60th Anniversary Issue

CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION

An Official Magazine of World of Concrete



60 Reasons to Celebrate Concrete

Reason #31: Like the Pantheon, Concrete Endures

Also in this issue: Record-tall tilt-up panels, pg 45

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- Kodasema Creates Movable Concrete Micro-home
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Quick Poll

Do you rely primarily on a single ready-mix concrete producer/supplier or multiple companies?



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60 Years of Concrete Construction



The first cover of CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION.

Ten years ago we published our 50th anniversary edition of CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION. Now we are celebrating the 60th just because everyone likes a party and it's a great excuse to look at where our industry has come from, where it is today, and what to look forward to. There's a timeline of the magazine's history on page 16 and our list of 60 Reasons to Celebrate Concrete starts on page 26. Sixty years is a long time in a person's life-I was only 3 years old when Bill Avery rolled out his first issue of CC, so this magazine's life has roughly aligned with my own and somehow it became my life's work. As editor, walking in the footsteps of people like Avery, Mary Hurd, and Ward Malisch is a great honor and I feel the responsibility to maintain the standards they set and to provide you, our

readers, with the information you need to do your job better. In the first issue, Bill Avery established the goal of CC which remains true today: to make the magazine an industry journal for the "free exchange of ideas, opinions, and experiences" related to concrete. Here's to another 60 years!

To Go Far, Go Together

A recent news item noted that "Construction, by far the most gender-imbalanced field, is also the only industry with a share of women below 10%." That got me thinking about tolerance and diversity on construction jobsites and about how many gay concrete workers there are and how they are treated. Do you have LGBT workers on your jobs? You may say that you don't know or care, but if you do have gay workers I bet there are very few who are "out." Being tolerant and even welcoming to people of all kinds seems to me to be both good sense and good business and a part of the change that is taking place across the construction industry. The old wild-west feeling of a jobsite where we had little regard for the emotional or physical well-being of workers is thankfully becoming a thing of the past. New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker quotes an old African saying that if you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go together. We should actively encourage diversity and inclusion in our workplaces and view all of our coworkers as important parts of a team that can only go far together.



Building Business

Kimberly Kayler starts a new column for CC this month called "Building Business" on page 22. Topics will include marketing, business communication, and planning. Kimberly's company, Constructive Communication Inc., has been providing great content for CC and other industry publications for many years. She has even hired some of our former employees! She and her stable of writers understand how to promote their clients (companies like Doka, the Tilt-Up Concrete Association, and Madison Concrete Construction) while still producing articles that provide our readers with solid, useful information. Kimberly is currently the chair of ACI's marketing committee where she has helped develop an ambitious international marketing plan. Please welcome her to CC.



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YOUR BUSINESS



CONTRACTOR TO WATCH

Lithko Contracting, Liberty Twp., Ohio

BY ZACK ZERNDT

WHEN LITHKO WAS FOUNDED IN 1992, co-workers were traveling long distances for projects, keeping them on the road and away from their families. Since then, Lithko has stressed a healthy work-life balance. This marked the beginning of Lithko's BURGs, or Business Units Running Great. The contractor operates more than 14 BURGs in 35 states. Each is a full-service concrete contractor that uses Lithko processes to deliver exceptional results.

Lithko is a middle-market "total package" concrete contractor and a member of the Tilt-Up Concrete Association. The contractor handles all portions of the project that involve concrete: walls, slabs, decks, columns, tilt-up, high-tolerance floors, and sitework.

While many tilt-up contractors are more specialized, Lithko truly does it all. The contractor does architectural tiltup with brick inlay, warehouse tilt-up, exterior finish, interior components of a building, monuments, multistory office buildings, elevator shafts, and more.

The contractor goes beyond the jobsite to help communities in need. Lithko recently donated their services to Hope House, a provider for domestic violence survivors. The 2016 Lithko Intern class, business unit leaders, and the CEO spent the day placing a new patio, fixed four sidewalks, and put in two new ramps to help with their deliveries.

