Method Summary

Determination of Particle Size Distribution of Solid Samples

Scope and Range

This method covers the quantitative determination of the particle size distribution in a soil from medium gravel down to fine sand size. This method is unaccredited.

References

BS 1377 – Methods of Test for Soils for Civil Engineering Purposes (2016)

Principle

The sample is put into sieves ranging from 9.50 mm down to 63 µm in descending order. Water is then run through the sieves to break up the sample and various sizes of particles are collected in the respective sieves. The particles are then emptied into trays, put to dry and then weighed. These weights are then calculated to show the percentages of various particle sizes in the sample.

Calculation of Results:

$$\frac{\text{Retained Weight}}{\text{Weight of Sample Taken}} \times 100 = \% \text{ Retained}$$

% Passing = 100 - % Retained

Interferences

None known.