

State of Illinois  
Department of Transportation  
Division of Aeronautics

**POLICY MEMORANDUM**

April 1, 2010

Springfield

Number: **87-3**

TO: CONSULTING ENGINEERS

SUBJECT: MIX DESIGN, TEST BATCH, QUALITY CONTROL, AND ACCEPTANCE TESTING OF PCC PAVEMENT MIXTURE

I. SCOPE

This Policy Memorandum addresses the Mix Design, Test Batch, Quality Control and Acceptance Testing of PCC pavement mixtures specified by Item 501, Portland Cement Concrete Pavement, in accordance with the Standard Specifications for Construction of Airports, Special Provisions, and policies of the Division of Aeronautics.

II. MIX DESIGN

Prior to the start of paving operations and after approval by the Division of Aeronautics (IDOA) of all materials to be used in the manufacture of the concrete, the contractor shall provide a preliminary mix design(s) for evaluation at the Test Batch. The mix design shall indicate saturated surface dry batch weights per cubic yard for each material component. In addition, each material component, including chemical admixtures, shall be identified by the IDOT material code number, the IDOT producer code number, and the producer name and location. Saturated surface dry and oven dry specific gravities, as well as absorption values, for each proposed aggregate to be used in the mix shall be indicated on the mix design. When requested in writing by the contractor, the Engineer will recommend a preliminary mix design for evaluation at the Test Batch.

The Mix Design and the contractor's approved Job Mix Formula (JMF) will be issued by our office subject to verification of the mix by strength tests obtained from mix prepared from a Test Batch(es) according to the approved JMF. The water-cementitious ratio established from the approved test batch is the maximum water-cementitious ratio allowed during production paving. Whether the contractor selects his own mix design or chooses to use the mix design recommended by the Division, the contractor is responsible for the mix design, as well as the manufacture and placement of the mix.

III. TEST BATCH

At least 28 days prior to the start of production, the contractor and/or producer shall prepare a Test Batch under the direction of the Engineer. The Test Batch shall be prepared at the concrete plant proposed for use in the production of the concrete mix for

the project and shall be in accordance with the approved Job Mix Formula (JMF). When approved by the Engineer, the Test Batch may be prepared at a different plant provided that the same materials specified in the JMF are used. The plant shall have been surveyed and approved by the Engineer prior to preparation of the Test Batch. As required by these Special Provisions, the contractor shall provide Quality Control for production of the concrete. The contractor shall have his Quality Control Manager and a representative of the contractor familiar with the paving operation, present at the Test Batch preparation. The Test Batch shall be prepared as follows:

A. Proportioning

Prior to preparation of the mix, the Proportioning Technician shall perform a minimum of two (2) gradation analysis and two (2) moisture tests on each aggregate used. The gradation analysis shall be reported on form AER-12. From this data, the JMF shall be adjusted for moisture, in accordance with form AER-12. A microwave type moisture probe (or equal) may be allowed to adjust proportions for sand moisture when approved by the Engineer.

B. Preparation of the Mix:

- 1.) Prepare a Test Batch that is at least one-half (1/2) the manufacturer's rated capacity of the mixing drum (in cubic yards). The Test Batch shall be prepared with the approved JMF, adjusted for moisture.
- 2.) Mixing requirements shall be:
  - a.) Central Mix Plant: Mixing time shall be a minimum of 90 seconds. If transit mixer trucks are used to transport the mix, the mix shall be agitated, after mixing, at 2-5 RPM for the approximate time anticipated between batching at the plant and deposit of the concrete in the forms. If non-mixing trucks are used to transport the mix, the mix shall remain in the central mixer with no mixing or agitation for the approximate time anticipated from when the water contacts the cement and deposit of the concrete in the forms.
  - b.) Transit Mix Plant: Mixing shall consist of 70-100 Revolutions @ 5-16 RPM. After initial mixing, agitate mix at 2-5 RPM for the approximate time anticipated between batching at the plant and deposit of the concrete in the forms.
- 3.) Slump and Air: If the air content after aging is  $6.0\% \pm 1.5\%$  and provides the required workability for paving, the contractor will make cylinders for testing at 3, 7, 14 and 28 days. If the slump is below that required for placement, the contractor may add additional water to increase the slump as necessary up to the maximum water/cement ratio (or water/cementitious material) ratio listed herein. Additional mixing of at least 40 Revolutions will be required with each addition of water. Cylinders and/or beams will be made for testing at 3, 7, 14 and 28 days when the slump is obtained, at  $6.0\% \pm 1.5\%$  air content. The water/cement ratio (or water/cementitious material) ratio cannot exceed 0.44 based on actual batch weights when 501-3.6(A) proportions is specified, and 0.42 when 501-3.6(B) proportions is specified.

