



Standard Terminology Relating to Lime and Limestone (as used by the Industry)¹

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This standard has been approved for use by agencies of the Department of Defense.

1. Scope*

1.1 This terminology refers to the terms relating to lime and limestone products as used by the industry.

1.2 Where appropriate, the various terms defined below should be prefixed with one or other of the adjectives “high-calcium,” “magnesian,” or “dolomitic.” (Examples: dolomitic quicklime; high-calcium hydraulic hydrated lime; magnesian or dolomitic limestone.)

1.3 The composition of a limestone should be given in terms of a percentage of the carbonates present. In limestone of interest to the lime industry, it is usually assumed that the material consists almost entirely of carbonates. Where this assumption is not valid, the percentage of noncarbonate material should be determined, and the composition expressed in terms of the carbonate material present.

1.4 For specific application of lime or a limestone product, see the appropriate ASTM specification.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*²

[C207 Specification for Hydrated Lime for Masonry Purposes](#)

[C270 Specification for Mortar for Unit Masonry](#)

[C602 Specification for Agricultural Liming Materials](#)

[C1707 Specification for Pozzolanic Hydraulic Lime for Structural Purposes](#)

3. Terminology

agricultural lime—either ground quicklime or hydrated lime whose calcium and magnesium content is capable of neutralizing soil acidity.

¹ This terminology is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee C07 on Lime and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee C07.08 on Editorial and Nomenclature

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² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard’s Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

agricultural limestone—ground or pulverized limestone whose calcium and magnesium content is capable of neutralizing soil acidity.

DISCUSSION—Agricultural lime is a very powerful neutralizing agent. Agricultural limestone, often referred to as “aglime” is the predominate material for soil pH adjustment. See Specification [C602](#).

air-slaked lime—the product containing various proportions of the oxides, hydroxides, and carbonates of calcium and magnesium which results from the exposure of quicklime to the air in sufficient quantity to show physical signs of hydration (difficult to determine visually in pulverized quicklime).

alkaline earth solutions (AES)—an aqueous solution of the oxide or hydroxide of an element of group IIa in the periodic table, such as calcium or magnesium. These solutions may be strongly alkaline. See **pH**.

available lime index—those constituents of a lime which enter into a desired reaction under the conditions of a specific method or process.

building or construction lime—a lime whose chemical and physical characteristics and method of processing make it suitable for the ordinary or special construction uses of the product.

by-product lime—by-product limes include a variety of Calcium and/or Calcium/Magnesium compounds that are usable for specific applications but generally do not meet one or more specifications required of primary lime products. Examples include lime kiln dust and lime hydrator rejects. It is advised that the specific compositions, physical properties, performance characteristics, and anticipated variabilities of such materials be evaluated for the service intended.

calcareous—originating from predominately calcium carbonate or one of its derivative forms.

calcia—the chemical compound calcium oxide (CaO).

calcined pozzolans—materials that are produced by calcination of natural siliceous or aluminosiliceous earths, such calcination being for the purpose of activation of pozzolanic properties.

*A Summary of Changes section appears at the end of this standard

Cement-Lime Mortar—Cement-Lime Mortar primarily consists of hydraulic cement, hydrated lime or lime putty, mason’s sand and water.

DISCUSSION—These mortars can be specified by proportions or properties indicated in Specification C270.

chemical lime—a quicklime or hydrated lime whose chemical and physical characteristics and method of processing make it suitable for one or more of the many and varied chemical and industrial uses of the product.

