

Australian Standard[®]

Methods of testing soils for engineering purposes

Method 3.6.1: Soil classification tests— Determination of the particle size distribution of a soil—Standard method of analysis by sieving

1 SCOPE

This Standard sets out the method for the quantitative determination by sieve analysis of the particle size distribution in a soil, down to the 75 μm sieve. By using this Method the combined silt and clay fraction can be obtained by difference. For particle sizes smaller than 75 μm the sedimentation method described in AS 1289.3.6.3, using a hydrometer to secure the necessary data, applies.

NOTE: Particle size limits for defining the various fractions of soils are given in Appendix A.

2 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS

The following documents are referred to in this Standard:

AS

1152	Specification for test sieves
1289	Methods of testing soils for engineering purposes
1289.0	Part 0: General requirements and list of methods
1289.1.1	Method 1.1: Sampling and preparation of soils—Preparation of disturbed soil samples for testing
1289.2.1.1	Method 2.1.1: Soil moisture content tests—Determination of the moisture content of a soil—Oven drying method (standard method)
1289.2.1.4	Method 2.1.4: Soil moisture content tests—Determination of the moisture content of a soil—Microwave-oven drying method (subsidiary method)
1289.2.1.5	Method 2.1.5: Soil moisture content tests—Determination of the moisture content of a soil—Infrared lights method (subsidiary method)
1289.2.1.6	Method 2.1.6: Soil moisture content tests—Determination of the moisture content of a soil—Hotplate drying method
1289.2.3.1	Method 2.3.1: Soil moisture content tests—Establishment of correlation—Subsidiary method and the standard method
1289.3.6.3	Method 3.6.3: Soil classification tests—Determination of the particle size distribution of a soil—Standard method of fine analysis using a hydrometer

3 APPARATUS

The following apparatus is required:

- (a) Balances with limits of performance:
- (i) for coarse and intermediate fraction ± 5 g.
 - (ii) for fine fraction ± 0.5 g.