Preparing for an ACI Field Technician Certification

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Course Objectives

- 1. Expectations of ACI Field Technician Grade I Certification.
- 2. Understand the Format of the Exam.
- 3. Overview of the ASTM standards.
- 4. Identify areas of Focus.
- 5. Provide a **PLAN OF ACTION** to prepare for the exam.



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WHY?



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- NPCA requires ACI Field Grade I Certification (1.1.3).
- Required by many governmental agencies.
- Required by more and more private customers.
- Improve the accuracy and reliability of the testing of freshly mixed concrete.
- Improve the quality of your concrete.
- Gain the knowledge needed to perform the concrete field test.



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2022 NPCA Concrete Testing Deficiencies

- 5.3.1 Slump, Slump Flow, and visual Stability Index (29)
- 5.3.3 Density (Unit Weight) (42)
- 5.3.5 Compressive Strength (51)

122 Total Deficiencies!



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WHY?

To advance your career in Precast Concrete!



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How I got here?

 ACI Concrete Field Testing Technician Grade I Certification was the first step in my career.

"If you don't attach a meaningful why.... You will not have the Discipline that you need." -Jocko Willink



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How do we make sure we get the Quality Concrete that we need?





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One of the keys to quality concrete is a qualified concrete technician to provide accurate and reliable test results.





9

What is required to be certified?

 You must successfully complete both the ACI written and performance examinations.



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7 ASTM STANDARDS

Demonstrate the ability to perform each test accurately:

- 1. Temperature (ASTM C1064)
- 2. Sampling Freshly Mixed Concrete (ASTM C172)
- 3. Slump (C143)
- 4. Unit Weight, Yield and Gravimetric
 Air Content (ASTM C138)
- 5. Air Content (Pressure Method) (ASTM C231)
- 6. Air Content (Volumetric Method) (ASTM C173)
- 7. Making and Curing Concrete Test Specimens (ASTM C31)

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WRITTEN EXAM

- 1 hour written exam covers the 7 ASTM standards.
- Closed book (But you may bring a simple-function calculator.)
- 55 Multiple Choice and true/false questions.
- 5-10 questions on each standard.
- To pass the exam, both of the following criteria must be met:
- 1. At least 60% correct in each individual section; and
- 2. At least 70% correct overall.

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PERFORMANCE EXAM

- You are required to successfully perform each of the seven ASTM Standard Methods. You may be required to verbally describe the procedures for Sampling Freshly Mixed concrete if performance of the method is not feasible.
- 2.5 trials for each standard.

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TECHNICIAN WORKBOOK ACI CP-1

- 1. Introduction.
- 2. Copy of the ASTM Standard (or equivalent information).
- 3. Written Study Questions.
- 4. Performance Checklist.

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ASTM C1064 TEMPERATURE



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ASTM C1064 TEMPERATURE

• https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YQrL4XVOJcA

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ASTM C1064 TEMPERATURE

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- 9. How long must the Temperature measuring device remain in the freshly mixed concrete?
- 10. After the temperature of the concrete is read, what is then required?

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4 C 1064/C 1064M - 08

accuracy. This readings of the ures at least 30 around the temperature measuring device at the surface of the concrete to prevent ambient air temperature from affecting the reading.

ng devices may uniform density 7.2 Leave the temperature measuring device in the freshly mixed concrete for at least 2 min but not more than 5 min, then read and record the temperature to the nearest 1 "F [0.5 °C]. Do not remove the device from the concrete when reading the temperature.

t within 0.5 °F

8. Report

ninimum of 5

8.1 Report the measured temperature of the freshly mixed concrete to the nearest 1 °F [0.5 °C].

d to provide a

9. Precision and Bias

liquid to avoid rature exposure 9.1 The single operator standard deviation for measurement of concrete temperature has been found to be 0.5 °F. 5 Therefore, results of two properly conducted tests by the same operator on the same sample of material should not differ by more than 1.3 °F. 5

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ASTM C172 SAMPLING FRESHLY MIXED CONCRETE



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ASTM C172 SAMPLING FRESHLY MIXED CONCRETE

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P62aGnaS6CU

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ASTM C172 SAMPLING FRESHLY MIXED CONCRETE

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SCREW!

