

Specification for  
**Portland cement**

## Committees responsible for this British Standard

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- British Aggregate Construction Materials Industries
- British Cement Association
- British Precast Concrete Federation
- British Ready Mixed Concrete Association
- Cement Admixtures Association
- Cementitious Slag Makers' Association
- County Surveyors' Society
- Department of the Environment (Building Research Establishment)
- Department of Transport (Highways Agency)
- Electricity Association
- National Rivers Authority
- Quality Ash Association
- Society of Chemical Industry

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# Contents

	Page
Committees responsible	Inside front cover
Foreword	ii
<hr/>	
1 Scope	1
2 References	1
3 Definitions	1
4 Cement	1
5 Constituents	1
6 Composition and notation	2
7 Compressive strength	2
8 Physical properties	3
9 Chemical properties	3
10 Marking	3
11 Information to be provided	3
12 Sampling and testing for acceptance inspection at delivery	3
13 Special Portland cements	4
<hr/>	
Annex A (informative) Conformity criteria (cement manufacturer's autocontrol)	5
Annex B (informative) Compositional requirements for all cement types	8
Annex C (informative) Product guidance	9
<hr/>	
Table 1 — Compressive strength	2
Table 2 — Chemical properties	4
Table 3 — Acceptance inspection limits	4
Table A.1 — Minimum testing frequencies	6
Table A.2 — Parameters determining the conformity procedure	7
Table A.3 — Major defects	7
Table A.4 — Acceptability constant $k_A$	8
Table A.5 — Acceptable number of defects $c_A$	8
Table B.1 — Extreme compositional possibilities	9
<hr/>	
List of references	Inside back cover

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## Foreword

This edition of this British Standard has been prepared by Subcommittee B/516/6. It introduces technical changes but it does not reflect a full review or revision of the standard, which will be undertaken in due course. It is based on the work of Technical Committee 51, Cement and building limes, of the European Committee for Standardization (CEN), which has prepared a European Prestandard specification for cements published as DD ENV 197-1. As an intrinsic part of this activity, CEN has published EN 196, a series of methods of testing cement, which the UK is implementing to replace the relevant Parts of BS 4550. In consequence, this British Standard specifies requirements in terms of the test procedures in EN 196. It supersedes BS 12:1991 which is withdrawn. The requirements for compressive strength, physical and chemical properties are specified as characteristic values and conformity is assessed by means of a statistical procedure for continuous inspection operated by the cement manufacturer (autocontrol) (see annex A). This includes the concept of "major defects" which are "likely to reduce materially the usability of the cement for its intended purpose". However, DD ENV 197-1 is considered to be inappropriate for the manufacture of cement in the UK and the annex therefore incorporates several footnotes identifying specific aspects. In particular, it is assumed, for this edition of this British Standard, that some limits are required for acceptance inspection. Clause 12 therefore gives appropriate values which in several cases are more stringent than those for major defects given in annex A. The strength requirements are based on the BS EN 196-1 mortar prism test at 28 days. In addition to the two classes of standard strength, 32.5 and 42.5, each with two subclasses of early strength, this British Standard includes two higher classes of standard strength, 52.5 and 62.5, to cover all Portland cements available in the UK (see Table 1). It should be noted that for prescribed or standard mixes, as described in BS 5328-1, unless the cement content is increased appropriately, the use of cements of the 32.5 standard strength class will lead to concrete of lower compressive strength and may reduce durability, compared with cements of a higher strength class.

This revision introduces the following changes.

- a) Compositional requirements are expressed as a percentage of the total mass of the constituents but excluding calcium sulfate and any additives. This departure from the traditional method of calculation in the UK is fully explained in annex B.
- b) Requirements are not specified for fineness, but the note to 13.1 describes how specialist users in the UK can order a controlled fineness Portland cement having a small agreed range of fineness.
- c) Guidance on the use of cement has been retained and attention is drawn to the safety precautions recommended in annex C when working with cement. Cement will partially hydrate when exposed to water vapour; annex C also includes guidance on storage.

Other British Standards for cement, i.e. BS 146, BS 4027, BS 4246, BS 6588, BS 6610 and BS 7583, have been revised at the same time.

*Product certification.* Purchasers are recommended to specify cement manufactured and supplied to a nationally recognized third party product certification scheme.

A British Standard does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users of British Standards are responsible for their correct application.

**Compliance with a British Standard does not of itself confer immunity from legal obligations.**

#### **Summary of pages**

This document comprises a front cover, an inside front cover, pages i to iv, pages 1 to 10, an inside back cover and a back cover.

This standard has been updated (see copyright date) and may have had amendments incorporated. This will be indicated in the amendment table on the inside front cover.



## 1 Scope

This British Standard<sup>1)</sup> specifies requirements for the composition and the manufacture and for the strength, physical and chemical properties of Portland cement as characteristic values.

Requirements for marking, provision of information, sampling and testing for acceptance at delivery and for special Portland cements are also specified. It specifies the procedures for the manufacturer's autocontrol system to ensure conformity.

