



# Standard Practice for Processing Mixtures of Lime, Fly Ash, and Heavy Metal Wastes in Structural Fills and Other Construction Applications<sup>1</sup>

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## 1. Scope

1.1 This practice provides descriptions and references of existing test methods and commercial practices relating to the processing of lime, fly ash, and heavy metal wastes in construction applications.

1.2 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

## 2. Referenced Documents

### 2.1 ASTM Standards:

- C 5 Specification for Quicklime for Structural Purposes<sup>2</sup>
- C 25 Test Method for Chemical Analysis of Limestone, Quicklime, and Hydrated Lime<sup>2</sup>
- C 109 Test Method for Compressive Strength of Hydraulic Cement Mortars (Using 2-in. or 50-mm Cube Specimens)<sup>2</sup>
- C 110 Test Methods for Physical Testing of Quicklime, Hydrated Lime, and Limestone<sup>2</sup>
- C 206 Specification for Finishing Hydrated Lime<sup>2</sup>
- C 207 Specification for Hydrated Lime for Masonry Purposes<sup>2</sup>
- C 311 Test Method for Sampling and Testing Fly Ash or Natural Pozzolans for Use as a Mineral Admixture in Portland Cement Concrete<sup>3</sup>
- C 400 Test Method for Quicklime and Hydrated Lime for Neutralization of Waste Acid<sup>2</sup>
- C 593 Specification for Fly Ash and Other Pozzolans for Use with Lime<sup>2</sup>
- C 618 Specification for Fly Ash and Raw or Calcined Natural Pozzolan for Use as a Mineral Admixture in Portland Cement Concrete<sup>3</sup>
- C 821 Specification for Lime for Use with Pozzolans<sup>2</sup>
- C 911 Specification for Quicklime, Hydrated Lime, and Limestone for Chemical Uses<sup>2</sup>

- C 977 Specification for Quicklime and Hydrated Lime for Soil Stabilization<sup>2</sup>
  - D 559 Test Methods for Wetting and Drying Compacted Soil-Cement Mixtures<sup>4</sup>
  - D 560 Test Methods for Freezing and Thawing Compacted Soil-Cement Mixtures<sup>4</sup>
  - D 1557 Test Method for Laboratory Compaction Characteristics of Soil Using Modified Effort (56,000 ft-lbf/ft<sup>3</sup> (2,700 kN-m/m<sup>3</sup>))<sup>4</sup>
  - D 1633 Test Method for Compressive Strength of Molded Soil-Cement Cylinders<sup>4</sup>
  - D 2434 Test Method for Permeability of Granular Soils (Constant Head)<sup>4</sup>
  - D 2435 Test Method for One-Dimensional Consolidation Properties of Soils<sup>4</sup>
  - D 3877 Test Methods for One-Dimensional Expansion, Shrinkage, and Uplift Pressure of Soil-Lime Mixtures<sup>4</sup>
  - D 3987 Test Method for Shake Extraction of Solid Waste with Water<sup>5</sup>
  - D 4318 Test Method for Liquid Limit, Plastic Limit, and Plasticity Index of Soils<sup>4</sup>
  - E 850 Practice for Use of Inorganic Process Wastes as Structural Fill<sup>5</sup>
- ### 2.2 Environmental Protection Agency Documents:
- EPA Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)<sup>6</sup>
  - EPA/SW-846 Test Methods for Evaluation of Solid Waste<sup>7</sup>
  - EPA Method 1310 Extraction Procedure (EP) Toxicity Test Method and Structural Integrity Test<sup>7</sup>
  - EPA/SW-872 Properties of Stabilized/Solidified Waste<sup>7</sup>
  - RCRA Document EPA-IAG-D4-0569 Guide to the Disposal of Chemically Stabilized and Solidified Waste<sup>7</sup>
  - Solvents<sup>8</sup>
  - Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments (HSWA)<sup>8</sup>
  - Method 9095 Paint Filter Liquid Test (PFLT)<sup>7</sup>
  - EPA/530-SW-85-0031 Petitions to Delist Hazardous Waste:

<sup>1</sup> This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee D-34 on Waste Management and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee D34.06 on Recovery and Reuse.

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<sup>2</sup> *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 04.01.

<sup>3</sup> *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 04.02.

<sup>4</sup> *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 04.08.

<sup>5</sup> *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 11.04.

