

AS 2758.0:2020



STANDARDS
Australia



Aggregates and rock for engineering purposes

Part 0: Glossary and general series information



AS 2758.0:2020

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- Australian Geomechanics Society
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- Cement Concrete & Aggregates Australia — Cement
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Preface

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Committee CE-012, Aggregates and Rock for Engineering Purposes, to supersede AS 2758.0—2009, *Aggregates and rock for engineering purposes, Part 0: Definitions and classification*.

This document is part of a series that covers specification of aggregate and rock. A list of all parts in this series can be found in the Standards Australia online catalogue.

The objective of this document is to provide terms, definitions, information and guidance applicable to the entire AS 2758 series.

The major changes in this edition are as follows:

- (a) Inclusion of additional terms and definitions.
- (b) Replacement of tables for rock classification with reference to AS 1726.

The terms “normative” and “informative” are used in Standards to define the application of the appendices to which they apply. A “normative” appendix is an integral part of a Standard, whereas an “informative” appendix is only for information and guidance.

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NOTES

Australian Standard®

Aggregates and rock for engineering purposes

Part 0: Glossary and general series information

1 Scope

This document sets out essential definitions for aggregates used throughout the AS 2758 *Aggregate and rock for engineering purposes* series. The document includes a number of informative appendices that may assist in naming rock types and their appearance when crushed. A scheme for identifying unsound stone is appended which may be used if no alternate scheme is provided in contractual documents. Similarly, a sampling scheme is suggested if no sampling scheme for aggregate supply has been included in contract documents.

NOTE 1 Guidance on typical sampling is given in [Appendix A](#).

NOTE 2 Information on aggregate naming, shape and texture is given in [Appendix B](#).

NOTE 3 Recommended limits for establishing unsound stone are given in [Appendix C](#).

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

NOTE Documents referenced for informative purposes are listed in the Bibliography.

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this series, the following terms and definitions apply.

3.1

aggregate

granular material produced from crushed rock, gravel, sand, metallurgical slag or reclaimed material, used in in civil construction products and engineering works

3.1.1

coarse aggregate

aggregate in which the majority of particles are retained on a 4.75 mm AS sieve

3.1.2

fine aggregate

aggregate, formed naturally in sand deposits or purpose-made by crushing and processing, in which the majority of particles pass a 4.75 mm AS sieve

Note 1 to entry: Purpose-made aggregate is known as manufactured sand.

3.1.3

graded aggregate

aggregate in which more than 15 % (by mass) of the total material is retained on at least each of three consecutive sieve sizes in a set

Note 1 to entry: The typical sieve set used in Australia includes sieves with the following aperture sizes: 75.0 mm, 53.0 mm, 37.5 mm, 26.5 mm, 19.0 mm, 13.2 mm, 9.50 mm, 6.70 mm, 4.75 mm, 2.36 mm, 0.600 mm and 0.075 mm. This selection of sieves is approximately a quarter series.

Note 2 to entry: Crushed rock that consists of a mixture of fine and coarse aggregates, the coarse fraction being graded, is considered a graded aggregate for the purpose of the AS 1141 series.

3.1.4**recycled aggregate**

aggregate derived from the processing of materials previously used in a product or from construction activities that would otherwise be sent to waste

Note 1 to entry: Where recycled aggregates are to be used in construction, they should be subject to a separate works specification under the AS 2758 series.

3.1.5**single sized aggregate****one sized aggregate**

aggregate in which at least 60 % (by mass) of the total material passes a sieve, which is immediately less than the nominal size of the aggregate and is retained on the sieve immediately following the selected sieve in the selected set

Note 1 to entry: The typical sieve set used in Australia include sieves with the following aperture sizes: 75.0 mm, 53.0 mm, 37.5 mm, 26.5 mm, 19.0 mm, 13.2 mm, 9.50 mm, 6.70 mm, 4.75 mm, 2.36 mm, 0.600 mm and 0.075 mm. This selection of sieves is approximately a quarter series.

