



Designation: D 1140 – 9700

## Standard Test Methods for Amount of Material in Soils Finer Than the No. 200 (75- $\mu$ m) Sieve<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D 1140; 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 ( $\epsilon$ ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

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

### 1. Scope\*

- 1.1 These test methods covers determination of the amount of material finer than a 75- $\mu$ m (No. 200) sieve by washing.
- 1.2 Two methods for determining the amount of material finer than the No. 200 sieve are provided. The method to be used shall be specified by the requesting authority. If no method is specified, the choice should be based on the guidance given in 4.2 and 7.3
- 1.2.1 Method A—Test specimen is not dispersed prior to wash sieving.
- 1.2.2 Method B—Test specimen is dispersed by soaking in water containing a deflocculating agent prior to wash sieving
- 1.3 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as the standard.
- 1.3~~4~~ *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 and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

### 2. Referenced Documents

- 2.1 *ASTM Standards:*

<sup>1</sup> This test method standard is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D18 on Soil and Rock and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D18.03 on Texture, Plasticity and Density Characteristics of Soils.

Current edition approved ~~May~~ June 10, 1997, 2000. Published ~~October 1997~~, September 2000. Originally published as D 1140 – 50T. Last previous edition D 1140 – 927.

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

~~C 6702 Practice for Preparing Precision and Bias Statements for Test Methods for Construction Materials Reducing Field Samples of Aggregate to Testing Size<sup>2</sup>~~  
~~C 702 Practice for Reducing Field Samples of Aggregate to Testing Size<sup>2</sup>~~  
D 75 Practice for Sampling Aggregates<sup>3</sup>  
D 422 Test Method for Particle-Size Analysis of Soils<sup>4</sup>  
D 2216 Test Method for Laboratory Determination of Water (Moisture) Content of Soil and Rock by Mass<sup>4</sup>  
D 3724087 Practice for Evaluation Classification of Agencies Engaged in the Testing and/or Inspection of Soil and Rock as Used in Soils for Engineering Design and Construction Purposes (Unified Soil Classification System)<sup>4</sup>  
D 4753 Specification 3740 Practice for Minimum Requirement for Agencies Engaged in the Testing and/or Inspection of Soil and Rock as Used in Engineering Design and Construction<sup>4</sup>  
D 4753 Specification for Evaluating, Selecting, and Specifying Balances and Scales for Use in Soils, Rock, and Related Construction Materials for Testing<sup>4</sup>  
E 145 Specification  
D 6026 Practice for Gravity-Convection and Force-Ventilation Ovens Using Significant Digits in Geotechnical Data<sup>5</sup>  
E 11 Specification for Wire-Cloth Sieves for Testing Purposes<sup>6</sup>  
E 145 Specification for Gravity-Convection and Force-Ventilation Ovens<sup>6</sup>  
E 177 Practice for Use of the Terms Precision and Bias in ASTM Test Methods<sup>6</sup>  
E 691 Practice for Conducting an Interlaboratory Study to Determine the Precision of a Test Method<sup>6</sup>

### 3. Summary of Test Method

3.1 A specimen of the soil is washed over a 75- $\mu\text{m}$  (No. 200) sieve. Clay and other particles that are dispersed by the wash water, as well as water-soluble materials, are removed from the soil during the test. The loss in mass resulting from the wash treatment is calculated as mass percent of the original sample and is reported as the percentage of material finer than a 75- $\mu\text{m}$  (No. 200) sieve by washing.

### 4. Significance and Use

4.1 Material finer than the 75- $\mu\text{m}$  (No. 200) sieve can be separated from larger particles much more efficiently and completely by wet sieving than ~~through the use of~~ with dry sieving. Therefore, when accurate determinations of material finer than 75- $\mu\text{m}$  sieve in soil are desired, this test method is used on the ~~sample test specimen~~ prior to dry sieving. Usually the additional amount of material finer than 75- $\mu\text{m}$  sieve obtained in the dry sieving process is a small amount. If it is large, the efficiency of the washing operation should be checked, as it could be an indication of degradation of the soil.