## 2 References

### 2.1 Normative references

This British Standard incorporates, by reference, provisions from specific editions of other publications. These normative references are made at the appropriate points in the text and the publications are listed on the inside back cover.

Subsequent amendments to, or revisions of, any of these publications apply to this British Standard only when incorporated in it by updating or revision.

### 2.2 Informative references

This British Standard refers to other publications that provide information or guidance. Editions of these publications current at the time of issue of this standard are listed on the inside back cover, but reference should be made to the latest editions.

## 3 Definitions

For the purposes of this British Standard the definitions in BS 6100-6.1 apply together with the following.

### 3.1 characteristic value

that value of a property corresponding to an acceptable percentage of defects, generally 10 % but 5 % for the lower strength limits

## 4 Cement

NOTE 1 Cement is a hydraulic binder, i.e. it is a finely ground inorganic material which, when mixed with water, forms a paste which sets and hardens by means of hydration reactions and processes and which, after hardening, retains its strength and stability even under water.

Cement conforming to this British Standard shall, when appropriately batched and mixed with aggregate and water, be capable of producing mortar or concrete which retains workability for a sufficient time and shall after defined periods attain specified strength levels and also possess long-term volume stability.

NOTE 2 Hydraulic hardening of cement conforming to this British Standard is primarily due to the hydration of calcium silicates<sup>2)</sup>, but other chemical compounds may also participate in the hardening process, e.g. aluminates.

The sum of the proportions of reactive calcium oxide (CaO)<sup>3)</sup> and reactive silicon dioxide (SiO<sub>2</sub>)<sup>4)</sup> shall be not less than 50 % (*m/m*).

Cement conforming to this British Standard ultimately consists of individual small grains of different materials but it shall be statistically homogeneous in composition. A high degree of uniformity in all cement properties shall be obtained through continuous mass production processes, in particular adequate grinding and homogenization processes.

NOTE 3 Qualified and skilled personnel and the facilities to test, evaluate and adjust product quality are essential for producing cement conforming to this British Standard.

During the cement manufacturing process and its control, the composition of the cement shall be kept within the limits specified in this British Standard.

## 5 Constituents

### 5.1 Portland cement clinker

Portland cement clinker is a hydraulic material which shall consist of not less than two-thirds by mass of calcium silicates ((CaO)<sub>3</sub>SiO<sub>2</sub> and (CaO)<sub>2</sub>SiO<sub>2</sub>), the remainder containing aluminium oxide (Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>), iron oxide (Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>) and other oxides. The ratio by mass (CaO)/(SiO<sub>2</sub>) shall be not less than 2.0. The content of magnesium oxide (MgO) shall not exceed 5.0 % (*m/m*).

<sup>1)</sup> Other types of cement standardized in the UK are specified in BS 146, BS 915, BS 1370, BS 4027, BS 4246, BS 4248, BS 6588, BS 6610 and BS 7583.

<sup>2)</sup> There are also cements whose hardening is mainly due to other compounds, e.g. calcium aluminate in high alumina cement.

<sup>3)</sup> Reactive calcium oxide (CaO) is considered to be only that fraction of the CaO which under normal hardening conditions can form calcium silicate hydrates or calcium aluminate hydrates. To evaluate this fraction, the total CaO content is to be reduced by the part calculated as calcium carbonate (CaCO<sub>3</sub>) on the basis of the measured carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) content and the part calculated as calcium sulfate (CaSO<sub>4</sub>) on the basis of the measured sulfate content (expressed as SO<sub>3</sub>) disregarding the SO<sub>3</sub> taken up by alkalis.

<sup>4)</sup> Reactive silicon dioxide (SiO<sub>2</sub>) is defined as that fraction of the SiO<sub>2</sub> which, after treatment with hydrochloric acid (HCl), is soluble in boiling potassium hydroxide (KOH) solution. The quantity of reactive SiO<sub>2</sub> is determined by subtracting from the total SiO<sub>2</sub> content (see 13.9 of BS EN 196-2:1995) that fraction of the SiO<sub>2</sub> contained in the insoluble residue (see clause 10 of BS EN 196-2:1995), both on a dry basis.

Portland cement clinker shall be made by burning, at least to sintering, a precisely specified mixture of raw materials (raw meal, paste or slurry) containing  $\text{CaO}$ ,  $\text{SiO}_2$ ,  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  and small quantities of other materials. The raw meal, paste or slurry shall be finely divided, intimately mixed and therefore homogeneous.

### 5.2 Minor additional constituents

Minor additional constituents if present shall be one or more of granulated blastfurnace slag, natural pozzolana, pulverized-fuel ash (fly ash) or filler.

NOTE 1 The minor additional constituents should not promote corrosion of the reinforcement or impair the properties of the cement or of the mortar or concrete made from the cement.

NOTE 2 Granulated blastfurnace slag is made by rapid cooling of a slag melt of suitable composition, as obtained in smelting iron ore in a blastfurnace.