<sup>6</sup> Documents 12/18/78, 9/13/79, 5/26/82, 7/26/82, and 4/4/83, available from *Federal Register* U.S. Government Printing Office, Superintendent of Documents, Washington, DC 20402.

<sup>7</sup> Available from Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Government Printing Office.

<sup>8</sup> Amendments available from Federal Register.

A Guidance Manual, NTIS: PB 85-194488<sup>7</sup>  
 EPA/530-SW-86-008 OWSER Policy Directive No. 9527.00-1A, Guidance Manual for Research, Development, and Demonstration Permits Under 40 CFR 270.65<sup>7</sup>  
 EPA/530-SW-86-016 OWSER Policy Directive No. 9487.00-2A, Prohibition on the Placement of Bulk Liquid Hazardous Waste in Landfills<sup>7</sup>

EPA/540-2-86-001 Handbook for Stabilization/Solidification of Hazardous Waste, Superfund Document<sup>7</sup>

### 2.3 Code of Federal Regulations:

40 CFR 264 Subpart B, section 264.13, Hazardous Waste Management System, Land Disposal Restrictions, Proposed Rule, Dec. 11, 1988<sup>8</sup>

40 CFR 268 Hazardous Waste Management System; Land Disposal Restrictions; and California List Constituents

### 2.4 Department of the Interior Document:

U.S. Department of the Interior Earth Manual (Section Edition), 1974<sup>9</sup>

### 2.5 Corps of Engineers Document:

1110-2-1906 Permeability of Fine Materials, Falling Head Aug. 12, 1987.<sup>10</sup>

## 3. Terminology

### 3.1 Definitions:

3.1.1 *fly ash*—finely sized ash generated from combustion of pulverized coal. Descriptions and types are listed in Specifications C 593 and C 618.

3.1.2 *heavy metal wastes*—industrial wastes containing heavy metals such as arsenic, cadmium, chromium, barium, lead, silver, selenium, and mercury; these wastes are generally liquids, sludges, or filter cakes.

3.1.3 Heavy metal wastes may also contain small amounts of organic compounds. Special provisions are referenced to accommodate this class of material as stated in 8.4.

3.1.4 *lime*—a commercial product derived from the calcination of high calcium or dolomitic limestone. A number of ASTM standards relating to lime are given in 2.1.

3.1.5 *monolithic mass*—a mass that has good dimensional stability, to freezing and thawing resistance, low permeability, a high bearing capacity, and resistance to attack by biological agents. The EPA states that an end product such as this could be used as a foundation for buildings or roads, or simply buried and covered over in a landfill (EPA/SW-872).

3.1.6 *resource application*—use of stabilized products in specific areas such as earth liners, foundations, road base, backfills, embankments, earth dams, etc.

3.1.7 *resource structural products*—structural products produced by lime, fly ash, and heavy metal waste; examples are block, brick, aggregates, gabions, and miscellaneous structural shapes.

3.1.8 *solidification*—a binding physical and chemical treatment process that transforms materials containing free liquids into a solid, soil-like, or clayey material. This solid material can be a monolithic block with structural integrity.

<sup>9</sup> Available from Bureau of Reclamation, Department of the Interior, Code D/7923A, P.O. Box 25007, Denver, CO 80225.

<sup>10</sup> Available from Department of the Army, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Public Depot, 2803 52nd Ave., Hyattsville, MD 20781.

3.1.9 *stabilization*—a treatment process that involves both a physical and chemical reaction for treating heavy metal waste. Heavy metal wastes are considered stabilized when they meet current applicable regulatory requirements.

3.1.10 *structural landfill*—man-made earth work meeting engineered practices and structural requirements. The fill must also be environmentally acceptable and meet EPA requirements. (See 40 CFR 268.)

## 4. Significance and Use

4.1 This practice provides users with current methods for preconditioning, handling, processing, and means of characterizing the materials that are produced.

4.2 Lime and fly ash, and mixtures of lime and fly ash can be useful for treating hazardous and nonhazardous waste as follows:

4.2.1 Treating hazardous waste for potential resource recovery application,

4.2.2 Solidifying liquids and sludges that are banned from land disposal because of excess free liquid content,

4.2.3 Treating hazardous waste that may require treatment because of hazardous constituents prior to land disposal, and,

4.2.4 Treating hazardous waste for potential delisting to a nonhazardous waste status. Each one of these applications, however, must comply with requirements of the Resource Recovery and Conservation Act and the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments .

## 5. Properties and Uses of Materials Applicable to the Practice

5.1 *Commercial Lime*— The following are properties and uses of commercial lime.

5.1.1 Neutralizes acids;

5.1.2 Precipitates and reduces the solubilities of heavy metals;

5.1.3 Provides high absorption rates of aqueous and non-aqueous liquids;

5.1.4 Solidifies and hardens a number of inorganic waste sludges;

5.1.5 Reacts chemically with soils, particularly clays, and thereby reduces plasticity; improves dimensional stability; and develops and controls structural applications;

5.1.6 Develops cements when mixed with natural pozzolans, such as diatomaceous earth, cherts, shales, volcanic ash, and also fly ash formed in the combustion of pulverized coal; and

5.1.7 Capable of increasing pH of heavy metal waste.

5.2 *Pulverized Coal Fly Ash*—The following are properties and uses of pulverized coal fly ash.

5.2.1 Serves as a filler in the treatment of liquid waste;

5.2.2 Provides siliceous glass that reacts with lime to form cementitious compounds (tobermorites);

5.2.3 Provides aluminous glass which reacts with lime and sulfates to form cementitious compounds (ettringites); and

5.2.4 Contributes to stabilizing heavy metals that are insolubilized with lime.

5.2.5 Fly ash is available in different classes depending on the type of coal. These classes are described in Specification C 618 and in Test Method C 311. Class C contains some free

calcium oxide that can generate considerable heat when mixed with water. In some applications, this type of fly ash may need to be preconditioned as described in 7.1.1. Standards pertaining to lime and lime/fly ash are Test Methods C 25, C 110, C 311, and C 400, Specifications C 5, C 206, C 207, C 593, C 618, C 821, C 911, and C 977.

NOTE 1—Additional information may be found in Test Methods C 109, D 1557, D 1633, D 2434, D 2435, D 3877, D 3987, and D 4318.

## 6. Applications Pertaining to Hazardous Wastes

6.1 *Resource Recovery Application*—Lime fly ash mixtures can be used to solidify and stabilize the heavy metal waste and render these treated wastes suitable for use as a resource structural product. In this application, the lime and fly ash mixtures solidify the waste and stabilize the heavy metals contained in the waste.

6.2 *Solidifying Waste Liquids and Sludges*—Lime/fly ash mixtures may be useful for stabilizing/solidifying liquids and sludges that are banned from land disposal because they contain free liquids. Mixtures of lime/fly ash can be used to react with the aqueous portion of the waste, thereby solidifying it so that the treated waste will pass the EPA paint filter liquid test (PFLT) (Method 9095) and other RCRA regulatory requirements as specified under SW-846 and thus be acceptable for disposal into hazardous waste landfills.<sup>11</sup> In some cases, the liquid waste treated by the lime/fly ash mixtures may be required to also pass an unconfined compressive strength test, in conjunction with the PFLT. Requirements and guidance for the PFLT and compression test can be found in EPA/530-SW-86-016.

6.3 *Treating of Hazardous Waste Prior to Land Disposal*—Lime and fly ash may be acceptable materials for treating selected heavy metal waste by stabilization/solidification when such waste requires treatment prior to land disposal because of specific hazardous constituents. The EPA is evaluating stabilization and solidification for treating heavy metal waste materials. Specific requirements are listed in EPA/530-SW-86-016.

6.4 *Delisting of Hazardous Waste*—In some cases, lime/fly ash mixtures may be useful in treating hazardous waste to render them nonhazardous and, therefore, potentially applicable for delisting. Appropriate mixtures of lime and fly ash for treating a waste for delisting will need to be determined on a case by case basis. Procedures and requirements for petitioning for delisting of a hazardous waste could require a research development and demonstration project permit (see EPA/530-SW-85-0031 and EPA/530-SW-86-008).

6.5 The appropriate mixtures of the lime/fly ash that will treat the waste to meet the requirements will need to be determined on a case by case basis. Presence of organics may interfere in the treatment process, and appreciable amounts can obviate the use of the lime/fly ash systems.