Lithko's expected growth and ability to consistently complete quality projects on time gives them a competitive edge. "As far as number of locations and mobility, there's really nobody that compares to our scope and scale from a tilt-up perspective," says Lithko CEO Rob Strobel.

Investing in talent is top priority. The goal is to hire more than 100 interns and full-time project engineers. The contractor likes to groom its own workers and set them up for success. Interns have gone on to fulfill many leadership roles within the company.

"If we can empower our people with information, then they're going to personally strive to meet or exceed their goals," says Strobel.

By almost doubling its locations in the past five years, the sky is the limit. "Our goal is to have locations in 50 cities across the U.S.," says Strobel. **CC**

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60 Years and Counting

A lot of people have come and gone in the CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION offices since our first issue was published in 1956. The timeline at the bottom looks at the people and the products that have been an integral part of CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION. Also below are quotations from some of the industry professionals you can find in our special 60th anniversary coverage starting on page 26.



I'm proud of all the concreterelated associations that make our industry stronger, safer, and more professional. — Christy Collins, Executive Director, American Concrete Pumping Association



We're the toughest of all the trades—I will put a concrete guy against any other tradesmen! That message needs to be promoted more. Check out the video Tough as Concrete at bit.do/Tough. —Jereme Montgomery, Executive Director, Nebraska Concrete and Aggregates Association



The concrete industry is willing to help and bring along the smallest contractor; size doesn't matter; we help each other! -Rocky Geans, President, L.L.Geans Construction



The speed of time sometimes seems to slow invention and progress, but doesn't stop it. We are proud of the past 60 years of progress and optimistic about the wonders it will bring. -Bernie Erlin, The Erlin Co.





Concrete's gotten smarter. The skill and knowledge of today's concrete producers and contractors has taken quantum leaps in the past 60 years. They've become educated and trained specialists, courtesy of ACI, ASCC, NRMCA, and others.

-Dan Biddle, VP of Sales, Forta Corp.



Lots of different things have been done with concrete, but there are still untapped ways of utilizing it that we haven't even thought of. – James (Jay) Shilstone, Command Alkon and The Shilstone Companies We beautify cities. Concrete buildings are safer for employees, good for the environment, save taxpayers money through longevity, stay up longer, and stay cooler. —Bob Weatherton





Impressive Infrastructure

This month we feature three important infrastructure projects. The Second Avenue Subway tunnel is New York's first subway line to be built in more than 70 years. The trunk sewer project in Canada was built 131 feet below the ground surface. Both were runners-up in our 2016 Triad Awards. Visit concreteconstruction.net/triad-awards for more in this annual program. Finally, the state Route 520 bridge in Seattle is the world's longest floating bridge. Improving our infrastructure improves our daily lives, and concrete construction makes these projects possible. For more information and photos of these and other projects, visit go.hw.net/projects.



State Route 520 Bridge, Seattle

Stretching almost 1.5 miles, the state Route 520 Bridge is the longest floating bridge in the world. The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) developed a plan to build 77 new pontoons for the bridge. Pontoon construction began in 2011 in a new casting basin where 33 of them were built. Twenty-one of these were longitudinal pontoons, making up the spine and primary support. They are each 360 feet long and weigh about 11,000 tons. In 2012, construction of 44 of the smaller, supplemental pontoons began. Engineers used a fly ash and microsilicia mix to reduce microcracking. They also added a new layer to the design, elevating the 10.5-inchthick road deck 10 feet above the pontoons using concrete columns. The construction of support and box columns on Pontoon W continues.

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Second Avenue Subway TBM Tunnels, New York

The Second Avenue Subway project is the first new subway line in New York City in more than 70 years. Project manager Metropolitan Transit Authority Capital Construction (MTACC) needed an innovative solution: a dust-dry tunnel built on a tight schedule. Cast-in-place concrete provided the answer. The 19-foot, 9-inch interior diameter running tunnels were first proposed to be lined with precast concrete segments, but during the bidding phase the option of using a cast-in-place tunnel liner was selected. The final version included a 12-inch-thick concrete liner reinforced with both steel and polypropylene fibers. The high-strength, low-permeability concrete mix included 650 pounds of cement per cubic yard, 150 pounds of fly ash, 3/4-inch aggregate, a high-range water reducer, 30 pounds of steel fiber, and 1.75 pounds of polypropylene fiber. The contractor placed more than 18,000 cubic yards of concrete to form the tunnel liners.



