



Standard Terminology of Masonry¹

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1. Scope*

1.1 This standard incorporates generic terms and generic definitions of terms specifically associated with masonry and masonry units. These generic terms and definitions are used within the standards developed by Committee C12 on Mortars and Grouts for Unit Masonry and Committee C15 on Manufactured Masonry Units.

1.2 This standard incorporates terms and definitions of terms associated with the standards specific to clay masonry units, in particular to Specifications C 32, C 34, C 56, C 62, C 126, C 212, C 216, C 279, C 410, C 652, C 902, C 1088, C 1167, C 1261, C 1272, and C 1405, and to Test Methods C 67.

1.3 This standard incorporates terms and definitions of terms associated with the standards specific to concrete masonry units in particular to Specifications C 55, C 73, C 90, C 129, C 139, C 744, C 1319, C 1372, C 1491, C 1623, and C 1634 and to Test Methods C 140, C 426, and C 1262.

1.4 This standard incorporates terms and definition of terms associated with the standards specific to autoclaved aerated concrete masonry units in particular to Practice C 1555 and to Specification C 1386.

1.5 This standard incorporates terms and definitions of terms associated with the standards specific to clay and concrete roofing tile units in particular to Specifications C 1167 and C 1492 and to Test Methods C 1568, C 1569, and C 1570.

1.6 For terminology specific to mortar and grout, see Terminology C 1180.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*²

- C 32 Specification for Sewer and Manhole Brick (Made From Clay or Shale)
- C 34 Specification for Structural Clay Load-Bearing Wall Tile

- C 43 Terminology of Structural Clay Products
- C 55 Specification for Concrete Building Brick
- C 56 Specification for Structural Clay Nonloadbearing Tile
- C 62 Specification for Building Brick (Solid Masonry Units Made From Clay or Shale)
- C 67 Test Methods for Sampling and Testing Brick and Structural Clay Tile
- C 73 Specification for Calcium Silicate Brick (Sand-Lime Brick)
- C 90 Specification for Loadbearing Concrete Masonry Units
- C 126 Specification for Ceramic Glazed Structural Clay Facing Tile, Facing Brick, and Solid Masonry Units
- C 129 Specification for Nonloadbearing Concrete Masonry Units
- C 139 Specification for Concrete Masonry Units for Construction of Catch Basins and Manholes
- C 140 Test Methods for Sampling and Testing Concrete Masonry Units and Related Units
- C 212 Specification for Structural Clay Facing Tile
- C 216 Specification for Facing Brick (Solid Masonry Units Made from Clay or Shale)
- C 279 Specification for Chemical-Resistant Masonry Units
- C 410 Specification for Industrial Floor Brick
- C 426 Test Method for Linear Drying Shrinkage of Concrete Masonry Units
- C 652 Specification for Hollow Brick (Hollow Masonry Units Made From Clay or Shale)
- C 744 Specification for Prefaced Concrete and Calcium Silicate Masonry Units
- C 902 Specification for Pedestrian and Light Traffic Paving Brick
- C 1088 Specification for Thin Veneer Brick Units Made From Clay or Shale
- C 1167 Specification for Clay Roof Tiles
- C 1180 Terminology of Mortar and Grout for Unit Masonry
- C 1209 Terminology of Concrete Masonry Units and Related Units
- C 1261 Specification for Firebox Brick for Residential Fireplaces
- C 1262 Test Method for Evaluating the Freeze-Thaw Durability of Dry-Cast Segmental Retaining Wall Units and Related Concrete Units
- C 1272 Specification for Heavy Vehicular Paving Brick

¹ This terminology is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee C15 on Manufactured Masonry Units and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee C15.08 on Terminology.

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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.

