

UNCONFINED COMPRESSION TEST ON ROCK

1. SCOPE: This method describes the procedures employed in preparing and testing rock core specimens with diameters of approximately 2 in. to determine their Unconfined Compressive Strength.
2. Refer to *Standard Practice For Preparing Rock Core Specimens And Determining Dimensional And Shape Tolerances - ASTM D 4543-08* with the following modifications:

7.5 to 7.7: Specimens may be capped with unbonded caps meeting the requirements of ASTM C 1231 (6.2 & 6.3) except that the retainers shall have inside diameters of 2.20 ± 0.05 in. Qualification tests are not necessary to establish the maximum and minimum strength levels appropriate for use with pads of a given Shore A durometer hardness of pads; Shore A durometer hardnesses of 50 to 70 are recommended.

9.1 to 9.6 may be omitted if specimens meet the following shape tolerances:

Each surface of the specimens shall be plane within 0.25 in., i.e. there shall be no depressions or protrusions in the surface that are greater than 0.25 in. Neither end of the specimens shall depart from perpendicularity by more than 0.05 in. in 2 in. or 2.5 parts in 100. The difference between the maximum and minimum specimen diameters shall not exceed 0.1 in.

11.1 to 11.1.4: May be omitted if the information is presented in other project records.

11.1.5 to 11.1.5.3: Verification that the specimen meets the specified shape tolerances may be reported.

11.1.6: May be omitted if the information is presented in other project records.

3. Refer to *Standard Method for Compressive Strength and Elastic Moduli of Intact Rock Core Specimens Under Varying States of Stress and Temperatures - ASTM D 7012-07* with the following modifications:

4.2: Add the following: Specimens shall be wrapped or otherwise preserved in the field to prevent loss of moisture.

5: If specimens are capped with unbonded caps add the following:

Specimens shall be air dry on the surface immediately prior to testing to avoid the possibility

of allowing moisture to get between the pads and retainers and then rusting.

Each pad shall have a light coat of talcum powder on the bearing surface prior to testing a specimen.

During testing, there shall be no loose particles of soil, dust, etc. trapped in the following locations: between the pads and the retainers; between the specimen and the pads; between the retainers and the bearing blocks of the testing machine.

Place a cap on the top and bottom surface of the specimen. With the caps in contact with the specimen, carefully align the axis of the specimen with the center of thrust of the spherically seated block. Bring the bearing blocks of the machine in contact with both of the caps.

If $1.8 \cdot L/D < 2.0$, the Unconfined Compressive Strength may be calculated as follows:

$$q_u = \alpha \left(\frac{\text{Max. Load}}{\text{Area}} \right), \quad \text{where } \alpha = \left(\frac{1}{0.88 + \frac{0.24}{(L / D)}} \right)$$

8.1: Specimens may be prepared according to the procedures above.

11.1.2: May be omitted if the information is presented in other project records.

11.1.3: The moisture condition when the sample is received, and after specimen preparation, should be recorded. At a minimum, report the moisture condition qualitatively as as-received, saturated, laboratory air-dry, or oven-dry. The moisture condition may be determined more precisely and reported as water content using AASHTO T 265.

11.1.5 to 11.1.6 These sections are optional.

11.1.7: Alternatively, the time to failure may be reported.

11.1.9 to 11.1.12 These sections are optional.

APPROVED

DIRECTOR
DIVISION OF MATERIALS

DATE

04/01/08

Kentucky Method 64-523-08

Revised 04/01/08

Supersedes KM 64-523-02

Dated 11/18/02

km52308.doc

KM 64-523-08