Southeast Collector Trunk Sewer Project, Ontario, Canada

To handle the growth of Markham and Pickering in Southern Ontario, a trunk sewer was contracted to accommodate the additional future sanitary sewer flows. The trunk sewer is 8.7 miles long and is to be built at depths of 16 feet to more than 131 feet. Doka supplied the custom benching formwork for 13 ventilation shafts, ranging between 32- and 197-foot depths. The custom formwork panels allowed Strabag, the contractor, to pour the U-shaped benching at the bottom of each ventilation shaft connecting the newly drilled tunnel openings with each other. One challenge was ensuring that the pipeline stayed within the Newmarket Till soil stratum, which is more conducive material for tunnel construction. To do so, a substantial drop in elevation of the pipeline over its length was needed.



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Serve Your Best Customers First

CUSTOMER SEGMENTATION HAS long been a standard in other industries. For example, there are countless examples of manufacturers slapping a different label on an automobile and marketing it to a dissimilar demographic either based on a difference in price, image, or even branding. Applying this same philosophy to the concrete contractor can benefit customer retention and profitability.

Customer segmentation is simply a process by which you organize your customers regarding their needs and your services. The process allows a company to select, prioritize, define, and deliver tailored value propositions for customer segments, and develop and manage effective channels for serving these customers.

While we know that all clients are not created equal, we often provide the same level of service to our top clients that we provide to our least desirable ones.

For example, while it is appropriate to work overtime and move other deadlines around to meet the needs of an A client — one that refers other profitable work to you, understands your value, pays your invoices on time — it's not smart to take that same approach for a one-time client that will never refer you to others and is slow to pay.

Segment your customer base to identify what you view as important in a client. Then tally the scores to group your clients from best to worst.



Make a list

The first step in segmenting your customer base is to identify what you view as important in a client. Make a list of the things you deem important. With this list of desirable attributes complete, go through and weigh your clients on a scale of one to 10 in how they perform. Many find it simple to group the tallied numbers at the end in three categories — A, B, and C clients. You'll be surprised when you realize that you cater to many of the less desirable.

Now, with the criteria established and a basis for where each client falls, determine what level of service is a fit for each category. For example, today many retailers move C customers to web and phone orders only, ensuring that expensive time with a salesperson falls in the A or B range. Companies will also break down ongoing service into customer segments.

Using these scenarios as an example, discern different offering levels for the products and services you provide. For example, an A client may garner same-day service, while a C client should be handled within 48 hours. Be sure that the definition of service offerings goes beyond actual tangible deliverables but also includes things such as communication. The key is to be fair, not equal.

This process should result in standard operating procedures for all clients. While such tactics may seem out of the norm, most firms report that customer segmentation improves customer service, since you are focusing energy on tasks, and communication through more effective allocation and utilization of resources. Profitability also increases since you are getting paid for value delivered. **CC**

Kimberly Kayler, CPSM, is the founder and president of Constructive Communication, Inc. She is a member of the ACI Board of Directors and chair of the ACI Marketing Committee. You can reach her by e-mailing kkayler@constructivecommunication.com.



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Craig Cottongim craigcottongim@gmail.com

The Calling of Concrete

I'M ALMOST 50 years old, but even after a lifetime in concrete, I still feel like a 15-year-old right before a big pour. I get excited about concrete. Concrete is the center of most all of my conversations. So, what's so special about working in concrete anyway?

Those of us working in concrete form a unique bond that's stronger than any band of brothers. We experience challenges which the typical person couldn't comprehend, and through sharing our particular hardships and victories, we develop authentic lifelong friendships.

