

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
DIVISION OF ENGINEERING SERVICES  
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## METHOD OF TEST FOR CONSOLIDATION OF SOILS

### A. SCOPE

The consolidation test is designed to measure the compressibility of soils. In this test a laterally confined, axially drained soil specimen is subject to a series of constant axial loads. The results of the test are used to compute the quantity of settlement and the rate at which the settlement will occur in foundation soils under imposed loads. While application of consolidation test results for computing settlement is somewhat complex, the actual mechanics of the test are ordinarily routine.

This test shall be conducted in accordance with ASTM D 2435.

### B. PROCEDURE

Use ASTM D 2435.

### C. HEALTH AND SAFETY

It is the responsibility of the user of this test method to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use. Prior to handling, testing or disposing of any materials, testers must be knowledgeable about safe laboratory practices, hazards and exposure, chemical procurement and storage, and personal protective apparel and equipment.

Caltrans Laboratory Safety Manual is available at:

[http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/esc/ctms/pdf/lab\\_safety\\_manual.pdf](http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/esc/ctms/pdf/lab_safety_manual.pdf)

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