4.2 With some soils, particularly clayey soils, in order to keep the finer material from adhering to the larger particles, it will be necessary to soak the soil prior to washing it through the sieve. A deflocculating agent (dispersing agent) should be added to the soil when it is soaked.

NOTE 1—The quality of the result produced by this standard is dependent on the competence of the personnel performing it, and the suitability of the equipment and facilities used. Agencies that meet the criteria of Practice D 3740 are generally considered capable of competent and objective testing/sampling/inspection/etc. Users of this standard are cautioned that compliance with Practice D 3740 does not in itself assure reliable results. Reliable results depend on many factors; Practice D 3740 provides a means of evaluating some of those factors.

### 5. Apparatus

5.1 *Balance*—A balance or scale conforming to the requirements of ~~Test Method 4753~~, Specification D 4753, readable (with no estimation) to 0.1 % of the test mass, or better. To determine the balance needed, multiply your test mass by 0.001 and check Table 1 of Specification D 4753 for the class of balance readable to the number observed.

5.2 *Sieves*—A minimum nest of two sieves is recommended, the lower must be a 75- $\mu\text{m}$  (No. 200) sieve and the upper may be a 425- $\mu\text{m}$  (No. 40) or larger sieve. Chose a sieve with a diameter sufficient to handle the size of specimen required by 6.2. The ~~No. 200 75- $\mu\text{m}$~~  sieve should have a backing to prevent damage. The sieves shall conform to the requirements of Specification E 11. Stainless sieve mesh is preferred, as it is less prone to damage or wear.

5.3 *Oven*—An oven of sufficient size, capable of maintaining a uniform temperature of  $100 \pm 5^\circ\text{C}$  ( $230 \pm 9^\circ\text{F}$ ) and which meets the criteria of Specification E 145.

5.4 *Deflocculating Agent*—A solution of Sodium Hexametaphosphate of any concentration sufficient to cause particle separation can be used. A common amount is 40 g per 1000 mL of water.

### 6. Sampling

6.1 Sample the soil in accordance with Practice ~~D 75~~. ~~If the same specimen is to be tested for sieve analysis according to Test~~

<sup>2</sup> Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 04.02.

<sup>3</sup> Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 04.03.

<sup>4</sup> Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 04.08.

<sup>5</sup> Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol ~~14.02~~, 04.09.

<sup>6</sup> Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 14.02.

Method D 422, ~~comply with the applicable requirements of that test method D 75.~~

6.2 Thoroughly mix the soil sample to be tested and reduce the quantity to an amount suitable for testing using the applicable method described in Practice C 702. The test specimen shall be the end result of the reduction. Reduction to an exact predetermined mass is not permitted. The mass of the test specimen, after drying, shall conform with the following except as noted (6.2.1 and Note 2):

Maximum Particle Size (100 % Passing)	Standard Sieve Size	Recommended Minimum Mass of Test Specimens
2 mm or less	No. 10	20 g
4.75 mm	No. 4	100 g
9.5 mm	3/8 "	500 g
19.0 mm	3/4 "	2.5 kg
37.5 mm	1 1/2 "	10 kg
75.0 mm	3 "	50 kg

### The test

6.2.1 ~~If the same specimen shall is to be the end result of the reduction. Reduction tested for sieve analysis according to an exact predetermined Test Method D 422, comply with the applicable mass is not permitted. requirements of that Test Method.~~

NOTE 12—When a minimum mass is not available (split spoon sample, and the like), a smaller mass can be used. The report shall indicate the mass used.