The greatest gratification in life comes from somewhere in between the joy of learning, mentoring, and of knowing what it means to depend on others, while striving to be dependable for a team of dedicated professionals. But make no mistake, our work is demanding; we achieve stamina that athletes competing in a triathlon would envy.

Fresh blood

But I'm also worried about our future when I survey my gray-haired cohorts. So I want to spotlight two efforts aimed at helping our industry recruit some much-needed fresh blood.

I recently spoke to Concrete Industry Management students at Middle Tennessee State University, where Heather Brown and her colleagues are shaping the hearts and minds of dozens of students. It was my privilege to share with their group some of the "real life" aspects of working in concrete. The most rewarding part of the experience came when one student shyly approached and said, "I was thinking about changing my major, but after today I'm really inspired to be in concrete. Thank you!"

Secondly, Jereme Montgomery, the executive director of the Nebraska Concrete and Aggregates Association, recently started a workforce development program to help recruit young adults into the trades. He's in discussions with the U.S. Department of Labor about creating apprenticeship programs for ready-mix drivers and for finishers.

He's also urging the U.S. Department of Education to bring back coop programs to our schools. Thanks to his efforts, eight different trades started the Build Our Nebraska program. It is an exciting attempt to expose high schoolers and college students to the wonderful opportunities in construction through job fairs and campus visits.

"All of the people with a passion for concrete that I know started young," Montgomery told me. "We have to get them in when they are young!" Part of what he is doing is changing the image of our industry by showing young adults that they can be successful without a four-year degree. Keep an eye out on social media for the #concretetough hashtag he started.

Also, Montgomery will present a seminar at World of Concrete in January titled, "Increase attraction of concrete careers and resolve workforce issues." I can't wait to attend his session!

Thanks to concrete we have a sense of pride, knowing few people can do our job and we have a work ethic others only dream of. May this special 60th anniversary edition of CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION inspire you to persuade others to pursue a similar career. We've heard the call of concrete, and we've responded with blood, sweat, and tears. Now it's time to help the next generation hear the call loud and clear. So speak up, because people can't respond to an invitation they haven't received.

Author's note

This month's column is dedicated to the memory of Don Deetjen. He owned Deetch Industrial Concrete in the Chicago area from the 1970s to the 1990s. I worked for him for about 10 years and learned more from him than I did from anyone else. He retired in 1996 and died on July 2. **CC**

Craig Cottongim is a long-time concrete finisher who also is a writer and communicator. You can find all of his columns at go.hw.net/cottongim. E-mail craigcottongim@gmail.com.



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Reasons to Celebrate Concrete

« BY BILL PALMER »

In the 60 years since CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION was first published, the concrete industry has made great strides in materials, equipment, construction techniques, and applications. And I would wager that the best is yet to come. For many applications, there is really no substitute for concrete.

To celebrate CC's 60th anniversary, we asked prominent industry members to tell us why they are proud to be a part of this dynamic industry and what we have accomplished and why they are optimistic about the future of concrete (you can see a complete list of those people on CC's website). Some of the responses were obvious; others will surprise you. We couldn't fit them all in the magazine but you can find all of the responses at go.hw.net/cc60. Feel free to add your own reasons to be proud!



Sustainability: "Our industry has recognized that cement production significantly contributes to ozone depletion and CO_a generation. Many facets of our business have made 'impossible' commitments in the area of sustainability, then gone on to achieve those commitments," says Jay Shilstone, Command Alkon. BASF's Jennifer Hamilton agrees,"We should be proud of environmental product declarations (EPD), eco-efficiency analysis (EEA), and environmentally-preferable concrete mixtures (Green Sense) that can be quantified."



Advancements in fiber reinforcement: "Ancient fibers of straw and animal hair have come a long way over the past 60 years. New high-strength fibers of steel and synthetics have taken reinforcement options to new, creative, and cost-effective levels."— Dan Biddle, Forta Corp.

Excitement. "You interact with different people every day and concrete being environmentally sensitive just adds to the excitement! And working with cool tools and equipment. Who wouldn't want to use power tools, set-up lasers, and GPS, and run a laser screed, drive a skid loader, operate finishing equipment...the list goes on." — Jereme Montgomery, Nebraska C&AA.

