Design and Construction Practices That Can Result in Improved Service Life of Concrete Structures to 150 Years or More

Western Bridge Engineers' Seminar

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New Focus on Durability Without Any Guidance

Design for 75 Years
 Current Codes Fail to Identify and Quantify

Durability













Construction









































Maintenance

Use of Chemical De-icers

- Magnesium Chloride Reacts with Ca(OH)2
 Calcium Chloride- Reacts with Ca(OH)2
 Potassium Acetate Reacts with Zinc Based Paints
- Rock Salt Rebar Corrosion
- **Brine- Rebar Corrosion**



Cylinders (2 in by 4 in) exposed to MgCl2 solution after 84 days of constant low temperature test. From left to right: 0.40, 0.50. 0.60 w/c ratio

Courtesy 2005 TRB Paper Larry Sutter, PhD



Cylinders (2 in by 4 in) exposed to CaCl2 solution after 84 days of constant low temperature test. From left to right: 0.40, 0.50, and 0.60 w/c mortar cylinders.



Cylinders (2 in by 4 in) exposed to NaCl solution after 84 days of constant low temperature test. From left to right: 0.40, 0.50, 0.60 w/c ratio



Courtesy 2005 TRB Paper Larry Sutter, PhD

Durable Concrete

Protect Rebars with Coating
Concrete Mix



Schematic representation of (a) passive corrosion and (b) chloride-induced active corrosion of steel in concrete.



Schematic representation of the variation of corrosion rate of the reinforcement as a function of time (shown in blue) and the corresponding damage produced in the concrete cover



Corrosion of embedded metals in concrete can be greatly reduced by placing crack-free concrete with low permeability and sufficient concrete cover. Low-permeability concrete can be attained by decreasing the water to cementitious materials ratio of the concrete and the use of pozzolans and slag. Pozzolans and slag also increase the concrete resistivity thus reducing the corrosion rate even after it initiates. ACI 318, *Building Code Requirements for Structural Concrete* provides minimum concrete cover requirements that will help protect the embedded metals from corrosive materials. Additional measures to mitigate corrosion of steel reinforcement in concrete include the use of corrosion inhibiting admixtures, coating of reinforcement (for example, with an epoxy resin), and use of sealers and membranes on the concrete surface. Sealers and membranes, if used, have to be periodically reapplied



Epoxy Galvanized Stainless **MMFX Stelex "Z"** Bars Non-metallic

Define Exposure

- Surface and Exposure Environment
- Chloride Exposure
- Freeze and Thawing Exposure
- Exposure to Chemical Attack
- Exposed to Sulfate Attack

Surface and Exposure Environment ACI 318-08

- **F1** Moderate Freezing
- **F2** Severe Freezing
- S1 Negligible Sulfate SO4<0.10% or SO4<150 ppm
 S2 Moderate Sulfate SO4<0.20% or 1,500 ppm
- **S3** Severe Sulfate SO4<2% or SO4<10,000 ppm
- **S4** Very Severe SO4>2% or SO4> 10,000 ppm
- **C1** Low Perm. When Exposed to Water
- **C2** Exposed to De-icing Chemicals
- **C3** Exposed to Sea Water, Brackish Water or Spray



Define Performance

Strength
Modulus, Creep
Permeability
Scaling
Early Shrinkage
Freeze Thaw

Test Methods

- T 22 Compressive Strength
 T 160 Free Shrinkage & Ring Test
 T 277 Permeability
 T 161 Freeze/Thaw
 C 672 Scaling
 C 1260 & C 1202 ASD
- **C 1260 & C 1293** ASR

Prescriptive to Performance P2P

 Owner Defines Performance
 Contractor Provides Mix design
 Owner Acceptance Based on Field Verification & Contractor's Test Results

Monitor Performance of the Bridge



RECAP

- Select Structure Type to Match Intended Longevity
- Account for the Environmental Exposure
- Develop Concrete Mix Performance Criteria
- Avoid Design Practices That Lead to Const. Difficulties
- Address Construction Outcome Without Dictating Methods
- Address Level of Maintenance During Design