DISCUSSION—The chemical forms of calcium oxide (CaO), calcium hydroxide (Ca(OH)₂), magnesium oxide (MgO), or magnesium hydroxide (Mg(OH)₂) alone or in combination may be produced either primarily or as a by-product of materials other than limestone, for example, Ca(OH)₂ formed by acetylene generation from calcium carbide (CaC₂), water treatment sludges, etc.

dead burned dolomite—dolomitic limestone that has been heated with or without additives to a temperature sufficiently high and for a long enough time to decompose the carbonate structure so as to form calcium oxide and periclase in a matrix that provides resistance to subsequent hydration and recombination with carbon dioxide.

dolomitic—indicates the presence of 35 to 46 % magnesium carbonate (MgCO₃) in the limestone from which the material was formed.

dolomitic limestone—see **limestone**.

di-hydrated or double hydrated lime—dolomitic lime which has been hydrated under greater than atmospheric pressure and contains less than 8 % unhydrated oxides.

finishing hydrated lime—hydrated lime suitable for use in the finish coat of plaster.

finishing quicklime—quicklime suitable (after slaking to a lime putty) for use in the finish coat of plaster.

fluxing lime—a term referring to quicklime used as an agent in the manufacture of steel or glass.

fluxstone—a term referring to limestone (high-calcium, magnesian, or dolomitic) used as an agent in the manufacture of iron and steel or glass.

high-calcium—indicates the presence of 0 to 5 % magnesium carbonate (MgCO₃) in the limestone from which the material was formed.

high-calcium limestone—see **limestone**.

hydrated lime—a dry powder obtained by treating quicklime with water enough to satisfy its chemical affinity for water under the conditions of its hydration. It consists essentially of calcium hydroxide or a mixture of calcium hydroxide and magnesium oxide or magnesium hydroxide, or both.

DISCUSSION—The chemical forms of calcium oxide (CaO), calcium hydroxide (Ca(OH)₂), magnesium oxide (MgO), or magnesium hydroxide (Mg(OH)₂) alone or in combination may be produced either primarily or as a by-product of materials other than limestone, for example, Ca(OH)₂ formed by acetylene generation from calcium carbide (CaC₂), water treatment sludges, etc.

hydraulic hydrated lime—the hydrated dry cementitious product obtained by calcining a limestone containing silica

and alumina to a temperature short of incipient fusion so as to form sufficient free lime (CaO) to permit hydration, and at the same time, leaving unhydrated sufficient calcium silicates to give a dry powder meeting hydraulic property requirements.

lime—a general term which includes the various chemical and physical forms of quicklime, hydrated lime, and hydraulic lime. It may be high-calcium, magnesian, or dolomitic.

DISCUSSION—The chemical forms of calcium oxide (CaO), calcium hydroxide (Ca(OH)₂), magnesium oxide (MgO), or magnesium hydroxide (Mg(OH)₂) alone or in combination may be produced either primarily or as a by-product of materials other than limestone, for example, Ca(OH)₂ formed by acetylene generation from calcium carbide (CaC₂), water treatment sludges, etc.

lime mortar—a lime putty mixed with an aggregate, suitable for masonry purposes.

lime putty—the product obtained by slaking quicklime with water according to the directions of the manufacturer or by mixing hydrated lime and water to a desired consistency.

limestone—an initially sedimentary rock consisting chiefly of calcium carbonate or of the carbonates of calcium and magnesium. Limestone may be of high calcium, magnesian, or dolomitic.

(1) *dolomitic limestone*—limestone containing from 35 to 46 % magnesium carbonate (MgCO₃).

(2) *magnesian limestone*—a limestone containing from 5 to 35 % MgCO₃.

(3) *high-calcium limestone*—a limestone containing from 0 to 5 % MgCO₃.

liming material—a general term which includes the various chemical and physical forms of materials such as lime, limestone, mollusk shells, marl, byproduct lime, and slag whose calcium and magnesium compounds are capable of neutralizing acidity.

magnesia—the chemical compound magnesium oxide (MgO).

magnesian—indicates the presence of 5 to 35 % magnesium carbonate (MgCO₃) in the limestone from which the material was formed.

magnesian limestone—see **limestone**.

masons hydrated lime—hydrated lime suitable for use for masonry purposes.

masons quicklime—quicklime suitable (after slaking to a lime putty) for use for masonry purposes.

milk of lime—a suspension of hydrated lime (or slaked quicklime) in water in such proportions as to resemble milk in appearance.