Fly ash, slag cement, and silica fume are all industrial byproducts that are being incorporated to improve concrete performance and eliminate the need for disposal. Despite recent regional fly ash shortages, the American Coal Ash Association insists that it "will continue to be produced and continue to be available for beneficial uses" well into the future. Today, ash is being removed from landfills and reconditioned for beneficial uses (like concrete).

Specialty Admixtures: Shrinkage-reducing, hydration-stabilizing, slump retention, corrosion-reducing, anti-washout, viscositymodifying-the innovation continues!



9

All illustrations by Chris Philpot

Certification: From testing technicians to precast plants to flatwork finishers, industry members are obtaining credentials certifying their knowledge.



Lightweight concrete: Not only is it lighter and more fire-resistant, lightweight can provide internal curing water and actually dries nearly as fast as normalweight concrete.

Locally produced: Concrete is the only 10

construction material that is always locally produced, primarily with local materials by professional producers.



Photocatalytic concrete: Italcementi's TX Active cement reacts with air pollutants and also keeps white cement structures their whitest.





Concrete Cares: Mike Murray's pink concrete campaign is only one of the many community-building efforts made by companies in the concrete industry in their local communities.

World's tallest buildings

The tallest buildings could not be built without the strength and stiffness of high-performance concrete. The Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest, used nearly 60,000 cubic yards of concrete just in the foundation and a total of more than 250,000 cubic yards.



Self-Consolidating Concrete

Contractors find placing concrete in heavily reinforced columns and beams, especially for high-rise construction or in high-seismic zones, to be ever more diffiicult. Factor in the labor costs for two or more workers to operate a vibrator and wrangle its hoses on the jobsite. Then consider the risks of "white finger" injuries that vibrator operators face, and the liability those risks impose on contractors. Self-consolidating concrete (SCC) is a product that addresses all these concerns. By eliminating the need to vibrate concrete placed in crowded forms, SCC saves time, reduces labor costs, and helps preserve worker health and safety. No wonder Bill Phelan of Euclid Chemical compares it to an automatic transmission, and notes how few people use a stick shift these days.



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"We should be proud of the MIT Concrete Sustainability Hub's focus on a life-cycle approach with research and tools to support competition and longer term decisionmaking, which is changing the rules of the game." *— Julie Garbini, RMC Foundation.*

Codes and standards: "Sure we complain about them—how they are hide-bound and slow to change. But people who participate in the process are steadfast in their dedication to ensuring life-safety while still accommodating innovation." — *Jay Shilstone*.

Robotic stations and laser scanners for site layout: Site layout used to be done with optical transits, levels, and 100-foot tapes. Today's total stations have the entire layout entered as a CAD file and use laser point clouds to verify as-built conditions.



Lean construction management techniques and integrated project delivery (IPD): It's really just a matter of working together and constant improvement.

Concrete 2029: Most organizations and companies within the concrete industry have some sort of strategic plan but never before has the entire community come together to create a plan to improve the industry, said Peter Emmons to open the initial Concrete 2029 planning session in May. The objective is no less than to save the concrete industry for future generations.

Onboard measurement of slump, water-cement ratio, and

air content: New technology allows concrete workability and air to be tested during transit and to have continuous water additions.

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3D Printing of Concrete:

An interesting worldwide trend worth keeping an eye on. "3D concrete printing, when combined with a type of mobile prefabrication center, has the potential to reduce the time needed to create complex elements of buildings from weeks to hours. We expect to achieve a level of quality and efficiency which has never been seen before in construction," says Skanska's director of innovation Rob Francis.





Concrete Equipment

Laser screeds, early-entry saws, concrete boom pumps and placing booms, robotic demolition equipment, and riding trowels have eased the pain of concrete work and improved the quality. To learn what a concrete construction jobsite looked like in 1956, you can read Gene Boeke's description at go.hw.net/1956jobsite.