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

- C 1319 Specification for Concrete Grid Paving Units
- C 1372 Specification for Dry-Cast Segmental Retaining Wall Units
- C 1386 Specification for Precast Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (AAC) Wall Construction Units
- C 1405 Specification for Glazed Brick (Single Fired, Brick Units)
- C 1491 Specification for Concrete Roof Pavers
- C 1492 Specification for Concrete Roof Tile
- C 1555 Practice for Autoclaved Aerated Concrete Masonry
- C 1568 Test Method for Wind Resistance of Concrete and Clay Roof Tiles (Mechanical Uplift Resistance Method)
- C 1569 Test Method for Wind Resistance of Concrete and Clay Roof Tiles (Wind Tunnel Method)
- C 1570 Test Method for Wind Resistance of Concrete and Clay Roof Tiles (Air Permeability Method)
- C 1623 Specification for Manufactured Concrete Masonry Lintels
- C 1634 Specification for Concrete Facing Brick

3. Terminology

3.1 *Generic Definitions*—The definitions apply to masonry units and assemblies. They are generic as used by ASTM Committees C12 and C15.

bed surface, *n*—(1) the nonvertical surfaces of a manufactured masonry unit intended by the manufacturer to be joined by mortar or other methods. (2) the in situ nonvertical surfaces of a manufactured masonry unit joined by mortar or other methods.

cryptofluorescence, *n*—crystalline deposit of water-soluble compounds in the pores of masonry.

efflorescence, *n*—crystalline deposit, usually white, of water-soluble compounds on the surface of masonry.

face, exposed, *n*—the in situ exposed surface(s) of a manufactured masonry unit.

face, finished, *n*—any surface(s) of a manufactured masonry unit intended by the manufacturer to be exposed to view.

facing unit, *n*—manufactured masonry unit designed for use where one or more faces will be exposed and for which the specification includes requirements on color, finish, and other properties affecting appearance.

freeze thaw resistance, *n*—the ability of masonry to maintain integrity under the forces caused by cyclic action of freezing and thawing in the presence of moisture.

frog, *n*—an indentation in a bed surface of a masonry unit. Indentations not exceeding $\frac{3}{8}$ in. (9.5 mm) are termed a frog, sometimes called a panel or panel frog. Indentations exceeding $\frac{3}{8}$ in. (9.5 mm) are termed a deep frog.

groove, *n*—a channel formed on surfaces other than finished faces of manufactured masonry units for production or construction purposes.

height, *n*—vertical dimension of the face of a unit when the unit is positioned as a stretcher.

hollow masonry unit, *n*—unit whose net cross-sectional area in any plane parallel to the surface containing cores, cells, or deep frogs is less than 75 % of its gross cross-sectional area measured in the same plane.

length, *n*—horizontal dimension of the face of a unit when the unit is positioned as a stretcher.

manufactured masonry unit, *n*—a manmade noncombustible building product intended to be laid by hand and joined by mortar, grout, or other methods of joining.

masonry, *n*—the type of construction made up of masonry units laid with mortar, grout, or other methods of joining.

nominal dimension, *n*—dimension that is greater than the specified dimension by the thickness of a mortar joint. It is usually expressed as a whole number.

score, *n*—a channel formed for appearance purposes on the finished faces of a manufactured masonry unit.

shell, *n*—the outer walls of a hollow masonry unit. Shell can either be an end shell or a face shell.

solid masonry unit, *n*—unit whose net cross-sectional area in any plane parallel to the surface containing cores, cells, or deep frogs is 75 % or more of its gross cross-sectional area measured in the same plane.

specified dimensions, *n*—dimensions to which masonry units or constructions are required to conform. Actual (measured) dimensions may differ from the specified dimensions by permissible variations.

surface feature, *n*—a quality or condition of the face of a manufactured masonry unit.

DISCUSSION—Surface features include coatings, colors, textures, relief, or combinations of these. A masonry unit may have different surface features on individual faces.

thickness, *n*—that dimension designed to lie at right angles to the face of the wall, floor, or other assembly.

units placed in usage, *n*—manufactured masonry units that have been installed in masonry.

3.2 *Definitions Specific to Clay Masonry Units:*

absorption, *n*—weight of water picked up by a clay masonry unit during immersion at prescribed conditions expressed in relation to the dry weight of the unit.

DISCUSSION—Two conditions of immersion are designated in standards relating to brick: 24 h in room temperature (60 to 86°F (15.5 to 30°C)) water or 5 h in boiling water. (Different time intervals are specified for structural tile and other products.) The resulting absorptions are termed *cold water absorption* and *boiling water absorption*.