Natural pozzolanas are usually substances of volcanic origin or sedimentary rocks with appropriate chemical and mineralogical composition.

Fly ash is obtained by electrostatic or mechanical precipitation of dust-like particles from the flue gases from furnaces fired with pulverized hard coal. Ash obtained by other methods is not considered in this British Standard.

For the purposes of this British Standard, the term "filler" covers any natural or artificial inorganic mineral materials other than blastfurnace slag, natural pozzolana or pulverized-fuel ash, e.g. calcareous materials, which, after appropriate preparation, due to their particle size distribution, improve the physical properties of the cement (such as workability or concrete bleeding).

### 5.3 Calcium sulfate

Calcium sulfate shall be added in small quantities to the other constituents of cement during its manufacture in order to control setting.

NOTE Calcium sulfate can be gypsum (calcium sulfate dihydrate,  $\text{CaSO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ), hemihydrate (partially dehydrated gypsum,  $\text{CaSO}_4 \cdot \frac{1}{2}\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ) or anhydrite (anhydrous calcium sulfate,  $\text{CaSO}_4$ ) or any mixture of them. Gypsum and anhydrite are found naturally. Calcium sulfate is also available as a by-product of certain industrial processes.

### 5.4 Additives

If the total quantity of additives exceeds 1.0 % (*m/m*) of the cement, the type and quantity shall be stated on the packaging and/or on the delivery note.

NOTE 1 These additives are constituents not specified in 5.1 to 5.3 which are added to improve the manufacture or the properties of the cement, e.g. grinding aids. They should not promote corrosion of the reinforcement or impair the properties of the cement or of the mortar or concrete made from the cement.

NOTE 2 The total quantity of additives should not exceed 1.0 % (*m/m*).

## 6 Composition and notation

### 6.1 Composition

The composition of the "nucleus" (see B.1) of Portland cement shall be as follows:

Portland cement clinker	95 % ( <i>m/m</i> ) to 100 % ( <i>m/m</i> )
Minor additional constituents	0 % ( <i>m/m</i> ) to 5 % ( <i>m/m</i> )

NOTE For clarity in definition, calcium sulfate (see 5.3) and additives (see 5.4) are excluded. The final cement is to be understood as the nucleus plus the necessary calcium sulfate and any additives to the cement.

### 6.2 Notation

Portland cement shall be identified by at least the name, i.e. Portland cement, controlled fineness Portland cement or pigmented Portland cement, a figure indicating the standard strength class (see note 1 to Table 1) and a letter indicating the subclass of early strength (see note 2 to Table 1).

## 7 Compressive strength

The compressive strength, determined in accordance with BS EN 196-1, shall conform to Table 1.

Table 1 — Compressive strength

Strength class	Early strength		Standard strength	
	2 day	7 day	28 day	
	N/mm <sup>2</sup>	N/mm <sup>2</sup>	N/mm <sup>2</sup>	N/mm <sup>2</sup>
32.5N	—	≥ 16	≥ 32.5	≤ 52.5
32.5R	≥ 10	—		
42.5N	≥ 10	—	≥ 42.5	≤ 62.5
42.5R	≥ 20	—		
52.5N	≥ 20	—	≥ 52.5	≤ 72.5
62.5N	≥ 20	—	≥ 62.5	—

NOTE 1 The standard strength of cement is the compressive strength determined in accordance with BS EN 196-1 at 28 days.

Four classes of standard strength are covered: class 32.5, class 42.5, class 52.5 and class 62.5.

The classification of a cement according to standard strength is indicated by the figure 32.5, 42.5, 52.5 or 62.5.

NOTE 2 The early strength of cement is the compressive strength determined in accordance with BS EN 196-1 at either 2 days or 7 days.

Two subclasses of early strength are defined for standard strength classes 32.5 and 42.5, a class with ordinary early strength and a class with high early strength.

The classification of a cement according to early strength is indicated by the letter N or R, for ordinary or high early strength respectively, following the figure indicating the standard strength class.



## 8 Physical properties

### 8.1 Initial setting time

The initial setting time, determined in accordance with BS EN 196-3, shall be not less than 60 min for the 32.5N, 32.5R, 42.5N and 42.5R strength classes nor less than 45 min for the 52.5N and 62.5N strength classes.

### 8.2 Soundness

The expansion, determined in accordance with BS EN 196-3, shall be not more than 10 mm.

## 9 Chemical properties

The properties shall conform to Table 2 when tested in accordance with the tests referred to in column 2 of Table 2. The chemical properties for pigmented Portland cement shall be as specified in 13.2.

## 10 Marking

Portland cement shall be marked on the bag or the delivery note, and on any test certificate, with the following particulars:

- the name, trade mark or other means of identification of the manufacturer to facilitate traceability to the works in which the cement was manufactured;
- the name and strength class of the material, e.g. Portland cement, class 42.5R;
- the number and date of this British Standard, i.e. BS 12:1996<sup>5)</sup>.