DISCUSSION—The chemical forms of calcium oxide (CaO), calcium hydroxide (Ca(OH)₂), magnesium oxide (MgO), or magnesium hydroxide (Mg(OH)₂) alone or in combination may be produced either primarily or as a by-product of materials other than limestone, for example, Ca(OH)₂ formed by acetylene generation from calcium carbide (CaC₂), water treatment sludges, etc.

mono-hydrated lime—dolomitic lime which has been hydrated at atmospheric pressure and contains more than 8 % unhydrated oxides.

natural pozzolans—materials that, in the natural state, exhibit pozzolanic properties, such as some volcanic ash and lava deposits.

non-volatile—term used to denote the calculated chemical basis of a material in which the volatile fraction of that material is removed, relative to a specific temperature. For example, in lime and limestone, the loss on ignition is considered to be the volatile fraction.

pH—the negative logarithm of the hydrogen ion concentration, which can be greatly affected by temperature, particularly under alkaline conditions. It is therefore important to measure alkaline earth solutions (AES) at a specific recommended temperature of 25 °C.

plasticity—a comparative physical property of a standard consistency lime putty to resist the loss of plastic state workability when subjected to pressure against the suction of an absorptive surface as measured by the Emley Plasticimeter.

Portland Cement-Lime Mortar (PCL)—See Cement-Lime Mortar.

pozzolan—a siliceous or aluminosiliceous material that in itself possesses little or no cementitious value but that in finely divided form and in the presence of moisture will chemically react with alkali and alkaline earth hydroxides at ordinary temperatures to form or assist in forming compounds possessing cementitious properties.

pozzolanic hydraulic lime (PHL), n—a powder produced by the blending or intergrinding of not less than 25 % by binder weight of Specification C207 Type S hydrated lime with one or more pozzolan and inert filler. Type N hydrated lime of Specification C207 shall be used if shown to be not detrimental to the soundness of the material.

DISCUSSION—Specification C1707 modifies this definition with the addition of air entrainment or cement.

quicklime—a calcined limestone, the major part of which is calcium oxide or calcium oxide in association with magnesium oxide, capable of slaking with water.

DISCUSSION—The chemical forms of calcium oxide (CaO), calcium hydroxide (Ca(OH)₂), magnesium oxide (MgO), or magnesium hydroxide (Mg(OH)₂) alone or in combination may be produced either primarily or as a by-product of materials other than limestone, for example, Ca(OH)₂ formed by acetylene generation from calcium carbide (CaC₂), water treatment sludges, etc.

quicklime sizes—the different sizes depending upon the type of limestone, kind of kiln used, or treatment subsequent to calcining. The sizes commonly recognized are as follows:

- (1) *large lump*—8 in. (203 mm) and smaller,
- (2) *pebble or crushed*—2½ in. (64 mm) and smaller,
- (3) *ground, screened or granular*—¼ in. (6.4 mm) and smaller, and
- (4) *pulverized*—substantially all passing a No. 20 (850-µm) sieve.

reactivity—reactivity is the reaction between substances, which can be monitored by some measure, either qualitative or quantitative. In the Lime Industry, it is commonly used to refer to the reaction between limestone, quicklime and/or a related material and another substance such as water, acid or SO_x.

refractory lime—lime (usually of a dolomitic type) that has been extremely hard burned so that it will possess little or no tendency for conversion of the oxides to hydroxides.

run-of-kiln quicklime—quicklime as drawn or discharged from a kiln.

slaking—the chemical reaction that produces hydrated lime when quicklime and water are mixed.

spray lime—a hydrated lime of such fineness that at least 95 % of the particles will pass a No. 325 (45-µm) sieve.

stucco—an exterior cementitious-lime-finishing system applied to a suitable substrate on the surfaces of buildings and structures.

white wash—a combination of hydrated lime (or slaked quicklime), water, and other materials to be used as a paintlike coating.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

Committee C07 has identified the location of selected changes to this terminology since the last issue, C51–07, that may impact the use of this terminology. (Approved June 1, 2011)

(1) Added definition of *pozzolanic hydraulic lime (PHL)*.

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