World of Concrete: WOC is now more than 50 years old and drew more than 60,000 visitors and 1500 exhibitors in February 2016. WOC remains the essential show for concrete construction, although CONEXPO-CON/AGG (coming in March 2017) is bigger every three years.



Flat floors and extended joint spacing: The greatest problem in heavy warehouse floors is joint deterioration—get rid of the joints and that problem goes away. Extended joint spacing is being achieved with fiber reinforcement (steel and macrosynthetics), post-tensioning, and shrinkage-compensating concrete.



Skilled labor: The industry has a huge group of skilled craftsmen. There are thousands of ACI-certified concrete flatwork finishers in the U.S. and many more skilled craftsmen across the industry.

Polished concrete: The nearly maintenance-free polished concrete floor is replacing vinyl, wood, and tile in many applications. It's a great way to revive and old floor.



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Insulating concrete forms: ICFs are a simple way to build an energy-efficient concrete building.

Concrete is evolving, versatile, challenging, exceeding expectations, character-building, inspirational, strong, trend-setting, overcoming obstacles, meeting demand, gratifying, limitless, bountiful, beautiful, and sustainable. —*Scott Tarr*



American Society of Concrete Contractors: In 1994, ASCC had a staff of one and the World of Concrete opening party drew about 25 people. Today, ASCC's staff includes the executive director (Bev Garnant), a membership director (Todd Scharich), a technical director (Bruce Suprenant), and one full-time and five part-time staff members. The WOC Kick-Off Bash drew almost 500 people this year and more than 250 will attend September's Annual Conference. ASCC has become the nation's leading advocate for concrete contractors.

Alternative cementitious materials:

New binders such as geopolymers, activated slags, metakaolin, activated glass, magnesium silicates, and $\rm CO_2$ -cured concrete can replace some or all of the portland cement in concrete and create a denser concrete.



60 Reasons to Celebrate Concrete

Concrete Endures: "Our work will endure (past our lifetimes)," — *Lance Boyer, Trademark Concrete.* "Structures like the Roman Coliseum or the Pantheon (below) wouldn't be around to appreciate today had they been built of another material," — *Chris Plue, Webcor*



Concrete toppings: Overlays have improved dramatically. Unbonded concrete over asphalt for pavements and parking lots is showing great success. ASCC is about to publish a new guide for design and construction of overlays. "Polymer-modified toppings continue to evolve, allowing for less removal and replacement of concrete," — Byron Klemaske, T.B. Penick



Portland limestone cement: Adding this basically inert material reduces cement consumption while having little effect on strength or workability.

34 Maturity methods: Despite some reservations (see article on page 55), maturity methods increase safety by allowing accurate knowledge of in-place strength for earlier post-tensioning, formwork/shoring removal, and return to service.



Concrete countertops and furniture: Lots of creative uses for concrete, even concrete jewelry, a concrete watch, and, of course, concrete canoes.



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"Concrete is tried and true but there is still much room for innovation (self-healing concrete, pollution-resistant concrete, 'smart' concrete, lightweight concrete, etc.)," — *Shelby Mitchell*

Concrete people: "Not only do people in our industry care about concrete, many of them are passionate about it," says Jay Shilstone. "Concrete people are willing to help and bring along even the smallest contractor," says Rocky Geans. "Size doesn't matter, we help each other!"

Concrete Industry Management Program

In the 20 years since the first two students were enrolled, the CIM Program has grown into a vital source of well-trained, highly motivated graduates ready to take on leadership roles in the concrete industry. More than 1000 students have completed the four-year B.S. program, which combines technical courses with business management. The program has expanded from Middle Tennessee State University to California State-Chico, Texas State University, and the New Jersey Institute of Technology. In 2013, an MBA in the CIM program was added at MTSU. What makes the CIM program unique is the strong support of the concrete industry, from industry associations and corporations to the World of Concrete auction which has generated \$4 million for the program over the last 10 years.







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ASTM C94, Specification for Ready-Mixed Concrete: The standard specification that governs the production and delivery of concrete has recently dropped the maximum of 300 truck drum revolutions requirement that got many loads rejected. The committee also suggests that producers and contractors confer when compressive strength results don't meet the spec and has allowed water addition in transit for trucks equipped with automated systems like Verifi.

