
Standard Method of Test for

**The Qualitative Detection of
Harmful Clays of the Smectite
Group in Aggregates Using
Methylene Blue**

AASHTO Designation: T 330-22¹

Technically Revised: 2022

Technical Subcommittee: 1c, Aggregates



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1. SCOPE

- 1.1. The purpose of this standard is to identify the presence of harmful clays of the smectite group (poor minus 75- μ m material) and to provide an indication of the surface activity of the aggregate.
- 1.2. *This standard may involve hazardous materials, operations, and equipment. This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this procedure to establish appropriate safety and health practices and to determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to its use.*
- 1.3. *The quality of the results produced by this standard are dependent on the competence of the personnel performing the procedure and the capability, calibration, and maintenance of the equipment used. Agencies that meet the criteria of R 18 are generally considered capable of competent and objective testing/sampling/inspection/etc. Users of this standard are cautioned that compliance with R 18 alone does not completely assure reliable results. Reliable results depend on many factors; following the suggestions of R 18 or some similar acceptable guideline provides a means of evaluating and controlling some of those factors.*

2. REFERENCED DOCUMENTS

- 2.1. AASHTO Standards:
- M 231, Weighing Devices Used in the Testing of Materials
 - M 339M/M 339, Thermometers Used in the Testing of Construction Materials
 - R 18, Establishing and Implementing a Quality Management System for Construction Materials Testing Laboratories
- 2.2. ASTM Standards:
- E1, Standard Specification for ASTM Liquid in Glass Thermometers
 - E230/E230M, Standard Specification for Temperature Electromotive Force (emf) Tables for Standardized Thermocouples
 - E2877, Standard Guide for Digital Contact Thermometers
- 2.3. International Electrotechnical Commission Standard:
- IEC 60584 1:2013, Thermocouples Part 1: EMF Specifications and Tolerances