(HOW TO PROTECT THE SAMPLE)

- <u>S</u>un
- **C**ontamination
- Rapid
- **E**vaporation
- **W**ind

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ASTM C143 SLUMP



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ASTM C143 SLUMP

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NM0YeQUjyl4

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ASTM C143 SLUMP

STUDY QUESTIONS

ASTM C143 Slump of Hydraulic-Cement Concrete

- The slump test is applicable to plastic concrete with a maximum size aggregate of ____ When the concrete contains aggregate larger than allowed for the slump test, the large aggregate must be ______.
- The mold for making the slump test is in the shape of _____.
- 5. The interior surface of the slump mold is allowed to have minor irregularities. True or False?
- The sample of concrete for use in making the slump test must be obtained in accordance with ASTM Standard ______. 8. The slump mold should be in a dry condition before beginning the test. True or False?
- 9. The surface on which the slump mold will be placed must be _____
- 11. Each layer should fill approximately _____ the volume of the mold.
- The approximate concrete depth (in vertical distance) after placing the first layer is _____ and the second layer is _____ and the second layer is _____.

 What is the specified number of roddings for each layer?
- How deep should the tamping rod penetrate into each layer?
 When rodding the bottom layer, the tamping rod must be ______ to uniformly distribute the strokes.
- 16. What must be done if the concrete drops below the top of the slump mold while the top layer is being rodded?
- 18. After the final rodding, the sides of the slump mold should be tapped lightly with the tamping rod. True or False?
- 19. When raising the slump mold, it should not be rotated or twisted. True or False?
- 20. How much time is allowed for lifting the slump mold?
- 21. The measurement for slump is made from the top of the moid to what point of the concrete specimen? 22. The slump of the concrete is measured and reported to the nearest ____
- 23. How much time is allowed to conduct the slump test from beginning to completion?

Answers to study questions are included in Appendix D

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- The Mold for Making the slump test is in the shape of?
 The <u>FRUSTUM</u> of a Cone
- 2. Each Layer should fill approximately 1/3 the volume of the mold.
- How much time is allowed for lifting the slump mold?
 5 sec. + 2 sec.

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ASTM C138 UNIT WEIGHT, YIELD AND AIR CONTENT



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ASTM C138 UNIT WEIGHT

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1mLgdtgRxY8



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ASTM C138 UNIT WEIGHT

STUDY QUESTIONS

ASTM C138 Density (Unit Weight), Yield, and Air Content (Gravimetric) of Concrete

- The diameter of the tamping rod used in this test method is ______
- 3. What is the required minimum frequency of the vibrator used in this test method?
- The outside diameter or side dimension of the vibrating element must be at least _____ but not greater than _____.
- 5. A plastic container can be used for the measure in this method. True or False?
- 7. What is the minimum thickness for a glass or acrylic strike-off plate?
- What is the specified weight of the mailet used on measures that are 0.5 ft³ [14 L] or smaller?
- 9. Measures other than air meter bowls used for this test must conform to ASTM _
- Air meter bowls used for this test must conform to ASTM _____ and be calibrated for volume according to ASTM _____. 11. The concrete sample must be obtained in accordance with what ASTM method?
- 12. What method of consolidation must be used when the slump is greater than 3 in. [75 mm]?
- 13. What method of consolidation must be used when the slump is less than 1 in. [25 mm]? 14. If rodding is the method of consolidation being used, the measure must be filled in how many layers?
- 15. For a measure of 0.5 ft³ [14 L], what is the required number of strokes of the tamping rod for consolidation of each layer?
- V/hen rodding the middle and the top layers, the tamping rod should penetrate into the layer below approximately 17. If vibration is the method of consolidation, the measure must be filled in _____ approximately equal
- 18. If, after consolidation of the final layer, the concrete level is 1/2 in. (13 mm) above the top of the measure, what should be done?
- After consolidation of the final layer, an excess of concrete _____ above the top of the measure is considered optimum.

21. Density (Unit Weight) Calculation

The procedures of Method C138 are followed, and the mass of the measure plus the concrete is found to be 92.1 lb [41.78 kg]. Calculate the density of the concrete in lb/ft $^{\circ}$ [kg/m $^{\circ}$].

22. Yield Calculations

For a design batch of 7.0 yd [5.4 m²], the total mass of all materials batched was 27,300 lb [12,383 kg]. Using the density of the concrete as determined in Question 21, calculate: a) The yield per batch it "b) The yield per batch in yd c). The yield per batch in yd c) The yield in "d) The yield per batch in yd c). The yield in "d) The yield per cubic yard in ft¹yd "b).

Notes: The formula for yield in ft⁵ has been removed in this version of C138, but has been retained here for information purposes only.

Also, the expression of yield as fivlyd² is an industry practice in some regions where inchpound units are used, is not expressed as such in ASTM C138, and has no metric counterpart; it is provided for informational purposes only.

Using the information given and calculated in Question 22, calculate the relative yield for the batch of

24. Air Content Calculation

Your air meter has been damaged in transit to the job site. You do, however, possess the theoretical density that was determined in the lab; it is 151.4 ib/ft² (2425 kg/m²). Using the density calculated in Quesion 21, calculate the air content of the bacts (in percentage).

