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DIVISION OF ENGINEERING SERVICES  
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## METHOD OF TEST FOR UNCONFINED COMPRESSION OF SOILS

### A. SCOPE

The unconfined compression test is used to measure the shearing resistance of cohesive soils which may be undisturbed or remolded specimens. An axial load is applied using either strain-control condition. The unconfined compressive strength is defined as the maximum unit stress obtained at 15 % axial strain.

This test shall be conducted in accordance with ASTM D 2166.

### B. PROCEDURE

Use ASTM D 2166.

### 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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