3.2**may**

indicates the existence of an option

3.3**nominal size**

designation of an aggregate that indicates the largest size particle present

Note 1 to entry: The concept of nominal size of an aggregate is for convenience of reference and ordering and is summarized below:

Nominal size (mm)	5	7	10	14	20	28	40	60	75
Sieve size through which at least 85 % pass	4.75	6.70	9.50	13.2	19.0	26.5	37.5	53.0	75.0

3.4**percentage**

comparative relationship that is generally expressed on the basis of mass

3.5**proportion**

See 3.4

3.6**ratio**

See 3.4

3.7**sample**

material recovered in accordance with AS 1141.3.1, AS 1141.3.2 or the works specification and is forwarded for examination or testing or both

Note 1 to entry: In most cases, the sample is representative of the parent material and is derived from combining sample increments and then dividing into a suitable amount for examination or testing.

Note 2 to entry: Occasionally, a sample may represent a contaminant in the parent material, or it may be derived from a single increment.

3.8**sample increment**

<manually recovered> amount of material for aggregates and sands taken directly from the conveyor, bin, truck or section of a stockpile, a placed layer in earthworks or a pavement layer

<mechanically recovered> amount of material for aggregates and sands collected in a single pass of a sampler head

3.9**shall**

indicates that a statement is mandatory

3.10**should**

indicates a recommendation

3.11**source rock**

in situ rock mass located in a quarry to be used in the production of crushed rock, aggregate or manufactured sand

3.12**supply agreement**

agreement between the aggregate supplier and a second party that details the test procedures and limits for aggregate supply

Note 1 to entry: The agreement may detail sampling requirements and testing frequency. The agreement may be for a specific project or for regular, routine supply.

3.13**works specification**

body of documents detailing the construction requirements for a works project, which include specification and supply arrangements for materials, including materials specified in the AS 2758 series, delivered to or produced on site

Note 1 to entry: This body of documents may include specifications in the AS 2758 series, references to these documents, extracts from these documents, or these documents with included variations.

Appendix A (informative)

Guidance on typical sampling

The number of samples taken should be in accordance with the mass to be represented as given in [Table A.1](#). Where variability within sections is evident, the number of samples may be increased.

Table A.1 — Minimum number of samples

Total mass to be represented (tonnes)	1 to 250	251 to 500	501 to 1000	1001 to 2000	2001 to 4000	4001 to 8000	8001 to 16 000
Minimum number of samples	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Appendix B (informative)

Aggregate composition, shape and texture

B.1 Identification of rock types

Identification of the rock types to be used in the production of aggregate may provide an initial indication of suitability for purpose. However, it should be emphasized that rock type identification cannot substitute for the performance of the engineering tests detailed in the AS 2758 series. Simply because two sources have a similar rock type identification, it should never be assumed that they will have the same engineering properties.

In most rocks the engineering properties are influenced by the primary mineralogy, the grain size and rock structure, secondary and adverse mineralogy, and the degree of weathering.

Information and classification tables describing rock types, the properties of rock *in situ* and weathering classification tables are provided in AS 1726. While AS 1726 follows general geological practice, geological training is required for the satisfactory identification of rocks. The engineering properties of aggregates specified in the AS 2758 series and tested in accordance with the AS 1141 series cannot be inferred from rock descriptions in AS 1726 or the rock names in [Table B.1](#).

[Table B.1](#) provides a general description of the more common rock types that may be used for aggregate in Australia.

For details on primary and secondary mineralogy and information on the effects of mineralogy on the engineering properties of aggregate, refer to ASTM C295.