Answers to study questions are included in Appendix D

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UNIT WEIGHT CALCULATIONS OFFITO COMMENTE This can be reduced in order to find the YIELD (cubic feet / cubic yard) by **dividing** the YIELD (per batch) by the design **batch** size **desired** or intended to be produced (cubic yards). YIELD (per batch) batch size desired/intended produce + _____ cubic yard RELATIVE YIELD Determine the RELATIVE YIELD by dividing the YIELD (ft^3/yd^3) by 27. YIELD (per yard) 27 cu ft in 1 cu yd RELATIVE YIELD Determine the DENSITY of the concrete by the following method based on the predetermined volume displayed on the measure (not) of determine by ASTM C-29, 'Calibration of Measure': greater than 1.00 = over yield 1.00 = perfect less than 1.00 = under yield Divide the NET WEIGHT by the volume (cubic feet) of the measure (pot) $\frac{T-A}{T} \times 100 = Air Content (%)$ Theoretical Density x _100_ AIR CONTENT Determine the YIELD (cubic yards per batch) by dividing the YIELD per batch in cubic feet by 27 (there are 27 cubic feet in one cubic yard) YIELD (per batch) 27 cu ft in 1 cu yd precast.org/education NPCA

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ASTM C231 AIR CONTENT (PRESSURE METHOD)



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ASTM C231 AIR CONTENT (PRESSURE METHOD)

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ASTM C231 AIR CONTENT (PRESSURE METHOD)

STUDY QUESTIONS

Air Content of Freshly Mixed Concrete by the Pressure

- 4. What are the required characteristics of the tamping rod used in this test method?
- What is the specified size of the mailet required for this test method when the measuring bowl has a capacity of 0.5 ft³ (14 L) or less?
 The sample of concrete used for this test is to be obtained in accordance with what ASTM Standard's continuous continuous.
- The maximum size aggregate allowed for this test method is _____

 If the concrete contains aggregate larger than the maximum allowed for this test, the sample must be

- 11. When rodding the concrete sample, what is the specified number of strokes required for each layer
- 13. In rodding the sample, how deep should the rod penetrate each layer?
- 14. Area routing dath layer, what should be done to the measure before adong another layer or concrete?
- each layer?
- final layer?
- What must be done if there is an excessive amount of concrete in the measure tollowing consolidation
 of the final layer?

Answers to study questions are included in Appendix D

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1. What are the required characteristics of the tamping rod used in this test method?

Round, straight steel rod, with a 5/8" diameter, at least 4" greater than the depth of the measuring bowl, but not greater than 24" in length, with the tamping end rounded to a hemispherical tip.

2. What tools may be used to strike off the top surface of the concrete following consolidation of the final layer?

A strike-off bar; a metal, glass or acrylic plate

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ASTM C173 AIR CONTENT (VOLUMETRIC METHOD)



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ASTMC173 AIR CONTENT (VOLUMETRIC METHOD)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=48oTYbI0378&t=285s

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ASTM C173 AIR CONTENT (VOLUMETRIC METHOD)

Ξ	STUDY QUESTIONS
	ASTM C173 Air Content of Freshly Mixed Concrete by the Volumetric Method
1.	The volumetric method of determining air content of concrete can be used on concrete containing what types of aggregate?
2.	What are the requirements for the temping rod used in this test method?
3.	What are the requirements for the strike-off bar used in this test method?
4.	What is the approximate volume of the measuring cup used to add water to the air meter, in relation to the volume of the air meter bowl?
5.	What type of alcohol and concentration must be used in this test method?
6.	A mallet weighing must be used to tap the sides of the bowl after rodding each layer.
7.	The sample of concrete used in this test method must be obtained in accordance with what ASTM Standard?
8.	The maximum size aggregate allowed in this test method is
9.	If the concrete sample contains aggregate larger than that allowed for this test, the sample must be
10	When filling the bowl of the air meter, the concrete must be placed in layers of equal depth.
11.	What is the specified number of strokes required when rodding each layer of concrete?
12	It is necessary to tap the sides of the bowl after each layer has been rodded. True or False?
13.	The initial quantity of water and alcohol added to the air meter can be poured directly into the neck of the top section of the air meter. True or False?
14	Upon final filling of the air meter with water, what part of the liquid level should be adjusted to the zero mark on the meter?
15.	How long should the air meter be inverted and agitated?
16.	How many times does the rolling operation occur?
17.	Why is the isopropyl alcohol added to the meter?
18.	The direct reading of the final liquid level in the neck of the air meter, is estimated to the nearest
19.	If the air content is greater than the 9% range of the meter,
20.	In order for an initial meter reading to be valid, the motor must not be leaking, the liquid level must stabilize within 6 minutes, and the foam on the surface of the liquid must be less than 2 full percent

