



Transport
Roads & Maritime
Services

Test method T342

Load testing of concrete fence posts

OCTOBER 2012



Revision Summary

Ed/Rev Number	Clause Number	Description of Revision	Authorisation	Date
		Reformatted and Revision Summary Added	D.Dash	May 1999
		Date on Test Method Revised to Agree with Date on Revision Summary	D.Dash	Feb 2001
Ed 1/ Rev 0	All	Reformatted RMS template	J Friedrich	October 2012

Note that Roads and Maritime Services is hereafter referred to as 'RMS'.

The most recent revision to Test method T342 (other than minor editorial changes) are indicated by a vertical line in the margin as shown here.

Test method T342

Load testing of concrete fence posts

1. Scope

This test method describes the procedure for the load testing of pre-cast reinforced or prestressed concrete fence posts.

2. Definition

Term	Definition
Proof load	(a) Is the test load which the fence post is required to resist without the development of any visible cracks on removal of the load.

3. Apparatus

- (a) A test frame capable of supporting the fence post at the prescribed distance from each end while the test load is being applied to the centre of the post
- (b) A load measuring device capable of indicating the applied load to within $\pm 2\%$ of the correct load
- (c) Timber bearing blocks (3) of 100 mm x 50 mm hardwood with the bearing surfaces which will be in contact with the fence post protected by 12 mm thick hard rubber pads. Where the fence posts are of width greater than 100 mm bearing blocks of the appropriate length should be used

4. Procedure

- (a) Determine the batch of posts that the test post represents so that the posts can be clearly marked should the test post fail to sustain the test load without the development of any visible cracks on removal of the load.
- (b) Set the post to be tested in the test frame with the wire holes horizontal so that it bears on the two support blocks at points 1.5 metres between centres and equidistant from the centre of the post. The blocks must be placed so that they provide support over the full width of the post.
- (c) Apply the test load vertically through a third test block at a point midway between the bearing blocks. If necessary timber wedges of suitable length and 50 mm width should be placed between the post and the bearing blocks so that the wire holes remain horizontal and the load is applied vertically. In such cases ensure that the rate of loading should be reasonably uniform and in the range of 0.4 to 0.6 kN per second until the specified load is reached.
- (d) Release the test load and examine the post for any visible cracks or permanent deformation.

5. Reporting

- (a) Report the dimensions of the post
- (b) Report the specified proof load and the load applied to the nearest 0.05 kN
- (c) If the post sustained the specified proof load, without any visible signs of cracks after removal of the load, report the post as "sustained specified proof load". If the post did not sustain the proof load without any visible signs of cracks after removal of the load, report the post as "failed to sustain specified proof load"