Absorption values are used in brick and tile standards as one factor in classifying these products into durability grades. Absorptions are indicators of the extent of firing during manufacture as well as being indicators of durability.

body color, *n*—the range of color obtained when materials used to form the brick react to the effects of firing temperature and atmosphere.

DISCUSSION—There may be additives in the body to produce a desired color. When no materials are added to the surface of the brick and the unit is not flashed when fired, the body color is also the through-body color, a surface feature.

brick, *n*—a solid or hollow masonry unit of clay or shale, usually formed into a rectangular prism, then burned or fired in a kiln; brick is a ceramic product.

brick, acid-resistant, *n*—brick suitable for use in contact with chemicals, usually in conjunction with acid-resistant mortars; see Specification C 279.

brick, building, *n*—brick for load-resisting or other purposes

where appearance properties such as texture or color are not important (formerly called common brick); see Specification C 62 and Specification C 652.

brick, facing, *n*—brick for general purposes where appearance properties such as color, texture, and chippage are important; see Specification C 216 and Specification C 652.

DISCUSSION—Facing brick are produced from selected clays and are available in typical face sizes, various colors, and in various textures.

brick, floor, *n*—brick with physical properties related to resistance to chemicals, thermal and mechanical shock, or absorption, or combinations of these, used as finished floor surfaces in industrial applications; see Specification C 410.

brick, paving, *n*—brick made to provide the wearing surface of highways, streets, driveways, walkways, patios, and similar applications; see Specifications C 902 and C 1272.

brick, sewer, *n*—low absorption, abrasive-resistant brick intended for use in drainage structures; see Specification C 32.

brick, specially-shaped, *n*—a brick manufactured to a basic shape of other than a rectangular prism.

cells/core holes, *n*—continuous openings or perforations within extruded clay products.

DISCUSSION—The extent of permissible openings is specified for each product as the percentage of gross area in the normal bedding surface plane that must be net (solid) area. Core hole is generally used for brick while cell is used for structural tile. Cells are distinguished from core holes by being larger in size. As an illustration, cells must be larger than 1 in.² (645 mm²) under Specification C 34, and 1½ in.² (968 mm²) under Specification C 652.

clay, *n*—an earthy or stony mineral aggregate consisting essentially of hydrous silicates of alumina, plastic when sufficiently pulverized and wetted, rigid when dry, and vitreous when fired to a sufficiently high temperature.

coated finish, *n*—the surface feature resulting when mineral particles are applied to the column in the extrusion process to impart color, texture, opacity, or other characteristics.

combed finish, *n*—the texture resulting when faces are altered by more or less parallel scratches or scarfs in manufacture.

coring, *v*—the process of perforating structural clay products, generally performed during extrusion by supporting cores (rods) within the shaping cap of the extruder.

end-construction tile, *n*—tile designed to receive its compressive stress parallel to the axes of the cell.

engobe, *n*—a slip, other than a glaze, that is not impervious and is applied as a coating to a ceramic body to function as a glaze undercoat or to impart color, texture, opacity, or other characteristics.

extrusion, *n*—shaping of brick by pushing plastic clay or shale through a die opening that forms the peripheral dimensions of the brick.

DISCUSSION—The column of extrudate is then cut into sections to provide the third dimension of the brick. Water is added to the clay or shale in sufficient quantities to permit laminar flow through the extrusion machine. The consistency of the extrudate may vary from stiff and capable of supporting several times its weight to soft and deformable under slight loads.

fire clay, *n*—a sedimentary clay of low flux content.

fired bond, *n*—bond developed between particulate constituents of brick solely as the result of the firing process.

DISCUSSION—The bond may result from fusion or melting of one or more constituents of the composition or the surface of particles. Other thermal mechanisms such as sintering and interparticle reaction may be responsible for the bond.

The higher the heat treatment, the greater the extent of bonding and consequently the greater the developed strength and the lower the resulting porosity. The bond development should be sufficient to provide the specified strength, porosity, and durability for any particular product.

fireproofing tile, *n*—tile for use as a protection for structural members against fire.

firing, *v*—process of heating the material to elevated temperatures.

