



Designation: C 326 – 82 (Reapproved 1997)<sup>ε1</sup>

## Standard Test Method for Drying and Firing Shrinkages of Ceramic Whiteware Clays<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation C 326; 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.

<sup>ε1</sup> NOTE—Section 7 was added editorially in October 1997.

### 1. Scope

1.1 This test method covers the determination of linear shrinkage of ceramic whiteware clays, both unfired and fired.

1.2 *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. Significance and Use

2.1 The purpose of this test is to obtain values of shrinkage after drying and firing of clays or bodies or both, under various processing conditions to enable designers to determine the proper size of mold or die so as to produce a predetermined size of fired ware.

### 3. Test Specimens

3.1 Test specimens shall be either round bars approximately 25 mm in diameter by 115 mm in length, or bars of square cross section approximately 25 by 25 by 115 mm in dimensions.

3.2 Test specimens may be prepared either by casting or plastic forming, as circumstances require. At least five specimens shall be prepared. For cast specimens the molds may be either one-piece, or two- or more-part molds; in either instance sufficient space shall be provided to allow solid casting without piping. Where plastic-forming is employed, the clay-water mass shall be brought to a consistency that permits the making of specimens rigid enough to allow careful handling without distortion immediately after the test specimen is made. Plastic-formed test specimens shall be made either by extrusion or by pressing in a suitable metal mold. Where a vacuum pugmill is used, a vacuum of not less than 25 in. (635 mm) Hg shall be maintained during the forming operation. Where no vacuum attachment is used, the plastic clay shall be thoroughly hand-wedged to eliminate entrapped air as a preliminary to forming test pieces.

3.3 The test specimens, cast or plastic-formed, shall be suitably identified and marked with shrinkage reference lines 100 mm apart on the long axis of the specimen.

3.4 The marked specimens shall then be placed on a lightly oiled pallet and allowed to dry at 20 to 40°C for 24 h. During this preliminary drying period, bars of square cross section shall be turned 90 deg several times at 2-h intervals to eliminate possible warping. After the initial drying period, the specimens shall be placed in a drying oven at 100 to 110°C and further dried for 24 h.

3.5 The drying shrinkage of the test specimens should be determined in accordance with Sections 4 and 5. The specimens can now be fired according to a suitable firing schedule to the desired temperature and the procedures of Sections 4 and 5 applied to determine the total shrinkage.

### 4. Shrinkage Measurement

4.1 Measure the distance between shrinkage reference marks on dried or fired specimens to the closest 0.1 mm with vernier calipers. Record the average of at least five measurements (one measurement on each of five specimens).

### 5. Calculation

5.1 Calculate the linear drying shrinkage as a percentage of plastic length, as follows:

$$S_d = \frac{L_p - L_d}{L_p} \times 100 \quad (1)$$

where:

$S_d$  = linear drying shrinkage, %,

$L_p$  = plastic length of test specimen, and

$L_d$  = dry length of test specimen.

5.2 Calculate the total linear shrinkage after drying and firing of clay shrinkage specimens as a percentage of plastic length, as follows:

$$S_t = \frac{L_p - L_f}{L_p} \times 100 \quad (2)$$

where:

$S_t$  = total linear shrinkage after drying and firing, %,

$L_p$  = plastic length of test specimen, and

$L_f$  = fired length of test specimen.

<sup>1</sup> This test method is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee C-21 on Ceramic Whitewares and Related Products and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee C21.04 on Clays.

Current edition approved June 25, 1982. Published August 1982. Originally published as C 326 – 53. Last previous edition C 326 – 76.



5.3 When desired, volume shrinkage may be calculated from linear shrinkage, as follows:

$$\text{Volume shrinkage, \%} = [1 - (1 - S/100)^3] 100 \quad (3)$$

where:

$S$  = linear shrinkage, %.

5.4 The shrinkage factor is used to convert fired sizes to plastic sizes or mold sizes. Calculate as follows:

$$\text{Shrinkage factor} = L_p/L_f \quad (4)$$

where:

$L_p$  = plastic length of test specimen, and

$L_f$  = fired length of test specimen.

## 6. Precision and Bias

6.1 The direction of flow in forming influences the orientation of the clay particles and the shrinkage. The shrinkage

value should be related to the method of forming as well as the dimension of the ware.

6.2 When the original reference points are 100 mm apart, the precision of the shrinkage measurement is  $\pm 0.1$  %.

6.3 Measurements of drying shrinkage on one dimension of specimens all formed by the same method should yield a standard deviation of 0.1 % or less.

6.4 Measurement of total linear shrinkage after drying and firing on one dimension of specimens should yield a standard deviation of 0.25 % or less.

## 7. Keywords

7.1 clay; drying shrinkage; firing shrinkage

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