High-strength concrete technology for manufacturing reinforced concrete sleepers from prestressed reinforced concrete

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Abstract. The properties of concrete with complex chemical additives to improve the technology for the production of sleepers from prestressed concrete are discussed in the article. With the use of complex chemical additives under heat-moisture processing, at a temperature of 40°C, there was no decrease in the strength of the cement stone and sufficient strength at the initial stage of the curing period, 44.7 MPa; concrete strength was determined with the addition of Glenium 27 S - 1.0% and the hardening accelerator Master X -Seed 100 - 1.2%. Thus, the use of complex chemical additives makes it possible to solve the problem of achieving the necessary early high strength of concrete to implement low-temperature technology in the production of reinforced concrete sleepers.

1 Introduction

One of the urgent problems of modern construction is the creation and improvement of technology to produce sleepers from prestressed reinforced concrete.

Currently, in concrete technology, the main tasks are to increase the strength and durability of concrete; to reduce labor and energy costs associated with the manufacture of concrete and reinforced concrete structures [9-15].

To solve these problems, various technologies are used, associated with the introduction of various chemical additives that improve the properties of concrete [2-11]. Currently, the most popular are complex additives that increase the strength of concrete and its water resistance, frost resistance, and improve other properties of the concrete mixture. In addition, some additives increase the manufacturability of the production of concrete products. However, while increasing the final strength of concrete in the late periods of hardening, many additives do not allow obtaining high concrete strength in the early periods of hardening.

To accelerate the curing of concrete, heat-moisture treatment is often used in steaming chambers at a relative moisture content of 100% and a temperature of +80 ... 95°C. However, at such temperatures of heat treatment in the initial period, significant thermal stresses arise in hardening concrete, exceeding its strength and causing the crack formation, leading to a decrease in the final strength and durability of the structures being

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manufactured. Therefore, another way to improve the quality and to increase the durability of concrete products is to change their production technology [6, 17, 18.]

Like 50 years ago, the technology for the production of reinforced concrete sleepers is based on the heat-and-moisture treatment of products at a temperature of 80°C, which allows for a quick set of early concrete transfer strength. At the same time, this technology has several disadvantages associated with the deterioration of the cement stone structure and a decrease in the final strength and frost resistance of concrete, high-energy consumption, weakening of the contact zone of the cement stone with pre-stressed reinforcement and polymer embedded elements [1].

Scientific achievements in the field of directed formation of the structure and properties of concrete allow today to formulate ways to improve the technology for the production of sleepers from prestressed reinforced concrete [2]. The most promising of them is the introduction of a non-heating or low-heating technology; with the use of chemical additives of polyfunctional action, it is possible to have a significant effect on the properties of concrete mixture and concrete since this direction requires the least investment and can quickly give a tangible economic effect due to energy savings.

The appearance of additives-superplasticizers, and, in the last decade, hyper plasticizer, revolutionized the science of concrete, allowed the introduction of the term "modified concrete" [4, 16, 19, 20]. The development of scientific ideas about concrete in recent decades, especially using modifiers of its structure, allows today to provide early high strength with no-steam or low-heating technology [3, 12, 13]. By reducing water consumption up to 30-35% while ensuring equal mobility of the concrete mixture, new technologies substantially increase the strength of concrete and save cement.

It is necessary to decide on the terminology about the production technology of sleepers. Since at present the production of reinforced concrete sleepers is performed on a twelvehour cycle, to maintain the existing technology and reuse of forms, we have proposed the following definitions:

No-steam or no-heat technology is a technology that ensures the transfer strength of concrete at the age of 12 hours at a temperature no higher than 30 degrees;

Low-temperature (low-heat) technology is a technology that provides the transfer strength of concrete at the age of 12 hours at a temperature no higher than 40 degrees.