## 11 Information to be provided

### 11.1 Test certificate

If a test certificate is requested, it shall be provided and shall include results of the following tests on samples of the cement relating to the material delivered:

- compressive strength at either 2 days or 7 days as appropriate, and also at 28 days, obtained from tests on mortar prisms in accordance with BS EN 196-1 (see clause 7);
- initial setting time (see 8.1);
- soundness (see 8.2);
- chloride content (see clause 9);
- type and quantity of additives, if exceeding 1.0 % (*m/m*) (see 5.4).

NOTE The certificate should be available from the manufacturer.

### 11.2 Additional information

The following information shall also be made available, if requested at the time of ordering, relating to the material delivered:

- the type and quantity of any minor additional constituent;
- the fineness;
- the silicon dioxide, aluminium oxide, iron (III) oxide, calcium oxide and magnesium oxide contents of the clinker;
- the sulfate content expressed as SO<sub>3</sub> (see clause 9);
- an indication of the variability of the chloride content when its mean level exceeds 0.05 % (*m/m*);
- the alkali content, expressed as the certified sodium oxide equivalent averaged over the manufacturer's latest 25 consecutive composite samples, together with an indication of its variability;
- for pigmented cements, the target mean pigment content.

## 12 Sampling and testing for acceptance inspection at delivery

12.1 For assessing conformity at delivery, when requested a spot sample of the cement shall be taken in accordance with 3.6 and 6.2, 6.3, 6.4 or 6.5 of BS EN 196-7:1992 either before, or at the time of, delivery. A laboratory sample shall be prepared and packed in accordance with clauses 8 and 9 of BS EN 196-7:1992. A sampling report shall be completed at the time of sampling and shall be attached to the laboratory sample in accordance with clause 10 of BS EN 196-7:1992.

NOTE Testing may be delayed for up to 5 weeks from the time of sampling provided that there is confirmation that the sample has been stored continuously in the manner described in 9.2 of BS EN 196-7:1992.

12.2 When the cement is tested for strength (see clause 7), unless otherwise agreed between the purchaser and the manufacturer, the pit/quarry from which the CEN Standard sand is obtained and the compaction procedure to be used shall be those in use by the manufacturer at the time when the cement was originally tested.

12.3 When the cement is tested for chemical properties (see clause 9) the sample shall be prepared by the method described in clause 6 of BS EN 196-2:1995.

<sup>5)</sup> Marking BS 12:1996 on or in relation to a product represents a manufacturer's declaration of conformity, i.e. a claim by or on behalf of the manufacturer that the product meets the requirements of the standard. The accuracy of the claim is therefore solely the responsibility of the person making the claim. Such a declaration is not to be confused with third party certification of conformity.

Table 2 — Chemical properties

1	2	3	4
Property	Test reference	Strength class	Requirement <sup>a</sup> % (m/m)
Loss on ignition	Clause 7 of BS EN 196-2:1995	All classes	≤ 3.0 (≤ 5.0 if calcareous minor constituent included)
Insoluble residue	Clause 9 of BS EN 196-2:1995	All classes	≤ 1.5 (≤ 5.0 if minor constituent included)
Sulfate (expressed as SO <sub>3</sub> )	Clause 8 of BS EN 196-2:1995	All classes	≤ 3.5
Chloride	Clause 4 of BS EN 196-21:1992	All classes	≤ 0.10 <sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Requirements are given as percentages by mass of the final cement.  
<sup>b</sup> BS 5328-1 and BS 8110-1 give recommendations for the maximum total chloride content of the concrete mix for various applications.

12.4 The limiting values applicable to acceptance inspection shall be those given in Table 3.

NOTE These values are, in general, based on the "major defects", defined in annex A which, however, does not contain values of deviation for strength upper limit, loss on ignition and insoluble residue.

Table 3 — Acceptance inspection limits

Property	Deviation from the requirements in clauses 7, 8 and 9 in excess of
Strength lower limit 28 day	- 2.5 N/mm <sup>2</sup>
2 day	- 2.0 N/mm <sup>2</sup>
(7 day)	
Strength upper limit 28 day	+ 4.0 N/mm <sup>2</sup>
Initial setting time	- 15 min
Soundness	+ 1 mm
Loss on ignition	+ 0.1 % (m/m)
Insoluble residue	+ 0.1 % (m/m)
Sulfate content	+ 0.1 % (m/m)
Chloride content	+ 0.01 % (m/m)

NOTE The deviation for sulfate content of 0.1 % (m/m) in this table for acceptance inspection limits is reduced from the value of 0.5 % (m/m) in Table A.3 for major defects.

## 13 Special Portland cements

### 13.1 Controlled fineness Portland cement

Controlled fineness Portland cement shall conform to this British Standard and, in addition, its fineness shall lie within a range to be agreed between the manufacturer and the purchaser.

NOTE For many years there had been a demand by specialist users for a cement which makes it easier to remove excess water from the concrete during compaction. In some applications the fineness of the cement is more critical than its compressive strength; as a result controlled fineness Portland cement was introduced into BS 12:1989, defined as a "Portland cement having a specific surface controlled within a small agreed range that usually lies below that for ordinary Portland cement".

