

**Problem #7904** During production in a cement plant, test cubes of cement are taken at regular intervals and their compressive strengths, in kg m<sup>-2</sup>, determined. Analysis of data over a long time has shown that the compressive strength of these samples is normally distributed with a mean 0.0468 kg m<sup>-2</sup> and a standard deviation  $1.6 \cdot 10^{-3}$  kg m<sup>-2</sup>. Calculate the probability that a randomly chosen sample has a compressive strength below 0.045 kg m<sup>-2</sup>.

**Solution** Denote by  $\xi$  the compressive strength of a randomly chosen sample. We are to calculate  $P(\xi > 0.045) = P\left(\frac{\xi - 0.0468}{1.6 \cdot 10^{-3}} > \frac{0.045 - 0.0468}{1.6 \cdot 10^{-3}}\right) = 1 - \Phi(-1.125) \approx 1 - 0.13 = 0.87$ .

**Answer** 0.87 .