mixture of inorganic materials, that sets and develops strength by chemical reaction with water forming hydrates and is capable of doing so under water.

compressive strength, *n*—the maximum compressive load which a specimen will support divided by the cross sectional area of the specimen.

durability, *n*—the ability of a material to resist weathering action, chemical attack, abrasion, and other conditions of service.

flow, *n*—a laboratory measured mortar property that indicates the percent increase in diameter of the base of the truncated cone of mortar when it is placed on a flow table, and mechanically raised and dropped specified times under specified conditions.

gradation, *n*—the particle size distribution of aggregate as determined by separation with standard screens. Gradation of aggregate is expressed in terms of the individual percentages passing standard screens. Sieve analysis and screen analysis are synonyms when referring to gradation of aggregate.

grout, *n*—a mixture of cementitious materials, aggregates, water, with or without admixtures, initially produced to pouring consistency without segregation. Requirements for grout are contained in Specification C 476.

mortar, *n*—a mixture consisting of cementitious materials, fine aggregate, water, and with or without admixtures, that is used to construct unit masonry assemblies.

mortar bond or grout bond, *n*—adhesion between mortar or grout and masonry units, reinforcement, or connectors.

¹ This terminology is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee C12 on Mortars and Grouts for Unit Masonry and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee C12.08 on Terminology.

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² *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 04.05.



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reference mortar, *n*—mortar of the same composition as an admixed mortar except that the reference mortar does not include the admixture and may contain a different amount of water to obtain an equivalent flow or penetration as the admixed mortar. **C 1384**

repoint, *v*—to remove defective mortar and place properly prehydrated plastic mortar into mortar joints.

set accelerator, *n*—admixture incorporated into a masonry mortar to shorten the time of setting of a mortar. **C 1384**

set retarder, *n*—admixture incorporated into a masonry mortar to lengthen the time of setting of a mortar. **C 1384**

shrinkage, *n*—a decrease in volume due to chemical reaction or drying.

tuck point, *v*—(1) (*historical*) to point masonry with a flush mortar joint that approximates the color of the masonry units and then add a mortar strip of contrasting color such that a narrow mortar joint width is simulated. (2) regional term for repoint.

water repellent, *n*—admixture incorporated into a masonry mortar to decrease the rate of water absorption of the hardened mortar. **C 1384**

workability, *n*—the ability of mortar to be easily placed and spread.

workability enhancer, *n*—admixture incorporated into a masonry mortar to increase the ease of being worked and used. A workability enhancer will increase the board life and maintain the water retention of a mortar. **C 1384**

3.2 Definitions of Terms Specific to Indicated Standards:

batch mixer samples—those obtained during or immediately

after the discharge of the mortar from the batch mixer.

C 780

disturbed sample—any plastic mortar test sample which is taken at some time after mixing and bulk sampling, that is further remixed or molded immediately prior to test, or both.

C 780

extended life mortars—mortar consisting of cementitious materials, aggregate, water and set-control admixtures which are measured and mixed at a central location, using weight-or-volume-control equipment. This mortar as delivered to a construction site shall be usable for a period in excess of 2½ h.

C 1142

mortar board samples—those obtained from the mortar board after some established time period from the end of mixing, and before retempering. Retempered mortar board samples are those obtained from the mortar board after retempering. Since mortar on a mason's mortar board is disturbed by the activity of the mason, samples from a mason's mortar board shall be so identified to differentiate them from samples taken from a mortar board used exclusively for test purposes.

C 780

surface bonding mortar—a product containing hydraulic cement, glass fiber reinforcement with or without inorganic fillers, or organic modifiers in a prepackaged form requiring only the addition of water prior to application. **C 887**

undisturbed sample—any plastic mortar test sample molded immediately after mixing and sampling that is allowed to set on a vibration-free surface until tested. **C 780**

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