### 13.2 Pigmented Portland cement

Pigmented Portland cement shall be deemed to conform to this British Standard provided that:

- the pigments comply with BS 1014;
- the chemical composition of the Portland cement constituent, excluding pigment, conforms to clause 9 of this British Standard;
- the cement as a whole, including pigment, conforms to this British Standard with the exception of 6.1 and clause 9.

NOTE The quantity of pigmented cement used in a concrete or mortar mix may need to be greater than that of an unpigmented cement to take account of the amount of pigment present.

## Annex A (informative) Conformity criteria (cement manufacturer's autocontrol)

NOTE This annex is based on the text of clause 10 "Conformity criteria" from the June 1989 draft European Prestandard specification for cements, which has been retained in ENV 197-1. However, some of the details are considered to be inappropriate for the manufacture of cement in the UK and the annex therefore incorporates several footnotes identifying these aspects.

In particular, the concept of "major defects" (see A.6), i.e. a non-conformity with a requirement "which is likely to reduce materially the usability of the cement for the intended purpose", is not considered to form a meaningful part of a statistically controlled autocontrol system operated by the cement manufacturer. However, a method for assessment by the purchaser of compliance at delivery has been incorporated into clause 11.

### A.1 Introduction

A.1.1 A statistically formulated conformity criterion includes three elements as follows:

- a) a definition of the requirement in terms of characteristic value, as given in clauses 7, 8 and 9;
- b) the acceptable percentage  $P_a$  of defects or, in other words, the fractile of the normal (Gaussian) distribution to which the characteristic value corresponds. In this standard, this is the 10 % fractile or, for the lower strength limits, the 5 % fractile;
- c) the probability of acceptance of a lot<sup>6)</sup> of cement which does not conform to the requirements.

A sampling inspection procedure can only produce an approximate value for the percentage of defects in a lot. The bigger the sample, the better the approximation. The probability of acceptance, also named consumer's risk, controls the degree of approximation by the sampling plan and in this case shall be 5 % for the continuous inspection which is the basis for the assessment of conformity.

A.1.2 The conformity criteria for continuous inspection (see A.3, A.4 and A.5) are based upon the principles of A.1.1. The European Prestandard specification for cements contains, however, an additional conformity criterion of a different type. In order to provide means for the rejection of cement which is likely to reduce materially the usability of the cement for the intended purpose, the prestandard specifies (see A.6) that a quantity of cement containing one or more so-called major defects does not conform to the requirements<sup>7)</sup>.

### A.2 Application of conformity procedures

A.2.1 Conformity of cements to this standard should be continuously assessed. In consequence this standard specifies that the conformity of such cements should be verified by means of a statistical quality control scheme based upon continuous inspection of the manufactured cement. This inspection is operated by the cement producer (autocontrol).

NOTE International or national regulations may require the autocontrol of cements to be monitored by an officially recognized testing laboratory.

Terms of delivery or other contractual conditions, normally included in documents exchanged between the supplier and the purchaser of cement, are outside the scope of this standard.

A.2.2 The European Prestandard specification for cements does not deal with acceptance inspection at delivery<sup>8)</sup>. However, application in this standard of the principles of statistical quality control puts some constraints on any additional acceptance inspection at delivery of cements which have been found to conform to this standard according to A.3, A.4 and A.5 on continuous inspection.

A sampling plan for additional acceptance inspection at delivery of a cement should not be allowed to increase the producer's risk of rejection to a higher value than that deduced from the scheme of continuous inspection, according to A.3, A.4 and A.5.

Pending additional standards on acceptance and other terms of delivery for cements, specification of additional acceptance inspection at delivery has not been dealt with in the European Prestandard specification for cements.

<sup>6)</sup> For the purposes of this standard a lot is defined as a quantity of cement produced under conditions presumed uniform. After specified tests, this quantity is regarded as a whole "conforming" or "not conforming" to the requirements.

<sup>7)</sup> For the purposes of this standard the concept of "major defects" is not considered to be a meaningful part of a statistically controlled autocontrol system operated by the cement manufacturer (see footnote to A.6) which is to be assessed as in A.7. Clause 12 gives the method for assessment by the purchaser of conformity at delivery.

<sup>8)</sup> Acceptance inspection at delivery has been included in this British Standard. The relevant requirements are given in clause 12 and may increase the producer's risk of rejection beyond that of the autocontrol procedure.

**A.3 General procedure for assessing conformity with the characteristic values**

**A.3.1** The assessment should be based upon continuous sampling inspection using spot samples<sup>9)</sup> of cement taken in accordance with BS EN 196-7.

**A.3.2** The continuous inspection should take place at the cement plant and be operated by the producer (autocontrol).

The series of samples used for assessing the conformity should be taken over a period of not less than 6 months and not more than 12 months except in the cases<sup>10)</sup> of a new factory or a new type or strength class of cement at an existing factory.