Table B.1 — Rock types commonly used for aggregates

Petrological term	Description
Adamellite	acid intrusive rock that consists predominantly of quartz and equivalent percentages of plagioclase and orthoclase; the coarse-grained equivalent of rhyodacite
Agglomerate	pyroclastic rock with fragments greater than 32 mm
Amphibolite	metamorphic, coarse grained rock consisting of amphibole and plagioclase
Andesite	intermediate extrusive or hypabyssal rock with sodic plagioclase and little or no quartz. The fine-grained equivalent of diorite
Arenite	sedimentary rock consisting of sand-sized particles, irrespective of mineralogy; sandstone
Argillite	sedimentary or meta-sedimentary rock consisting of clay or silt-sized particles but generally more indurated than claystone or siltstone
Arkose	sandstone consisting of more than 25 % feldspar particles
Basalt	basic extrusive or hypabyssal rock comprised primarily of calcic plagioclase and pyroxene, with or without olivine. Also occurs as dykes; the fine-grained equivalent of a gabbro or dolerite; olivine basalts contain no quartz; tholeiitic basalts contain no olivine and may contain minor quartz
Breccia	sedimentary or volcanic rock containing coarse angular fragments, such as fault breccia, talus breccia and volcanic breccia. The coarse rock fragments are bound together in a fine matrix and may be cemented
Caliche (var. calcrete)	duricrust formed by groundwater deposition of calcium carbonate
Chert	cryptocrystalline ^a quartz formed by precipitation of silica

Table B.1 (continued)

Petrological term	Description
Conglomerate	rounded, waterworn pebbles, cobbles or boulders, generally cemented in a sandstone matrix
Dacite	acid extrusive rock dominated by plagioclase and quartz; the fine-grained equivalent of granodiorite
Diorite	intermediate intrusive rock dominated by sodic plagioclase; the coarse-grained equivalent of andesite
Dolerite	medium-grained equivalent of basalt and gabbro
Dolomite	magnesian limestone (Ca partially replaced by Mg)
Duricrust	hardpan deposit formed by groundwater fluctuation (usually in a semi-arid environment) resulting in the mobilization of silica (silcrete), calcium (calcrete or caliche) or iron (ferricrete or laterite)
Felsite	rock with a cryptocrystalline ^a groundmass of feldspar and quartz
Ferricrete	duricrust formed by groundwater deposition of iron oxides
Gabbro	basic intrusive rock comprised primarily of calcic plagioclase and pyroxene, with or without olivine; the coarse-grained equivalent of basalt
Gneiss	metamorphic rock with alternating granular and schistose bands and lenses giving a foliated appearance
Granite	acid-intrusive rock that consists predominantly of orthoclase and quartz; the coarse-grained equivalent of rhyolite
Granodiorite	acid intrusive rock that consists predominantly of plagioclase and quartz; the coarse-grained equivalent of dacite; gradational to quartz diorite, which has a lower quartz content
Greenstone	weakly metamorphosed (altered) basalt that is greenish to grey as its name suggests
Greywacke	impure type of sandstone or gritstone composed of poorly sorted fragments of quartz, other minerals and rock; the coarser grains are usually strongly cemented in a fine matrix
Hornfels	fine-grained rock resulting from contact metamorphism. Also used as an adjective (hornfelsed) if the parent rock/texture is discernible
Ignimbrite	welded ash-flow tuff, generally acid or intermediate lava-like rock, where the groundmass has a predominance of glass shards
Ironstone	high strength, iron-rich duricrust horizon (ferricrete,); a form of laterite
Latite	trachy-andesite; an intermediate extrusive rock that contains equivalent percentages of plagioclase and orthoclase and little or no quartz; the fine-grained equivalent of monzonite.
Limestone	chemical or biogenic sedimentary rock comprised predominantly of calcium carbonate; formed from calcareous ooze or sand, shell fragments and/or coral
Marble	metamorphosed limestone, with a distinctly granular texture
Marl	calcareous claystone or 'dirty' limestone
Monzonite	intermediate intrusive rock containing equivalent percentages of plagioclase and orthoclase and little or no quartz; the coarse-grained equivalent of latite or trachyandesite
Pegmatite	very coarse-grained granitic rock formed by late stage crystallization
Porphyry	field term for a rock with phenocrysts in a fine-grained groundmass and prefixed by compositional name e.g. dacite porphyry
Quartzite	either quartzose sandstone that is cemented by silica (orthoquartzite) or a granular metamorphic rock consisting essentially of quartz (metaquartzite)