## 7. Procedure

7.1 Dry the test specimen to a constant mass at a temperature of  $110 \pm 5^\circ\text{C}$  ( $230 \pm 9^\circ\text{F}$ ) and determine ~~the its~~ mass to the nearest 0.1 g. ~~As an alternative, To determine the w balance needed, multiply the mass by 0.001, check the resultant number with Table 1 of Specification D 4753 for the required balance.~~

7.1.1 For example: Minimum readability =  $276 \text{ g (mass)} \times 0.001 = 0.3 \text{ g}$ . A GP-2 with a readability of 0.1 g would be suitable. ~~A more sensitive balance could also be used.~~

7.1.2 ~~As an alternative, select an auxiliary water content specimen and determine the water content (nearest 0.1 %) in accordance with Test Method D 2216. The mass of the water content specimen shall be between 20 and 30 % of the mass of the wash test specimen so the water content will be representative. Calculate the oven-dry mass of the test specimen from the moist mass (nearest 0.1 % of its mass, or better (see 5.1)) and the water content in accordance with Test Method D 2216. content.~~

### 7.2 Method A:

7.2.1 After preparing the specimen in accordance with 7.1, place the specimen on on the uppermost (coarsest) sieve. Wash the specimen ~~through (material) on~~ the sieve(s) by means of a stream of water from a faucet (Note 2). ~~3). The material may be lightly manipulated by hand, to facilitate the washing process, taking care not to lose any of the soil, to facilitate the sieving. retained material. No downward pressure should be exerted on the sample retained material or sieve to avoid the forcing of particles through the sieve or damage to the sieve. Continue the washing until the water coming through the sieve(s) is clear (Note 3). 4).~~

NOTE 23—A spray nozzle or a piece of rubber tubing attached to a water faucet may be used for the washing. The velocity of the water, which may be increased by pinching the tubing, shall not cause any splashing of the material over the sides of the sieve. The water temperature should not exceed  $32^\circ\text{C}$  ( $90^\circ\text{F}$ ) to avoid expanding the sieve fabric.

NOTE 34—Care should be taken not to let water accumulate on the 75- $\mu\text{m}$  (No. 200) sieve due to clogging of the screen. The clogging can cause overflow of the sieve and loss of material. Lightly hand tapping the sides of the sieve or the bottom of the screen with a fingertip(s) should prevent clogging. Directing a stream of water up from below the screen is another method to unplug the sieve without physically damaging it. Be careful not to overload the screen by sieving too large a specimen, or portion of a specimen, at any one time.

### 7.3 Method B:

7.3.1 As an alternative, particularly for very cohesive soils; after preparing the specimen in accordance with 7.1, place the specimen in a container, cover with water containing a deflocculating agent, and soak for a minimum of 2 h (preferably overnight) (Note 4). ~~5). The specimen should be periodically agitated manually or by mechanical means to facilitate the complete separation of the particles.~~

NOTE 45—It will also be easier to separate the particles if the specimen is not dried prior to soaking. The moist mass can be adjusted to a dry mass by using the water content determination procedure from 7.1.2.

7.3.2 After the soaking period is completed, agitate the contents of the container vigorously and immediately pour into the nested sieves. ~~Wash the container any remaining material into the sieve(s) to make sure all of the container's contents are material is transferred. Then finish the washing procedure as specified in 7.2.~~

7.4 When the washing by Method A or B is completed, the material retained on the 75- $\mu\text{m}$  (No. 200) sieve can be dried either in the sieve, or by flushing (transferring) the contents of the sieve into another container. If the soil is transferred, excess water can be removed by decanting or suctioning to speed drying time. Take care not to lose any particles by removing only clear water.

7.4.1 Dry the residue from each sieve to a constant mass using a temperature of  $110 \pm 5^\circ\text{C}$  ( $230 \pm 9^\circ\text{F}$ ) and determine the mass to using the nearest 0.1 % of the original mass of the specimen. ~~To determine the same balance needed, multiply the original test mass by .001, check the resultant number with Table 1 of Specification D 4753 for the required balance. For example: Original~~