DISCUSSION—The temperatures are usually in excess of 1706°F (930°C). The extent of firing is a function of both time and temperature. The firing develops the inter-particulate bond, the strengths, the pore structure, and the color of the product. The extent of firing should be sufficient to produce the levels of these properties required by the specifications for the particular product.

flushed finish, *n*—the range of color produced by the presence of a reduced oxygen atmosphere in the kiln during firing.

furring tile, *n*—tile for lining the inside of walls and carrying no superimposed loads.

glaze, *n*—an impervious finish composed of ceramic materials, fused during firing with the body of brick or tile, which is a semivitreous or vitreous surface and may be clear, white, or colored.

header tile, *n*—tile designed to provide recesses for brick header units in masonry faced walls.

impervious, *adj*—describes the state of having obtained that degree of vitrification evidenced visually by resistance to penetration of a specified dye.

incipient fusion, *n*—beginning of the development of fired bond.

initial rate of absorption, *n*—a measure of the suction of water upward into a dry brick from a bed face during one minute of exposure.

DISCUSSION—Initial rate of absorption (IRA) is a distinct property that offers different information from absorption. It is expressed as grams of water picked up in one minute by a net area of 30 in.² (194 cm²).

Initial rate of absorption is one factor influencing the quality of bond between brick and mortar. It is used in brick standards to recommend construction practices for enhancing mortar to brick bonding.

loadbearing tile, *n*—tile for use in masonry constructions designed to carry superimposed loads; see Specification C 34.

molding, *v*—shaping of brick by dropping, throwing, or vibrating wet clay or shale in a mold cavity shaped to provide the peripheral dimensions of the brick.

DISCUSSION—Sufficient water is mixed with the clay or shale to produce a soft consistency.

When insides of molds are sanded to prevent sticking of clay, the product is sand-struck brick. When the molds are wetted to prevent sticking, the product is water-struck brick.

nonloadbearing tile, *n*—tile for use in masonry constructions carrying no superimposed loads; see Specification C 56.

partition tile, *n*—tile for use in building interior partitions,

subdividing areas into rooms, or similar constructions, and carrying no superimposed loads.

pressing, *v*—shaping of brick by pressing clay or shale into a mold cavity which forms the peripheral dimensions of the brick.

DISCUSSION—Different subclassifications of pressing are defined by the quantity of water mixed with the clay or shale.

Dry pressing uses high forming pressures and low water contents usually between 0 and 5 %.

Plastic pressing uses low pressures and sufficient water to produce a plastic mixture.

Semi-dry pressing uses intermediate pressures and water quantities nominally between 5 and 14 %.

plaster-base finish, *n*—the texture intended for the direct application of plaster.

DISCUSSION—Plaster-base finishes may be smooth, scored, combed, or roughened.

reactive particulates, *n*—a particle or particles present in a clay body, which when near the surface may flake off or cause an eruption (pop-outs) of the surface when exposed to the weather.

roughened finish, *n*—the texture resulting when die surfaces are broken by mechanical means, such as wire cutting or wire brushing.

salt glaze, *n*—the color and texture resulting when faces have a lustrous glazed finish from the thermochemical reaction of the silicates of the clay body with vapors of salt or chemicals.

sand finish, *n*—the color and texture resulting when faces have sand applied either to the clay column in the extrusion process for appearance purposes or as the lubricant to the molds in the molding process.

shale, *n*—a thinly stratified, consolidated, sedimentary clay with well-marked cleavage parallel to the bedding.

side-construction tile, *n*—tile designed to receive its compressive stress at right angles to the axes of the cells.

slip, *n*—a suspension of clay and mineral particles in a water medium applied as a coating or finish to a ceramic body that, when fired, may function as a glaze or an engobe.

smooth finish, *n*—the texture resulting when faces are not altered or marked in the extrusion process, but are left as formed by the die.

struck surface, *n*—the surface of a molded brick that is not in contact with the mold and from which the excess clay/shale mixture is removed.

structural clay facing tile, *n*—tile designed for use in interior and exterior unplastered walls, partitions or columns; see Specification C 212.

structural clay tile, *n*—hollow burned-clay masonry building units with parallel cells or cores or both.

surface clay, *n*—an unconsolidated, unstratified clay, occurring on the surface.

through-body color, *n*—the range of surface color obtained when units without materials added to the surfaces for appearance purposes are fired without flashing.