Table B.1 (continued)

Petrological term	Description
Recycled aggregates	<p>aggregates derived from processing materials previously used in a product from construction, demolition or as a by-product of industrial processes that would otherwise be sent to waste. Some common types include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Recycled concrete aggregates — produced by the reclamation, crushing and screening of demolition concrete waste. (b) Reclaimed aggregates that are produced from — <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) unused fresh concrete returned to its manufacturer in a state such that separation of the aggregates from the cement paste is still possible by washing and or screening; or (ii) crushing selected surface rock from excavation works. (c) Recycled crushed glass. <p>All recycled aggregates should be tested for their suitability before use.</p>
Rhyolite	acidic extrusive, dominated by orthoclase and quartz; the fine-grained equivalent of granite
River gravels	materials sourced from active river or stream beds or bars or from stream or river terraces, alluvial plains or abandoned courses. The deposits are generally of recent geological deposition. Materials range in size from boulders to silt and clay. Shape ranges from sub-angular to fully rounded. Both properties usually dependent on proximity to rock source. Deposits may contain a wide range of lithologies dependant on the erosion sources. Extraction of material from active streams and rivers will be restricted by environmental legislation in most jurisdictions. All river gravel deposits should be tested for their suitability before use.
Sandstone	sedimentary rock consisting of sand-sized particles, usually dominated by quartz but may be dominated by feldspars and/or lithic fragments (see arenite, arkose, greywacke, quartzite)
Schist	metamorphic rock in which the minerals are arranged in nearly parallel bands or layers; plate-like or elongated minerals such as mica or hornblende cause fissility in the rock, which distinguishes it from gneiss
Silcrete	duricrust formed by groundwater deposition of silica; also known colloquially as 'billy' or 'gidgee stone'
Siltstone	sedimentary rock consisting predominantly of silt-sized particles
Slag	<p>silica- and calcium-rich residue of the metal smelting process. For the purposes of this document, slags are classified as ferrous or non-ferrous as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Iron blast furnace slag aggregate — Slag produced in the production of iron, consisting essentially of silicates and aluminosilicates of calcium and other bases. By influencing the cooling conditions and cooling rates, the molten blast furnace slag can solidify to the following products with their own distinctive physical properties: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Crystalline slag — Results from the solidification of molten slag under atmospheric conditions in pits or bays. Cooling may be subsequently accelerated by application of water to the solidified surface. (ii) Granulated slag — Refers to the glassy granular material formed when molten slag is rapidly chilled by the impingement of and mixing with a large volume of water. (b) Non-ferrous metallurgical slag aggregate — Slag produced from smelting processes for metals such as copper, lead and nickel. (c) Steel furnace slag — This slag is the non-metallic product consisting essentially of calcium silicates and ferrites combined with fused oxides of iron, aluminium, manganese, calcium and magnesium that is developed in a molten condition simultaneously with steel in a basic oxygen or electric arc furnace.
Slate	rock derived from argillaceous sediments or volcanic ash by metamorphism, characterized by cleavage planes independent of the original stratification
Syenite	intermediate intrusive rock that consists predominantly of potassic feldspar and little or no quartz; the coarse-grained equivalent of trachyte
Trachyte	intermediate extrusive or hypabyssal rock that consists essentially of potassic feldspar with little or no quartz; the fine-grained equivalent of syenite

Table B.1 (continued)

Petrological term	Description
Tuff	pyroclastic rock formed from an explosive eruption, generally acid-intermediate in composition, with two distinct and diverse types: (a) Ash-fall tuff — Resulting from aerial deposition of ash, usually associated with volcanoclastic sedimentary rocks. (b) Ash-flow tuff (including ignimbrite) — Formed from an ash avalanche; particles are generally welded together; large, well developed crystals and/or rock fragments are common.
^a Composed of crystals so fine that they can be resolved only with the aid of a high-power microscope.	