Minimum testing frequencies are specified in Table A.1.

**Table A.1 — Minimum testing frequencies**

Property	Number of samples
Strength	2 per week
Sulfate content	
Initial setting time	
Soundness	
Chloride content	1 per month
Loss on ignition	
Insoluble residue	

**A.3.3** An observed test value which does not comply with the appropriate values in clauses 7, 8 and 9 is characterized as a defect. The European Prestandard distinguishes between minor and major defects. Separate limits are specified for major defects (see A.6).

**A.4 Conformity criteria and procedure for strength**

**A.4.1** The strength requirements of clause 7 comprise:

- 28 day strength, lower limit (*L*) and upper limit (*U*);
- 2 (or 7) day strength, lower limit (*L*).

**A.4.2** In the case of the strength requirements, the conformity procedure is based upon sampling inspection by variables<sup>11)</sup>.

In principle, the overall percentage of defects in the lot from which samples are taken is estimated from the test results. Conformity requires that the estimate does not exceed the acceptable percentage of defects.

NOTE For practical calculations the so-called acceptability constant,  $k_A$ , is used for the evaluation of conformity instead of the percentage of defects (see A.7.2).

**A.4.3** The sampling plan (including the number of single spot samples to be taken) is established by means of the following two parameters which are tabulated in Table A.2:

- a) acceptable overall percentage of defects;
- b) acceptable consumer's risk.

The two parameters together are used for the selection of sampling plans for continuous autocontrol.

Some convenient sampling plans for inspection by variables have been collected in A.7. Any other plan satisfying the values in Table A.2 is, in principle, acceptable for the conformity procedure.

**A.5 Conformity criteria and procedure for physical and chemical properties**

**A.5.1** Clauses 8 and 9 specify requirements for the following properties:

- a) physical properties:
  - 1) initial setting time;
  - 2) soundness;
- b) chemical properties:
  - 1) loss on ignition;
  - 2) insoluble residue;
  - 3) sulfate content;
  - 4) chloride content.

Conformity should be assessed for one property at a time.

<sup>9)</sup> A spot sample is defined as a sample taken at the same time and from one and the same place, relating to the intended tests. It can be obtained by combining one or more immediately consecutive increments.

<sup>10)</sup> In these cases, the period for assessing the conformity should be declared by the manufacturer on the certificate but should not be less than 2 weeks.

<sup>11)</sup> A.7.2 gives the relevant assessment criteria for inspection by variables.

Table A.2 — Parameters determining the conformity procedure

	2 (or 7) day and 28 day strength (lower limit $L$ )	28 day strength (upper limit $L$ )	Physical and chemical properties (all limits)
Continuous inspection procedure	By variables	By variables	By attributes (by variables is allowed)
Percentage of defects, $P_a$	5 %	10 %	10 %
Consumer's risk	5 %	5 %	5 %

NOTE In the European Prestandard specification for cements, sampling plans for additional acceptance inspection at delivery of a consignment of cement are, in accordance with A.2.2, chosen on the basis of the producer's risk instead of the consumer's risk. The consumer's risk is represented by a point on the operating characteristic curve corresponding to a predetermined low probability of acceptance (in this annex, 5 %).  
The producer's risk is represented by a point on the operating characteristic curve corresponding to a predetermined low probability of rejection (in this annex, 5 %).  
This note is not appropriate to this British Standard.

**A.5.2** In the case of the physical and chemical requirements, the conformity procedure is based upon sampling inspection by attributes<sup>12)</sup>.

The number of defective items is counted and compared with an estimated number of defects, calculated from the number of tests and the specified acceptable overall percentage of defects.

In order to improve inspection efficiency, the cement producer is allowed to employ inspection by variables (see A.4). This is preferable for sulfate content and initial setting time, and for chloride content in the case where this is close to the specified limit.

**A.5.3** The sampling plan (including the number of spot samples to be taken) is established on the same basis as in A.4 (see also Table A.2).

Some convenient sampling plans for inspection by attributes have been collected in A.7. Any other plan satisfying the values in Table A.2 is, in principle, acceptable for the conformity procedure.

#### **A.6 Limits for major defects**<sup>13)</sup>

A quantity of cement yielding one or more major defective samples does not conform to the requirements of the European Prestandard specification for cements.

In general terms, a major defect is defined as a deviation from the requirements in clauses 7, 8 and 9 so large that the usability of the cement for its intended purpose is likely to be reduced and that in extreme cases even failure may be produced.

Table A.3 presents a more specific definition for the different properties. If a test result deviates by more than the value in this table it is denoted major defective.

Table A.3 — Major defects

Property	Deviation from the requirements in clauses 7, 8 and 9 in excess of
Strength lower limit 28 day 2 day (7 day)	- 2.5 N/mm <sup>2</sup> - 2.0 N/mm <sup>2</sup>
Strength upper limit 28 day	Value of deviation not specified
Initial setting time	- 15 min
Soundness	+ 1 mm
Loss on ignition	Value of deviation not specified
Sulfate content	+ 0.5 % (m/m)
Chloride content	+ 0.01 % (m/m)
Insoluble residue	Value of deviation not specified

#### **A.7 Sampling plans**

##### **A.7.1 General**

This clause contains a number of sampling plans for the following two alternatives which satisfy the conditions of Table A.2. The alternatives are as follows:

- continuous inspection by variables;
- continuous inspection by attributes.

