WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS
MATERIALS CONTROL, SOILS AND TESTING DIVISION

MATERIALS PROCEDURE

MAINTAINING SPECIFIED LEVEL OF STRENGTH IN PORTLAND CEMENT CONCRETE

1. PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this procedure is to set forth a method of adjusting the cement content of portland cement concrete so that a reasonable conformance with the specified level of strength may be assured.

2. SCOPE

2.1 The procedure shall apply to all classes of concrete.

3. PROCEDURE

3.1 Initial Cement Requirement

3.1.1 "Initial Cement Requirement" is the cement requirement determined by the formal laboratory design method outlined in MP 711.03.23.

3.2 Reevaluating Cement Requirement

3.2.1 A concrete mix design referred to herein means a combination of particular source and type of materials and a cement factor which satisfies the requirement of the governing specification, said combination of materials and cement factor being formulated for the express purpose satisfying the requirement of a particular class of concrete specified for the work. The cement factor in a particular mix design may be changed without invalidating the design. If source or type of materials in a mix design are changed, then the mix design is considered changed, and two or more mix designs would result from such change(s).

Strength data which represents two cement factors in one mix design may be processed collectively in the derivation of statistical parameters, average and standard deviation, for example, if it is felt that such a treatment does not significantly affect the statistics.

3.2.2 For the various classes of concrete which are designed in conformance with MP 711.03.23, the first reevaluation of cement requirement shall be made after at least ten pieces of strength data are available to evaluate the adequacy of the mix design. Thereafter, a reevaluation of cement requirement shall be made at monthly intervals at which time, the evaluation shall be based on the strength data developed during the preceding two months or on the last ten pieces of data developed, whichever is greater.

3.3 Method of Evaluating Cement Requirement

3.3.1 The cement requirement for all classes of concrete governed by this procedure shall be the quantity necessary to maintain the average strength of the concrete within the range of the Design Strength (f'_c) plus K_1 standard deviations and the Design Strength (f'_c) plus K_2 standard deviations $\{(f'_c + K_1\sigma) < \bar{X} < (f'_c + K_2\sigma)\}$. The average strength ($\bar{X}$) and the standard deviation (σ) shall be calculated using the strength data developed during the previous two months or the last ten pieces of strength data, whichever is greater.

3.3.2 If the average strength of concrete can be maintained at a level which is equal to or greater than the Design Strength plus K_2 standard deviations $\bar{X} > (f'_c + K_2\sigma)$, then the cement factor which causes this level of average strength to be developed may be reduced as indicated in Article 3.3.4.3 except that in no instance shall the cement factor be reduced below a level of the target specified cement factor minus 47 lbs. of cement per cubic yard.

3.3.3 If the average strength of the concrete is maintained below the level of the Design Strength plus K_1 standard deviations, $\bar{X} < (f'_c + K_1\sigma)$, then the cement factor which causes this level of average strength to be developed shall be increased as indicated in Article 3.3.4.2.

3.3.4 The relationship between the level of concrete strength (considered to be the average of all data developed during the preceding two months or the average of the last ten pieces of strength data, whichever is greater, and represented by $\bar{X}$), and the action which must be taken regarding the cement factor is as follows:

3.3.4.1 If the average strength is maintained at a level between the Design Strength plus K_1 standard deviations and the Design Strength plus K_2 standard deviations $\{(f'_c+K_1\sigma) < \bar{X} < (f'_c+K_2\sigma)\}$ the cement factor shall be maintained without change.

3.3.4.2 If the average strength falls below the Design Strength, plus K_1 standard deviations $\{\bar{X} < (f'_c+K_1\sigma)\}$ the cement factor shall be increased in accordance with the following formula:

$$Ci = \frac{(f'_c + K_1\sigma) - \bar{X}}{200}$$

Where C_i = Number of 23.5 lb. increments of cement increase per cubic yard, rounded up to a whole number.
f'_c = Design Strength
K_1 = Factor from Table 1
σ = Standard Deviation
$\bar{X}$ = Average Strength

3.3.4.2.1 When the cement factor for a certain mix design, which contains a Supplementary Cementitious Material (SCM), is required to be increased, the Concrete Producer has two options to meet the cement factor increase requirement.

Option 1: Make the cement factor increase entirely with cement.

Option 2: Make the cement factor increase with the same cement/SCM ratio that is used in the subject mix design. For example, if 20% of the cementitious material in the subject mix design is fly ash and 80% of the cementitious material in the subject mix design is cement, and the cement factor was required to be increased by 23.5 pounds, the cement factor increase would consist of an additional 5 lbs. of fly ash and an additional 19 pounds of cement. Fractions of a pound that are 0.5 and above shall be rounded up, and fractions of a pound that are below 0.5 shall be rounded down.

3.3.4.3 If the average strength falls above the Design Strength plus K_2 standard deviations $\{\bar{X} > (f'_c+K_2\sigma)\}$ the cement factor may be decreased in accordance with the following formula:

$$Cd = \bar{X} - \frac{(f'_c + K_2\sigma)}{200}$$

Where C_d = Number of 23.5 lb. increments of cement to be decreased per cubic yard, rounded to the nearest whole number.

K_2 = Factor from Table 1

3.3.4.3.1 When the cement factor for a certain mix design, which contains a SCM, is permitted to be decreased, and if the Concrete Producer elects to decrease that cement factor, the cement factor shall be decreased with the same cement/SCM ratio that is used in the subject mix design. For example, if 20% of the cementitious material in the subject mix design is fly ash and 80% of the cementitious material in the subject mix design is cement, and the cement factor was permitted to be decreased by 23.5 pounds, the cement factor decrease would consist of a reduction of 5 lbs. of fly ash and a reduction of 19 pounds of cement. Fractions of a pound that are 0.5 and above shall be rounded up, and fractions of a pound that are below 0.5 shall be rounded down.

3.4 Reporting

Once each month, the Materials Control, Soils and Testing Division will publish a list of concrete producers (Commercial Suppliers and/or Contractors), with all concrete mix designs for each concrete producer, and their corresponding cement factor, determined in conformance with this MP.

3.5 Reevaluating Concrete Mix Design

A concrete mix design which is approved for a particular project will remain valid to the extent that it satisfies the requirement for that particular project for its duration.

A concrete mix design which is developed in accordance with MP 711.03.23 and maintained for a period of three years shall be re-approved in accordance with Section 6 of MP 711.03.23. It is the Contractor's responsibility to make adjustments to the design mix as necessary to maintain in the concrete proper placement properties, workability, finishability, yield, consistency, air content, and other requirements of the governing specification. The Contractor should be especially aware of this responsibility when the cement factor is changed in conformance with this procedure.

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RLS:M
ATTACHMENT

TABLE 1
VALUES OF "K" FACTORS

NUMBER OF PIECES OF DATA	K1	K2
10	1.604	3.615
11	1.588	3.510
12	1.576	3.429
13	1.565	3.365
14	1.557	3.313
15	1.549	3.270
16	1.543	3.233
17	1.538	3.202
18	1.533	3.175
19	1.528	3.151
20	1.525	3.130
21	1.521	3.112
22	1.518	3.096
23	1.515	3.081
24	1.513	3.067
25	1.511	3.055
26	1.508	3.044
27	1.507	3.034
28	1.505	3.024
29	1.503	3.016
30	1.501	3.008
Above 30	1.500	3.000