B.2 Particle shape and surface texture of aggregate

The important external characteristics of the particles of mineral aggregates are shape and surface texture. For conciseness, these properties have been classified under group headings as shown in [Tables B.2](#) and [B.3](#).

Characteristic particle shapes are illustrated in [Figure B.1](#) and tests for obtaining quantitative assessment of particle shape are given in AS 1141.14, AS 1141.15, AS 1141.16, AS 1141.20.1, AS 1141.20.2 and AS 1141.20.3.

Table B.2 — Particle shape

Classification	Description
Rounded	Edges are completely abraded away to form curved surfaces.
Irregular	Dimensions difficult to categorize.
Angular	Sharp edges, very little or no evidence of attrition.
Cubical	Roughly planar faces of approximately equal size (x approximately y approximately z).
Flaky	Material where the thickness is small, relative to the length and width ($z < x$ and y - 'platy')
Elongated	Material, usually angular, in which the length is considerably larger than the other two dimensions ($z > x$ and y - 'rod-shaped').
Flaky and elongated	Material having the length considerably larger than the width, and the width considerably larger than the thickness ($x > y > z$).
NOTE See Figure B.1 .	

Table B.3 — Particle surface texture

Surface texture group	Characteristics
Glassy	Conchoidal fracture.
Smooth	Water-worn or smooth due to fracture of laminated or fine-grained rock.
Polished	Very smooth with a surface shine
Granular	Fracture showing more or less uniform rounded grains.
Rough	Rough fracture of fine- or medium-grained rock containing no easily visible crystalline constituents.
Crystalline	Containing easily visible interlocking crystalline constituents.
Honeycombed	With visible pores and cavities.
NOTE 1 The surface texture grouping is broad, being based on the impression from a visual examination of hand specimens.	
NOTE 2 Different specimens of the same rock type may not fall into the same group.	

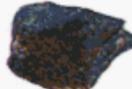
	Cubical	Flaky	Elongated	Irregular
Angular				
Sub-angular				
Sub-rounded				
Rounded				

Figure B.1 — Typical particle shapes

Appendix C (informative)

Recommended limits for establishing unsound stone

C.1 Terms and definitions

C.1.1

marginal rock

material, whether in the source or as spalls or as crushed particles, that—

- (a) for igneous (except basic igneous) and metamorphic rock, has a range of degradation factor-source rock values less than the minimum value for sound rock specified in the works specification but representing material quality still acceptable in small quantities;
- (b) for basic igneous rock, has a range of secondary mineral content values greater than the maximum value for sound rock or a range of accelerated soundness values less than the minimum value for sound rock specified in the works specification (see Note 1); or
- (c) for sedimentary rock, has a range of ball mill values greater than the maximum value for sound rock specified in the works specification (see Note 1).

Note 1 to entry: The range of values represents material quality still considered acceptable in small quantities.

Note 2 to entry: In the absence of a works specification suitable values are recommended in [Table C.1](#) of this document.

C.1.2

sound rock

material, whether in the source or as spalls or as crushed particles, that—

- (a) does not include soft or friable material, material composed of clay or weathered rock, or matter that breaks up when alternately wetted and dried;
- (b) for igneous (except basic igneous) and metamorphic rock, has a degradation factor-source rock equal to or less than the minimum value for sound rock specified in the works specification;
- (c) for basic igneous rock, has a secondary mineral content equal to or less than the maximum value or an accelerated soundness value equal to or less than the minimum value for sound rock specified in the works specification; or
- (d) for sedimentary rock, has a ball mill value equal to or greater than the maximum value for sound rock specified in the works specification.

Note 1 to entry: In the absence of a works specification suitable values are recommended in [Table C1](#).

C.1.3

unsound rock

material, whether in the source or as spalls, or as crushed particles, that—

- (a) is soft, friable or composed of clay or weathered rock, or contains matter that breaks up when alternately wetted and dried;
- (b) for igneous (except basic igneous) and metamorphic rock, has a degradation factor-source rock less than the minimum value for marginal rock specified in the works specification;

- (c) for basic igneous rock, has a secondary mineral content greater than the maximum value or an accelerated soundness value less than the minimum value for marginal rock specified in the works specification; or
- (d) for sedimentary rock, has a ball mill value greater than the maximum value for the marginal rock specified in the works specification.