DISCUSSION—Through-body color results from the materials used to form the brick reacting to the effects of firing temperature. There may

be additives in the body to produce a desired color.

webs, *n*—the partitions dividing tile or hollow brick into cells.

3.3 Definitions Specific to Concrete Masonry Units:

absorption, *n*—difference in the amount of water contained within a concrete masonry unit or related unit between a saturated and oven-dry condition in accordance with the requirements of Test Methods C 140. It is expressed as weight of water per volume of concrete.

calcium-silicate brick, *n*—a pressed and subsequently autoclaved unit that consists of sand and lime, with or without the inclusion of other materials.

concrete brick, *n*—a concrete masonry unit made from portland cement, water, and suitable aggregates, with or without the inclusion of other materials. See Specification C 55.

coupon, *n*—a solid specimen, rectangular in any cross-section, that is saw-cut from a concrete masonry unit or related unit for the purpose of testing, and whose properties are considered representative of the whole unit.

dry-cast, *adj*—manufacturing concrete products using low frequency, high amplitude vibration to consolidate concrete of stiff or extremely dry consistency in a form.

drying shrinkage, *n*—in this test method, the change in linear dimension of the test specimen due to drying from a saturated condition to an equilibrium weight and length under specified accelerated drying conditions. C 426

lightweight concrete masonry unit, *n*—unit whose oven-dry density is less than 105 lb/ft³ (1680 kg/m³).

lot, *n*—any number of concrete masonry units or related units designated by the producer of any configuration or dimension manufactured by the producer using the same materials, concrete mix design, manufacturing process, and curing method.

medium weight concrete masonry unit, *n*—unit whose oven-dry density is at least 105 lb/ft³ (1680 kg/m³) and less than 125 lb/ft³ (2000 kg/m³).

moisture content, *n*—amount of water contained within a concrete masonry unit or related unit at a given time expressed as a percentage of the total amount of water in the unit under saturated conditions.

DISCUSSION—Moisture content is calculated as the difference in the received weight of the unit and the dry weight of the unit divided by the difference in the saturated weight of the unit and the dry weight of the unit, multiplied by 100 %.

normal weight concrete masonry unit, *n*—unit whose oven-dry density is 125 lb/ft³ (2000 kg/m³) or greater.

sand-lime brick, *n*—See **calcium-silicate brick**.

3.4 Definitions Specific to Autoclaved Aerated Concrete Masonry Units:

autoclaved aerated concrete (AAC), *n*—low-density cementitious product of calcium silicate hydrates in which the low density is obtained by the formation of macroscopic air bubbles, mainly by chemical reactions within the mass during the liquid or plastic phase. The air bubbles are uniformly distributed and are retained in the matrix on setting, hardening, and subsequent high-pressure steam curing, to produce a cellular structure. Material specifications for this product are prescribed in Specification C 1386.

thick-bed AAC masonry, *n*—AAC masonry whose mortar joints are approximately $\frac{3}{8}$ in. (10 mm) thick.

thin-bed AAC masonry, *n*—AAC masonry whose mortar joints are approximately $\frac{1}{16}$ in. (1.5 mm) thick.

3.5 Definitions Specific to Clay and Concrete Roof Tile Units:

3.5.1 Definitions Specific to Clay Roof Tile Units:

batten lugs, *n*—protrusions on the underside of tile designed to engage over the upper edge of tiling battens.

clay roof tile, *n*—a solid unit of clay or shale, or both, formed into any of a range of generally rectangular planar shapes while plastic and fired in kiln; see Specification C 1167.

DISCUSSION—Clay roof tile is a ceramic product.

clay roof tile, high profile, *n*—tile having a rise to width ratio greater than 1:4.

clay roof tile, hip and ridge, *n*—tile designed for application to the hip or ridge of a roof.

clay roof tile, interlocking, *n*—tile with a system of ribs or grooves enabling the lateral joining of adjacent tiles in the same course with the overlapping edge of one tile covering the underlocking edge of another forming the side lap.