**TABLE 1 Summary of Precision Results from Triplicate Tests at Laboratories (Percent of Fines)**

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Material and Type Index	No. Of Labs	Average Result	Standard Deviation <sup>B</sup>	Acceptable Range of Two Results <sup>C</sup> (Percentage Points)
Soil Type	Number of Triplicate Test Laboratories	Average Value <sup>A</sup> (Percentage Points)	Standard Deviation <sup>B</sup> (Percentage Points)	Acceptable Range of Two Results <sup>C</sup> (Percentage Points)
<i>Single-operator precision</i>				
<i>Single-Operator Results (Within-Laboratory Repeatability):</i>				
CL	42	88.5	0.14	0.40
CH	13	98.83	0.15	0.4
GH	43	98.9	0.16	0.44
CL	13	88.55	0.14	0.4
ML	44	99.0	0.12	0.34
ML	14	99.00	0.12	0.3
SP	44	2.49	0.20	0.55
SP	13	2.47	0.20	0.55
<i>Multilaboratory precision</i>				
<i>Multilaboratory Results (Between-Laboratory Reproducibility):</i>				
CL	42	88.5	0.40	1.13
CH	13	98.83	0.22	0.6
GH	43	98.9	0.25	0.70
CL	13	88.55	0.40	1.1
ML	44	99.0	0.13	0.37
ML	14	99.00	0.13	0.4
SP	44	2.49	0.36	1.00
SP	13	2.47	0.36	1.0

<sup>A</sup>The figure number of significant digits and decimal places presented are representative of those that have been reported in accordance with Practices D 6026, the suits and described deviations in Tables 1, 2 and 3. The acceptable ranges given in Column 5 of the tables should not be exceeded by the difference between two properly conducted tests.

<sup>B</sup>This standard deviation is calculated as described with Practice E 67991 and is referred to as the 1s limit.

<sup>C</sup>Acceptable range of two results is referred to as the d<sub>2s</sub> limit. It is calculated as  $1.960 \sqrt{2} \cdot 1s$ , as defined by Practice E 177. The difference between two properly conducted tests should not exceed this limit. The number of significant digits/decimal places presented is equal to that prescribed by this test method or Practice D 67026. In addition, the value presented can have the same number of decimal places as the standard deviation, even if that result has more significant digits than the standard deviation.

test mass = 276 grams  $\times$  .001 = 0.3, minimum readability. A GP-2 with a readability of 0.1 g would be suitable. A more sensitive balance could also be used, as used in 7.1.

NOTE 56—As mentioned in 4.1, if the sample is dry sieved after washing, some material will pass the 75- $\mu$ m (No. 200) sieve that did not pass during washing operations. This can be a significant amount for samples with a high percent of very fine sand or coarse silt.

## 8. Calculation

8.1 Calculate the amount of material passing the 75- $\mu$ m (No. 200) sieve by washing using the following formula:

$$A = [(B - C)/B] \times 100 \quad (1)$$

where:

A = percentage of material finer than the 75- $\mu$ m (No. 200) sieve by washing, nearest 0.1 %

B = original dry mass of sample, g, and

C = dry mass of specimen retained on the 75- $\mu$ m (No. 200) sieve including the amount retained on an upper sieve after washing, g.

## 9. Report

9.1 Report the percentage of material finer than the 75- $\mu$ m (No. 200) sieve by washing to the nearest 0.1 %.

9.2 Indicate whether the specimen was soaked and length of time.

9.3 Indicate method used (A or B).

- 9.4 Sample identification.
- 9.5 Size of initial dry mass used.
- 9.6 State whether the dry mass was determined directly or with a co-sample using the water content of the specimen as specified directed in 7.1.2. If so, note the water content.

## 10. Precision and Bias

10.1 *Precision*—Criteria for judging the acceptability of test results obtained by these test methods on CL, CH, ML and SP material a range of soil types using Method B are given in Tables 1 and 2. These estimates of precision are based on the results of an the interlaboratory study program conducted by the ASTM/ISR ASTM Reference Soils and Testing Program that included sixteen<sup>7</sup>. In this program, some laboratories performed three replicate tests per soil type (triplicate test laboratory), while other laboratories performed a single test per soil type (single test laboratory). A description of the soils tested is given in 10.1.4. The precision estimates may vary with soil type and method used (Method A or B). Judgment is required when applying these estimates to another soil or method.