Note 1 to entry: In the absence of a works specification, suitable values are recommended in [Table C.1](#).

C.2 Recommended limits for establishing reference specimens

Some rock sources contain secondary minerals or exhibit other properties that may affect the long-term durability of the product and give rise to poor service performance. AS 1141.30.1 provides a method for visual comparison with reference specimens to allow quality assessments. Suggested values for a variety of rock types, using test procedures found to be appropriate based on the experience of VicRoads and used to classify the reference specimens are as [Table C.1](#) below.

Table C.1 — Recommended limits for establishing unsound stone

Rock type	Minimum degradation factor ^a %	Maximum secondary mineral content ^b %	Minimum accelerated soundness index ^c	Maximum ball mill value ^d %
SOUND ROCK				
Acid igneous				
Granitic rocks	50			
Other acid igneous	45			
Intermediate igneous				
Trachyte	50			
Other intermediate igneous	45			
Basic igneous		25	94	
Metamorphic				
Hornfels	40			
Other metamorphic	45			
Sedimentary				
Argillaceous sediments				30
Arenaceous sediments				45
MARGINAL ROCK				
Acid igneous				
Granitic rocks	35–49			
Other acid igneous	35–44			
Intermediate igneous				
Trachyte	30–49			
Other intermediate igneous	35–44			
Basic igneous (see Note 5)		26–30	90–93	
Metamorphic				
Hornfels	20–39			
Other metamorphic	30–44			

Table C.1 (continued)

Rock type	Minimum degradation factor ^a %	Maximum secondary mineral content ^b %	Minimum accelerated soundness index ^c	Maximum ball mill value ^d %
Sedimentary				
Argillaceous sediments				31-35
Arenaceous sediments				46-55
<p>^a The recommended test procedure is AS 1141.25.1.</p> <p>^b The recommended test procedure is AS 1141.26.</p> <p>^c The recommended test procedure is AS 1141.29.</p> <p>^d The recommended test procedure is AS 1141.28.</p> <p>^e Basic igneous source rock which does not comply with specified secondary mineral content requirements but from which aggregates of proven satisfactory performance have been produced may be acceptable based on records of acceptable field performance for comparable load and exposure conditions.</p>				

Bibliography

- AS 1141.14, *Methods for sampling and testing aggregates, Method 14: Particle shape, by proportional caliper*
- AS 1141.15, *Methods for sampling and testing aggregates, Method 15: Flakiness index*
- AS 1141.16, *Methods for sampling and testing aggregates, Method 16: Angularity number*
- AS 1141.20.1, *Methods for sampling and testing aggregates, Method 20.1: Average least dimension—Direct measurement (nominal size 10 mm and greater)*
- AS 1141.20.2, *Methods for sampling and testing aggregates, Method 20.2: Average least dimension—Direct measurement (nominal sizes 5 mm and 7 mm)*
- AS 1141.20.3, *Methods for sampling and testing aggregates, Method 20.3: Average least dimension—Calculation (nomograph)*
- AS 1141.25.1, *Methods for sampling and testing aggregates, Method 25.1: Degradation factor—Source rock*
- AS 1141.26, *Methods for sampling and testing aggregates, Method 26: Secondary minerals content in igneous rocks*
- AS 1141.28, *Methods for sampling and testing aggregates, Method 28: Ball mill value*
- AS 1141.29, *Methods for sampling and testing aggregates, Method 29: Accelerated soundness index by reflux*
- AS 1141.30.1, *Methods for sampling and testing of aggregates, Method 30.1: Coarse aggregate quality by visual comparison*
- AS 1726, *Geotechnical site investigations*
- ASTM C295, *Standard guide for petrographic examination of aggregates for concrete aggregates*

NOTES

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