To increase the strength of concrete in the initial period of hardening, a technology for concrete production for prestressed reinforced concrete sleepers was developed. It consists of the preparation of concretes with a complex additive Glenium 27 S in an amount of 0.5 ... 1.0%, the hardening accelerator Master X-Seed 100 - 1.2% of the cement mass and heat treatment of concrete in a soft steaming mode. The concrete and reinforced concrete products are manufactured according to the following technology: a complex additive Glenium 27 S is introduced into the concrete mixture, which includes a binder, fine and coarse aggregates and mixing water in an amount of 0.5 ... 1.0%; hardening accelerator Master X-Seed 100 - 1, 2% of the mass of cement; the prepared mixture is placed in molds, then it is held at a temperature of + 18-20°C for 0.5 ... 3.5 hours, then it is steamed at a temperature of +40°C according to the following mode of hours (1 ... 3) + (2 ... 6) + (1 ... 3).

Glenium 27 S and hardening accelerator Master X-Seed 100 were used as additives. The effect of these additives on the strength properties of cement-sand compositions and concretes was studied.

2 Materials and Methods

Portland cement M 400-D0 from OAO Akhangarantsement was used as a binder for concrete.

Chemical and mineral compositions of Portland cement clinker are: wt%: SiO₂ of 21,66; CaO of 64,95; Al₂O₃ of 5,01; Fe₂O₃ of 4,01; MgO of 3,42; SO₃ of 0,40; R₂O of 0,46; C₂S of 16,33; C₃S of 60,22; C₃A of 6,48 and C₄AF of 12,19.

According to its physical and mechanical parameters (Tables 1 and 2), the Portland cement taken for the study meets the standard requirements [5].

	Average	True	Fineness of grinding		Normal
Type of cement	density g/cm3	density g/cm3	Specific surface area cm2/g	Sieve residue 0,08%	consistency %
Portland cement Akhangaran grade 400 D0	1.21	3.2	3000	8.5	26.0
Portland cement Akhangaran grade 400 D20	1.20	3.18	3000	8.2	28.0

Table 1. Physical properties of Portland cement

Type of cement	Setting time h-min		Ultimate strength after 28 days of hardening, MPa		Volume uniformity
	beginning	end	bending	compression	
Portland cement Akhangaran grade 400 D0	1-10	6-20	5,80	41,80	withstand
Portland cement Akhangaran grade 400 D20	1-20	6-40	5,60	40,6	withstand

River quartz sand with a size modulus of 1.81 and an average density of $\sim 2000 \text{ kg/m}^3$ served as a fine concrete aggregate. The content of foreign particles (clay, dust, and silt) did not exceed 0.15%. The sand used met the standard requirements [5]. The graph of sand sifting is shown in Figure 1.

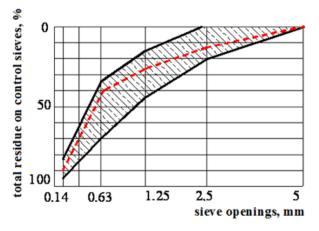


Fig. 1. Graph of sand sifting

Crushed stone of 5-10 and 10-20 mm fractions, with an average density of 1400 kg/m³ was used as a coarse concrete aggregate. The content of clayey, silty and dusty impurities did not exceed 0.4%.

The graph of crushed stone sifting is shown in Figure 2.

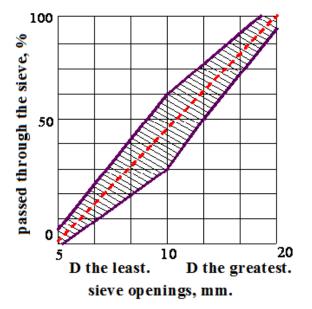


Fig. 2. Graph of crushed stone sifting

Technical data of GLENIUM 27S: Raw material base-polycarboxylate; color and form of delivery - brown liquid; density (at 20°C) 1.10 ± 0.02 g/cm³ pH - 6.4 ± 1.0 ; chloride content <0.1% by mass Alkali content <3.0% by mass, (as Na₂O equivalent)