- 4.) The Proportioning Technician shall complete Form AER M-7, Plastic Concrete Air, Slump and Quantity and Form AER M-6, Concrete Moisture Determination (Adjusted Oven Dry Method), to be given to the Resident Engineer after completion of the Test Batch. The Flask Method, Dunagan Method, and Pycnometer Jar Method are also acceptable test methods for the determination of aggregate moisture.
- 5.) The Resident Engineer and contractor shall each independently complete Form AER M-4, Concrete Plant Production, Mix Verification.
- 6.) The concrete test cylinders and/or beams shall be tested at 3, 7, 14 and 28 days to establish a growth curve of concrete strength vs. age. The compressive strength shall be at least 800 psi, over the specified strength, at 28 days. Flexural strength concrete shall have at least 100 psi over the specified strength at 28 days.

#### IV. QUALITY CONTROL

Quality control testing is the responsibility of the contractor and must be performed by qualified testing personnel approved by the Engineer. The proportioning technician shall be PCC Level II certified by the testing firm must perform his or her duties on a full time basis whenever concrete is produced for an IDOA project.

The proportioning technician shall perform the duties as outlined in the Division of Highways latest Manual of Instructions for Concrete Proportioning and Testing and as outlined as follows. These duties as outlined are not necessarily all inclusive and may include other duties as required by the specifications, special provisions, etc.

If a QC or QA test for slump, air content, or mix temperature fails to meet the requirements of the specifications the contractor shall reject the batch. In the case of a failing test of the air content, the contractor may make adjustments to the concrete to bring the air content into compliance with the specification. Adjustments are subject to the time limitations of 1 hour from time of batching when the concrete is transported in mixer trucks. Time limitations shall be increased by 30 minutes when the concrete mixture contains a retarding admixture. When concrete has been rejected due to failing test results, the contractor shall continue to run tests for the failed test parameter until at least 3 consecutive passing tests are achieved. This testing is in addition to the normal QC and QA testing.

##### A. Duties of the Proportioning Technician:

- 1.) Check and maintain shipment tickets of each material used in the manufacture of the concrete. These tickets are to be given to the Resident Engineer for each day's production of concrete. The aggregates shall indicate the quality on the ticket and a statement that the coarse aggregate is a non "D" cracking (freeze-thaw rated by IDOT) aggregate. In lieu of having these statements on each ticket, the contractor may use the Division's Aggregate Certification of Compliance form, or supply the Resident Engineer with a certification letter indicating the stone quality and statement of non "D" cracking compliance.

- 2.) Inspect and maintain proper storage of all aggregates and materials daily.
- 3.) Perform at least one (1) sieve analysis for each aggregate daily.
- 4.) Inspect all weighing or measuring devices daily.
- 5.) Twice daily check the actual weighing or measuring of aggregates, cement, water, and admixtures for conformance to adjusted batch proportions. Record data on Form AER-4, Concrete Plant Production, Mix Verification, and calculate the water/cement (or water/cementitious material) ratio.
- 6.) See that the volume of the batch does not exceed the allowable capacity of the mixer and that the proper mixing time is used.
- 7.) Make at least two (2) moisture tests of each aggregate daily and correct batch weights as required.
- 8.) Adjust the dosage rates of the admixtures as required to meet concrete temperature changes and paving conditions.
- 9.) Complete AER M-7, Concrete Air, Slump and Quantity, and Form AER-4, Concrete Plant Production, Mix Verification for each day's production and deliver same to the Resident Engineer at the end of the day for which the data pertains. Provide to the Resident Engineer load tickets for all aggregates, cement, and admixtures used in the mix.

The Resident Engineer will also be required to visit the plant twice daily on a random basis to record actual batch weights and complete Form AER-4, Concrete Plant Production, Mix Verification. Forms AER-4, AER -7, and AER -12 shall be submitted to the R.E. on a daily basis and then faxed by the R.E. to the Division of Aeronautics daily. (FAX is (217) 558-1328)

#### V. ACCEPTANCE TESTING

As required by Item 501-5.3 of the Standard Specifications, acceptance and payment of the final pavement is based on the strength of either cylinders or beams taken at random during the time of construction. The pavement shall be divided into Lots of 1200 cubic yards with sublots of 300 cubic yards each. The final subplot of the project shall be separated into an additional subplot if the concrete quantity is greater than or equal to 150.0 cubic yards. Otherwise, this remaining quantity shall be incorporated into the previous subplot.

One random sample (two cylinders or one beam) shall be obtained from each subplot for testing at 28 days to calculate final payment. At the time a subplot sample is taken, one (1) slump and one (1) air test shall be taken.

In addition to the above described sample frequency, three (3), seven (7) and fourteen (14) day tests shall be taken. The Engineer may require additional tests to maintain Quality Control.

Lots and sublots shall not be separated by mix design or day of paving if the project is using more than one mix design. The grouping of Lots and sublots is to be done solely by the quantity of cubic yards poured on the project.

Steven J. Long, P.E.  
Acting Chief Engineer

Supersedes Policy Memorandum 87-3, dated July 31, 2004.