## 7. Laboratory Procedures to Determine Design of Mixtures

7.1 Hydrated lime/fly ash mixtures and proportions are prepared and tested using the following ASTM standards:

Unconfined compressive strength	Test Method C 109
Lime for use with pozzolans	Specification C 821
Lime for chemical uses	Specification C 911
Moisture density	Test Method D 1557
Confined compressive strength	Test Method D 1633

7.1.1 The results of these tests may serve as a basis for establishing mixtures appropriate for the structural applications under consideration. Compressive strength may range from a high strength value for applications as listed in (3.6)3.1.7 to low strengths for products as listed in (3.4)3.1.5. Sufficient lime is added to obtain the desired strength at optimum moisture content.

7.2 Lime/sludge mixtures are run to determine quantity of lime necessary to neutralize acid and precipitate the heavy metals to an appropriate pH. The EPA provides the solubilities of metal hydroxides as a function of pH (40 CFR 268). Methods C 400 is also helpful in this item.

7.3 The lime/fly ash blend is added to the lime-treated heavy metal waste in sufficient quantities to comply with the necessary requirements for the contemplated use.

7.3.1 Compressive strength tests of the final mixture may be compared with the previous results (7.1)7.1. If major changes such as loss in strength occur, determine if additional curing time or an increase in the lime dosage is needed.

NOTE 2—Quicklime can be used as an alternate to hydrated lime. This may reduce the amount of water in a heavy metal sludge because of the heat of hydration when quicklime is used in place of the hydrate. Since quicklime consumes considerable water in hydration, the quicklime/fly ash blend may be added dry to the wet, heavy-metal waste sludge as an alternate procedure that may reduce the lime/fly ash requirement.

7.4 To complete the laboratory tests, the following test methods may be useful, depending on the particular application:

Wet/dry weathering	Test Methods D 559
Freezing and thawing	Test Methods D 560
Falling head permeability	Corps of Engineers 1110-2-1906
EP Toxicity Test	EPA Method 1310

NOTE 3—If Extraction Procedure, (EP) Toxicity Test shows excessive concentration of soluble ingredients, additional curing may be beneficial.

## 8. Construction Practice

8.1 Lime and fly ash are usually stored in closed bins such as employed at plants that are designed to provide lime/fly ash/aggregate mixtures for use in construction of roads. These plants frequently employ conventional equipment for blending lime/fly ash and soil, and are adaptable for weighing and mixing lime and fly ash with wet sludges. This equipment is frequently portable and can be located at the construction sites.

8.1.1 Class F fly ash can be stockpiled wet for a maximum of two weeks. Longer periods of stockpiling may affect the reactivity of the ash. Class C fly ash should not be stored wet.

8.1.2 When a dry Class C fly ash is used, adding water to the lime/Class C fly ash mixture will usually generate considerable heat. After cooling the freshly formed mixture, the sludge should be added within a few hours. If the sludge cannot be used within 24 h, it is generally necessary to precondition the lime/Class C fly ash and water mixture by rerunning the blend through a pug mill to avoid formulations of solid slabs. After remixing, the lime/fly ash can be kept in a stockpiled condition until the heavy metal waste is available for preparing the final

<sup>11</sup> When the Liquids Release Test (Method 9096) is promulgated, it will be required under RCRA and specified under this practice.

mixture for the field project. This also can be accomplished in a pug mill.

8.2 Where structural shapes are formed, it is generally acceptable to supply the lime and fly ash mixture in a moistcondition and use separate containers for the waste. These materials can be fed through the plant equipment using a variety of mixers where the blending and addition of water is accomplished. Examples are found in block or brick plants. The equipment and practice is found in commercial plants which produce items such as briquettes, concrete block, or brick. Aggregate can be formed by crushing and screening the shapes to desired size.

8.3 Storage of the processed waste is a major factor when the material is intended to be used as a resource structural product. This is useful in providing curing time for the shapes.

It is also necessary to build stockpiles in order to meet scheduling required by the contractors. Storage of the material is carried out in several ways, such as open warehouse, open piles using tarps, and open or closed bins.

8.4 Construction of monolithic fill should conform to standard practices employed with conventional materials. The U. S. Department of the Interior Earth Manual provides suitable construction practices. Inspection of the fill should be carried out during construction to ensure compliance with specifications. Practice E 850 contains special provisions that are related to this section. The EPA has developed requirements to restrict the disposal of untreated industrial waste containing heavy metal wastes and organic materials in the landfills such as EPA/SW-872, EPA/530-SW-85-0031, EPA/530-SW-86-008, EPA/530-SW-86-016; and EPA/540-2-86-001.

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