Master X-Seed 100 (X-SEED 100), a unique cement-hardening accelerator - a core component of the Crystal Speed Hardening [™] concept of application Master X-Seed 100 - is a suspension of active nanoparticles designed to accelerate the process of cement hydration in the early stages (6-12 hours). It is based on the unique, innovative technology Crystal Speed Hardening[™] for accelerating crystallization. Significantly accelerates the growth of calcium hydrosilicate crystals. Master X-Seed 100, owing to unique technology, forms additional centers of crystallization of hydrosilicates of calcium between the cement grains, which significantly accelerates the development of early strength until the final microstructure reaches similar or improved characteristics. Crystal Speed Hardening[™] concept Master X-Seed 100 is a core component of BASF's Crystal Speed Hardening[™] concept.

3 Results and Discussion

In the study of cement-sand compositions, it was stated that the optimal dosage of additives is 1% Glenium 27 S and 1.2% hardening accelerator Master X-Seed 100. In the study, concrete samples were heat-treated according to the following scheme: 1 hour aging at a temperature $\pm 28^{\circ}$ C, 3 hours of raising the temperature to $\pm 40^{\circ}$ C, 6 hours of aging at that temperature and 2.5 hours of lowering the temperature. The results obtained are presented in Table 3.

N⁰		Strength of			
	Amount and	Type of cement	W/C	Mobility,	concrete after
	type of additive			sec.	12 hours, MPa
1.	1% Glenium 27 S	Portland cement Akhangaran grade 400 D0	0.3	10-12	34.5
2.	1% Glenium 27 S	Portland cement Akhangaran grade 400 D20	0.3	10-12	34
3.	1% Glenium 27 S and 1.2 % Master X-Seed 100	Portland cement Akhangaran grade 400 D0	0.26	10-13	44.7
4.	1% Glenium 27 S and 1.2 % Master X-Seed 100	Portland cement Akhangaran grade 400 D20	0.26	10-13	44.2

Table 3. Concrete strength after 12	hours of hardening
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The results given in Table 1 show that the samples after heat treatment at 40°C after 12 hours of hardening with 1% Glenium 27 S and 1.2% Master X-Seed 100 have a strength of 44.7 MPa; and 44.2 MPa.

In further studies, the nature of the change in the strength of concrete was studied in the interval of 10 ... 14 hours of hardening after thermal-moisture treatment. The results are shown in Fig.3.

From Fig.3. it can be seen that the obtained strength of concretes with additives after 12 hours of hardening is sufficient to transfer the prestress (41 MPa) to concrete; therefore, compositions with 1% Glenium 27 S and 1.2% Master X-Seed 100 can be used to obtain high-strength concrete.

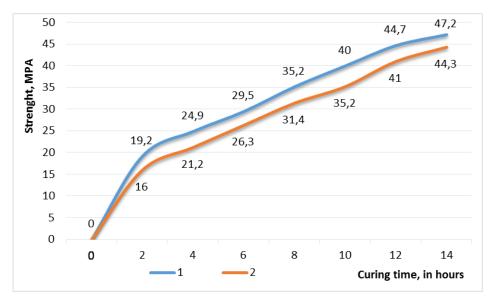


Fig. 3. Kinetics of strength growth of concrete with a complex additive after heat-moisture treatment: 1 is 1% Glenium 27 S and 1.2% Master X-Seed 100, Portland cement Akhangaran grade 400 D0. 2 is Glenium 27 S and 1.2% Master X-Seed 100, Portland cement Akhangaran grade 400 D20.

4 Conclusions

- 1. From Figure 3. it can be seen that the obtained strength of concretes with additives after 12 hours of hardening is sufficient to transfer the prestress (41 MPa) to concrete; therefore, compositions with 1% Glenium 27 S and 1.2% Master X-Seed 100 can be used to obtain high-strength concrete.
- 2. Thus, laboratory studies show the advantage of using the method of manufacturing concrete and reinforced concrete products with additives. It can also be used to manufacture other concrete and reinforced concrete products and structures, for example, tubing tunnels, piles, posts, lintels, crossbars, floor slabs, etc.

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