The number of samples and the minimum testing frequency are specified in Table A.1.

<sup>12)</sup> A.7.3 gives the relevant assessment criteria to be used for inspection by attributes.

<sup>13)</sup> The limits for major defects are not appropriate to this British Standard.

**A.7.2 Inspection by variables**

In this case the mean value  $\bar{x}$ , and the standard deviation,  $s$ , of the complete series of test results (one result per sample) are calculated. The conformity criteria are:

$$\bar{x} - k_A s \geq L$$

and

$$\bar{x} + k_A s \leq U$$

where

$k_A$  is the acceptability constant;

$L$  is the specified lower limit;

$U$  is the specified upper limit.

The acceptability constant  $k_A$  depends on the parameters specified in Table A.2 and on the number of test results ( $n$ ). Values of  $k_A$  are listed in Table A.4.

**Table A.4 — Acceptability constant  $k_A$**

$n$	$P_a = 5\%$	$P_a = 10\%$
40 to 49	2.13	1.70
50 to 59	2.07	1.65
60 to 79	2.02	1.61
80 to 99	1.97	1.56
100 to 149	1.93	1.53
150 to 199	1.87	1.48
$\geq 200$	1.84	1.45

**A.7.3 Inspection by attributes**

In this case the number  $c_D$  of defective test results (one result per sample) in the complete series of samples is counted.

The conformity is checked by the equation:

$$c_D \leq c_A$$

where the acceptable number of defects  $c_A$  depends on the parameters specified in Table A.2 and on the number  $n$  of test results. Values of  $c_A$  are listed in Table A.5.

**Table A.5 — Acceptable number of defects  $c_A$**

$n$	$c_A$
0 to 39	0
40 to 54	1
55 to 69	2
70 to 84	3
85 to 99	4
100 to 109	5

NOTE If  $n \geq 110$ ,  $c_A = 0.075(n - 30)$ .

**Annex B (informative)****Compositional requirements for all cement types**

**B.1** The constituents of any cement type may comprise:

- Portland cement clinker;
- other main constituents such as granulated blastfurnace slag, natural pozzolana, pulverized-fuel ash or limestone (not applicable to the Portland cement specified in this British Standard);
- minor additional constituents (materials not used as a main constituent);
- calcium sulfate (gypsum or anhydrite or other forms of calcium sulfate, or any combination of them);
- additives.

The British Standard specifications for cement now adopt the common European convention of assuming that the sum of a), b) and c) amounts to 100%. This is referred to as the cement nucleus. The alternative approach, which is no longer adopted in the British Standards, would regard the sum of a) to e) as amounting to 100%.

**B.2** Calcium sulfate and any additives typically amount to about 5% ( $m/m$ ) of the final cement and Table B.1 illustrates the extreme compositional possibilities using the method of calculation given in the British Standards. The bracketed values are those which would be obtained if the calculation were based on the sum of all constituents amounting to 100%.

**B.3** It is important to note that the calculations based on the cement nucleus refer only to compositional requirements. The chemical requirements specified in the British Standards are given as percentages of the final cement, i.e. cement nucleus plus calcium sulfate and any additives.

Table B.1 — Extreme compositional possibilities

British Standard	Clinker (see B.1 a))  (Minimum)	Other main constituent (see B.1 b))		Minor additional constituents (see B.1 c))  (Maximum)	Calcium sulfate plus additives (see B.1 d)) and e))  Typical
		Current edition <sup>a</sup> (Maximum)	1989 edition (Maximum)		
BS 12	% 95 (90.4)	% 0	% 0	% 5 (4.8)	% 5 (4.8)
BS 146	65 (62.0)	35 (33.2)	n.a.	a	5 (4.8)
	35 (33.2)	65 (62.0)	(65)	a	5 (4.8)
BS 4027	100 (95.2)	0	0	0	5 (4.8)
BS 4246	15 (14.3)	85 (80.9)	(90)	a	5 (4.8)
BS 6588	80 (76.2)	20 (19.0)	n.a.	a	5 (4.8)
	65 (62.0)	35 (33.2)	(35)	a	5 (4.8)
BS 6610	45 (42.8)	55 (52.4)	(50)	a	5 (4.8)
BS 7583	80 (76.2)	20 (19.0)	n.a.	a	5 (4.8)

<sup>a</sup> "Other main constituent" can include not more than 5 % of "minor additional constituents".

## Annex C (informative)

### Product guidance

#### C.1 General

Guidance on the use of Portland cement in concrete can be found in BS 5328-1, BS 8000-2 and BS 8110-1. Guidance on the use of this cement in mortar can be found in BS 5262, BS 5628-3 and BS 8000-3.