10.1.1 The data in Table 1 are based on three replicate tests performed by each triplicate test laboratory on each soil type. The single operator and multilaboratory standard deviation shown in Table 1, Column 4 were obtained in accordance with Practice E 691, which recommends each testing laboratory perform a minimum of three replicate tests. Results of two properly conducted tests performed by the same operator on the same material, using the same equipment, and in the shortest practical period of time should not differ by more than the single-operator d<sub>2s</sub> limits shown in Table 1, Column 5. For definition of d<sub>2s</sub> see Footnote C in Table 2. Results of two properly conducted tests performed by different operators and on different days should not differ by more than the multilaboratory d<sub>2s</sub> limits shown in Table 1, Column 5.

10.1.2 In the ASTM Reference Soils and Testing Program, many of the laboratories performed only a single test on each soil type. This is no acceptable reference value common practice in the design and construction industry. The data for each soil type in Table 2 are based upon the first test results from the triplicate test laboratories and the single test results from the other laboratories. Results of two properly conducted tests performed by two different laboratories with different operators using different equipment and on different days should not vary by more than the d<sub>2s</sub> limits shown in Table 2, Column 5. The results in Table 1 and Table 2 are dissimilar because the data sets are different.

10.1.3 Table 1 presents a rigorous interpretation of triplicate test data in accordance with Practice E 691 from pre-qualified laboratories. Table 2 is derived from test data that represents common practice.

10.1.4 *Soil Types*—Based on the multilaboratory test results, the soils used in the program are described below in accordance with Practice D 2487. In addition, the local names of the soils are given.

<u>CH</u>	—Fat clay, CH, 99 % fines, LL=60, PI=39, grayish brown, soil had been air dried and pulverized. Local name—Vicksburg Buckshot Clay
<u>CL</u>	—Lean clay, CL, 89 % fines, LL=33, PI=13, gray, soil had been air dried and pulverized. Local name—Annapolis Clay
<u>ML</u>	—Silt, ML, 99 % fines, LL=27, PI=4, light brown, soil had been air dried and pulverized. Local name—Vicksburg Silt
<u>SP</u>	—Poorly graded sand; SP, 20 % coarse sand, 48 % medium sand, 30 % fine sand, 2 % fines, yellowish brown. Local name—Frederick sand

## 11. Keywords

- 11.1 fines; particle sizes; sieve analysis; washing

<sup>7</sup> Supporting data is available from ASTM Headquarters. Request RR: D18-1010.

## SUMMARY OF CHANGES

In accordance with Committee D 18 policy, this section identifies the location of changes to this standard since

**TABLE 2 Summary of Single-Test Result from Each Laboratory  
(Percent of Fines)<sup>A</sup>**

(1) Soil Type	(2) Number of Test Laboratories	(3) Average Value (Percentage Points)	(4) Standard Deviation (Percentage Points)	(5) Acceptable Range of Two Results (Percentage Points)
<i>Multilaboratory Results (Single Test Performed by Each Laboratory):</i>				
<u>CH</u>	25	98.74	0.22	0.6
<u>CL</u>	24	88.41	0.52	1.4
<u>ML</u>	25	99.00	0.18	0.5
<u>SP</u>	25	2.647	0.60	1.7

<sup>A</sup>See footnotes in the Table 1.

the last edition (1997) that may impact the use of this standard.

- (1) The Summary of Changes section was added.
- (2) Title change to reflect multiple methods.
- (3) In Scope Section, Methods A and B were defined.
- (4) Reference to Practice D 670 was removed and references to Practices, D 3740, D 2487, D 6026, E 177, and E 691 were added.
- (5) Following the Significance and Use section, Note 1 was added referencing Practice D 3740 in accordance with the policy of D18. The remaining notes were renumbered.
- (6) Under Sampling: moved and reworded the 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence in 6.1 to 6.2.1. The two sentences following the table presenting recommended mass of test specimens were moved to 6.2.
- (7) In 7.1 reworded the mass determination to agree with 7.4.1 and moved the example in 7.4.1 to this subsection. In addition, moved the alternative method (given in 7.1) to a new subsection, 7.4.1, and reworded it so Test Method D 2216 controlled how the water content specimen was obtained and the water content determined.
- (8) Reworded 7.4.1 to use the same balance as used in 7.1.
- (4) The precision statement in 10.1 was completely revised.

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