DISCUSSION—In some tile designs, provision is also made for interlocking in the overlapping area of the head lap.

clay roof tile, low profile, *n*—tile having a rise to width ratio equal to, or less than 1:4.

clay roof tile, non-interlocking, *n*—tile without restrictive ribs, grooves, or channels at the side lap or head lap.

head lap, *n*—(1) the distance between the lower (nose) edge of an overlapping tile and the upper edge of the lapped unit in the course immediately below; (2) for shingle tile only—the distance between the lower (nose) edge of an overlapping shingle tile and the upper edge of the lapped unit in the second course below.

DISCUSSION—The head lap and side lap specified with a particular tile form the basis for determining area coverage of the specific design and the computation of the number of units required to cover a given area of roof. Tile is specified and sold on the basis of number of units required to cover one roofing square, that is, 100 ft² (9.29 m²) of roof.

length, *n*—the maximum dimension of the tile measured parallel to the water channels or perpendicular to the eave of the roof.

nail hole, *n*—an appropriately sized opening such that tile shall not be fractured by the fastener and fixing process used to attach the tile to the roof deck.

nose, *n*—the lower visible edge of tile as applied on the roof.

nose lugs, *n*—projections on the underside of the nose of each tile contoured to fit into the main water courses of the tile immediately below, inhibiting the entry of wind-driven rain.

profile, *n*—the contour of the top surface of the tile when viewed from the nose end.

rise, *n*—the maximum dimension of the cross-sectional profile

of the tile measured perpendicular to the roof surface as installed.

side lap, *n*—the distance by which the side edge of one tile overlaps the side edge of an adjacent tile in the same course; for interlocking tile this corresponds to the width of that part of the tile that contains the ribs, grooves, or channels which provide for interlocking. (See Discussion under **head lap**.)

thickness, *n*—a measurement of the cross section of the tile made perpendicular to its surface.

width, *n*—the maximum dimension of the tile measured perpendicular to the length.

3.5.2 Definitions Specific to Concrete Roof Tile Units:

batten lugs, *n*—protrusions on the underside of the tile designed to engage over the upper edge of tiling battens.

head lap, *n*—distance of overlap measured from the uppermost course to the point that it laps over the undermost course.

high profile tile, *n*—tile with a rise to width ratio greater than 1:5.

interlocking tile, *n*—tiles with a system of ribs or grooves enabling the lateral joining of adjacent tiles in the same horizontal row, with the overlapping lock covering the underlapping lock.

length, *n*—maximum overall dimension of the tile measured parallel to the water course.

low profile tile, *n*—tile with a rise equal to or less than $\frac{1}{2}$ in.

medium profile tile, *n*—tile with a rise greater than $\frac{1}{2}$ in. and a rise-to-width ratio of less than or equal to 1:5.

nail hole, *n*—small opening passing partially or totally through the tile to allow the penetration of a nail or screw for the purpose of fastening the tile to a support.

non-interlocking tile, *n*—tiles that butt at the sides without lapping adjacent tiles.

nose lugs, *n*—protrusion on the underside of the nose of each tile, contoured to fit into the main water courses of the tile immediately below, inhibiting the entry of wind-driven rain.

profile, *n*—contour of the top surface of the tile when viewed from the nose end.

rise, *n*—vertical distance from the underside of the batten lug to the highest point of the surface profile.

side lap, *n*—continuous longitudinal overlap of a tile on its neighbor.

thickness, *n*—any vertical measurement of the cross section of the tiles excluding the lapping area, nose lugs, and weather checks.

weather checks, *n*—protrusions below the tile designed to restrict the flow of water between two consecutive courses of tiles.

width, *n*—maximum overall dimension of the tile measured perpendicular to the length or water channel.

water course, *n*—valley portion of a profiled tile along which water drains.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

Committee C15 has identified the location of selected changes to this standard since the last issue (C 1232 – 05) that may impact the use of this standard. (Approved Feb. 1, 2009.)

(J) Terminology standards C 43 for clay masonry units and C 1209 for concrete masonry units and related units were combined into this standard that previously only included generic masonry terms and definitions. Terms and definitions

for clay roof tile and concrete roof tile were placed in a new section. Terms and definitions contained in standards related to autoclaved aerated concrete masonry were also incorporated.

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