#### C.2 Safety warning

Dry cement in normal use has no harmful effect on dry skin. When cement is mixed with water, alkali is released. Precautions should therefore be taken to avoid dry cement entering the eyes, mouth and nose and to prevent skin contact with wet cement. Repeated skin contact with wet cement over a period may cause irritant contact dermatitis. The abrasiveness of the particles of cement and aggregate in mortar or concrete can contribute to this effect. Continued contact during a working day can lead to cement burns with ulceration but this is not common. Some people are sensitive to the small amounts of chromate which may be present in cements and can develop allergic contact dermatitis, but this is rare.

When working in places where dry cement becomes airborne, protection for the eyes, mouth and nose should be worn.

When working with wet mortar or concrete, waterproof or other suitable protective clothing should be worn such as long sleeved shirts, full length trousers, waterproof gloves and wellington boots. Clothing contaminated with wet cement, mortar or concrete should be removed and washed before further use.

If cement enters the eye it should immediately be washed out thoroughly with clean water and medical treatment should be sought without delay. Wet mortar or concrete on the skin should be washed off immediately.

#### C.3 Storage

To protect cement from premature hydration after delivery, bulk silos should be waterproof and internal condensation should be minimized.

Paper bags should be stored clear of the ground, not more than eight bags high and protected by a waterproof structure. As significant strength losses begin after 4 weeks to 6 weeks of storage in bags in normal conditions, and considerably sooner under adverse weather conditions or high humidity, deliveries should be controlled and used in order of receipt. Manufacturers are able to provide a system of marking a high proportion of the bags in each delivery to indicate when they were filled.

#### C.4 Test temperature

BS EN 196 requires that the strength and setting time tests are carried out at a temperature of  $(20 \pm 1)$  °C. When cement is tested at a different temperature the results are likely to be affected. Appropriate advice may be obtained from the manufacturer.

#### C.5 Grouting and rendering

Where cement is to be used in grouts or renders that are pumped through small apertures, such as spray nozzles, it is recommended that the user passes the cement or suspension through a screen of suitable mesh aperture to retain any occasional coarse particles.

### C.6 Heat generation

The cement hydration process generates heat, particularly in the first few days. Cements with higher early strength usually have a higher initial rate of heat generation than those with lower early strength. A higher initial rate of heat generation may be an advantage for thinner concrete sections in cold weather because it reduces the need for extended striking times and the tendency for early-age frost damage. Conversely, it may be a disadvantage for larger concrete sections in either hot or cold weather on account of the temperature gradients which are set up.



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## List of references (see clause 2)

### Normative references

#### BSI publications

BRITISH STANDARDS INSTITUTION, London

- BS 1014:1975, *Specification for pigments for Portland cement and Portland cement products.*  
BS 6100, *Glossary of building and civil engineering terms.*  
BS 6100-6, *Concrete and plaster.*  
BS 6100-6.1:1984, *Binders.*  
BS EN 196, *Methods of testing cement.*  
BS EN 196-1:1995, *Determination of strength.*  
BS EN 192-2:1995, *Chemical analysis of cement.*  
BS EN 196-3:1995, *Determination of setting time and soundness.*  
BS EN 196-7:1992, *Methods of taking and preparing samples of cement.*  
BS EN 196-21:1992, *Determination of the chloride, carbon dioxide and alkali content of cement.*

### Informative references

#### BSI publications

BRITISH STANDARDS INSTITUTION, London

- BS 146:1996, *Specification for Portland blastfurnace cement.*  
BS 915, *Specification for high alumina cement.*  
BS 915-2:1972, *Metric units.*  
BS 1370:1979, *Specification for low heat Portland cement.*  
BS 4027:1996, *Specification for sulfate-resisting Portland cement.*  
BS 4246:1996, *Specification for high slag blastfurnace cement.*  
BS 4248:1982, *Specification for supersulphated cement.*  
BS 5262:1991, *Code of practice for external rendering.*  
BS 5328, *Concrete.*  
BS 5328-1:1991, *Guide to specifying concrete.*  
BS 5628, *Code of practice for use of masonry.*  
BS 5628-3:1985, *Materials and components, design and workmanship.*  
BS 6588:1996, *Specification for Portland pulverized-fuel ash cements.*  
BS 6610:1996, *Specification for pozzolanic pulverized-fuel ash cement.*  
BS 7583:1996, *Specification for Portland limestone cement.*  
BS 8000, *Workmanship on building sites.*  
BS 8000-2, *Code of practice for concrete work.*  
BS 8000-2.1:1990, *Mixing and transporting concrete.*  
BS 8000-2.2:1990, *Sitework with in situ and precast concrete.*  
BS 8000-3:1989, *Code of practice for masonry.*  
BS 8110, *Structural use of concrete.*  
BS 8110-1:1995, *Code of practice for design and construction.*  
DD ENV 197, *Cement — Composition, specifications and conformity criteria.*  
DD ENV 197-1:1995, *Common cements.*

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