21.	If less than 2.5 pints of alcohol are used, the air content is always indicated by the final meter : True or False?	eadir
22.	If more than 2.5 pints of alcohol are used, the final meter reading is always adjusted using _	
23.	When large amounts of alcohol are used, the direct reading will tend to indicate a contant.	ai
24.	At the end of the procedure, the air meter is	
25.	If portions of undisturbed concrete are found in the air meter at the end of the test,	*
	Answers to study questions are included in Appendix D	
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1. This test can be used on concrete containing what types of aggregate?

All types of aggregate

- 2. What type of alcohol must be used in this test method? Isopropyl
- 3. The initial quantity of water and alcohol added to the air meter can be poured directly into the neck of the top section of the air meter. True or False?

False; the funnel must be used

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ASTM C31 MAKING AND CURING TEST SPECIMENS



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ASTM C31 MAKING AND CURING TEST SPECIMENS

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YvMWCSVIzVI

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BEAMS

- Test Beams have been recently added to this standard.
- Currently no beam questions on the test
- Expect beam questions soon!

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ASTM C31 MAKING AND CURING TEST SPECIMENS



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MAX AGGREGATE SIZES

Test Procedure Max Size Agg Wet Sieve Size Slump 1-1/2" 1-1/2"
Unit Weight N/A N/A
Pressure Air 2" 1-1/2"
Volumetric Air 1-1/2" 1"

1/3 of Diameter

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Cylinders

PRIORITIZE AND EXECUTE

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1. EACH QUESTION HAS ONE (1) CORRECT OR BEST ANSWER.

- a. Answer is written in the box.
- b. If you change an answer, completely erase it Do <u>NOT</u> cross off the answer and then write the correct answer next to the crossed off answer. Write the correct answer in the box.

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2. READ THE ENTIRE QUESTION

Circle or underline the key words in the question.

EXAMPLE:

Which of the following is not a part of the definition of the slump cone rod?

- A. 5/8 inch (16 mm) diameter.
- B. Hemispherical tipped end.
- C. Straight steel rod.
- D. 48 inch (1200 mm) length.

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3. READ ALL THE OPTIONS BEFORE SELECTING THE "CORRECT" ANSWER.

Some questions have more than one answer. Make sure you read all the options.

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EXAMPLE:

Which of the following is part of the description of the slump cone rod?

- A. 5/8 inch (16 mm) diameter.
- B. Hemispherical tipped end.
- C. Straight steel rod.
- D. All of the above.

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4. ANSWER THE QUESTIONS YOU KNOW FIRST.

DO NOT GET HUNG UP ON THE QUESTIONS YOU DO NOT KNOW THE ANSWERS.

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5. WHEN YOU DON'T KNOW THE CORRECT ANSWER, ELIMINATE THE ANSWERS YOU KNOW ARE WRONG. THIS INCREASES YOUR CHANCES FOR SUCCESS.

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6. MAKE SURE YOU ARE PUTTING THE ANSWERS IN THE CORRECT BOX.

I recommend that you answer the questions in the exam book, <u>then</u> put answers on the answer sheet.

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7. AFTER COMPLETING THE TEST, GO BACK OVER AND DO THE ENTIRE TEST AGAIN. IT WILL GO FASTER AND YOU CAN MAKE SURE ALL YOUR ANSWERS ARE FILLED IN CORRECTLY.

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8. TAKE A DEEP BREATH, REMEMBER.

YOU HAVE STUDIED THIS MATERIAL. YOU GOT THIS!

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FIELD GRADE I

The sponsoring group may or may not have a review class.

If offered take it! However, do **NOT** depend on the review class to pass this exam.

You must be pro-active and put time and effort into passing the exam!

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GAME PLAN FOR SUCCESS

- Have current ASTM Standards.
- Have current ACI Concrete Field Testing Technician Grade I Technician Workbook CP-1.
- 3. Make blank copies of study questions and sample exam. Test yourself over and over.
- Watch videos on You tube.
- 5. Do each test with an experienced technician.
- 6. Practice, Practice, Practice!!!!
- 7. Know the STUDY QUESTIONS!

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RECERTIFICATION

- This ACI certification expires in 5 years
- Must retake the exam every 5 years to remain certified.
- Gets easier every time!

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What is your

WHY?

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ANY QUESTIONS?



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PREPARING FOR AN ACI FIELD TECHNICIAN CERTIFICATION

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