ACI 562 Repair Code:

The new repair code is performance-based, and with release of the "Guide to the Code Requirements," repair contractors know exactly who's responsible for what. Very soon, the International Concrete Repair Institute will release a structural concrete repair technician certification that will be referenced in ACI 562—a surface repair technician certification is available now.



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Ultra-High Performance Concrete (UHPC, like Lafarge's Ductal) was developed in Europe in the 1980s and has found some applications in structures like bridges that can take advantage of its very high tensile strength and impermeability.



Industry associations: There are a lot of associations in the concrete business, starting with the American Concrete Institute and the American Society of Concrete Contractors. Then there is NRMCA (see Reasons #47, 54, and 57) plus smaller groups like the American Concrete Pumping Association, the Tilt-Up Concrete Association, and the Concrete Sawing & Drilling Association. These groups advocate for their members, provide education and certification, and disseminate knowledge. A promising recent development is funding the development of information (rather than relying on volunteers), which allows documents to go public much more quickly than in the past. "I'm proud of ALL the concrete-related associations that make our industry stronger/ safer/more professional," says ACPA's Christy Collins.



"We beautify cities. Concrete buildings are safer for employees, good for the environment, save taxpayers money through longevity, stay up longer, and stay cooler. And concrete always uses local materials." *—Big Bob Weatherton*

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Extreme Tilt-Up: Tilt-up has gone through an innovative period when it is being used almost exclusively in some markets for mid-rise office buildings. Records for heaviest panel and tallest panel are broken regularly. See page 45 for the new tallest panel at 111 feet, 9 inches tall, breaking the previous record by 15 feet.

NRMCA Parking Lot Design Assistant Program

NRMCA's Design Assistant Program (DAP) was rolled out in 2012 to help everyone in the industry get the correct concrete design for a specific parking lot application. By accessing this free service, designers and contractors can get recommendations for concrete thickness and compressive strength, cross section details showing base support information, joint spacing, and other typical details. The DAP has proved effective in promoting the use of concrete in parking lots. NRMCA reports that more than 60% of all parking lot DAP projects went concrete. The DAP is on target to do 220 parking lot projects in 2016, with a goal of doing 1000 projects annually by 2020. And now, NRMCA has rolled out a DAP for concrete buildings to convert them from wood frame or steel to concrete. The results so far have been extremely positive, with four DAPs completed and many more getting under way, reports NRMCA Senior Director, Building Innovations, Gregg Lewis.



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Reorganized ACI 318 Building Code Requirements:

Substantial changes in the document's organization included the new Chapter 26, Construction Documents and Inspection, which contains all the details that the designer must communicate to the contractor in the project specifications. This change helps reduce confusion and potential oversights.



Moisture in concrete slabs: Moisture coming from concrete has destroyed flooring all over the world. Now we betterunderstand the problem, know how to measure the moisture more accurately (with ICRI-certified technicians), and have excellent under-slab vapor retarders and mitigation materials.



Economic Impact: BASF scientist Fred Goodwin says, "Concrete is an important worldwide economic factor, yet low-cost when compared to other materials, which explains its popularity." He points to a study by the European Cement Association focused on the multiplier effect of the cement and concrete industry that concluded "for every euro generated in this sector, €2.8 are generated elsewhere in the economy."



Concrete paving: Improved initial construction methods (such as stringless paving) and repair methods (like dowel-bar retrofit and diamond grinding) are making concrete pavements very competitive, especially on a life-cycle cost basis.

Pervious Concrete: Pervious has helped concrete capture a larger share of the parking lot market through its ability to reduce stormwater runoff. It can also result in snow- and ice-free surfaces. NRMCA's marketing and installer certification programs and ACI's 522 Specification have moved this material forward.



Technology Tools, including Building Information Modeling (BIM), virtual reality, and 3D laser scans of buildings and floors. "4D and 5D modeling link BIM to schedule and costs." — *Mike Hernandez, Baker Concrete.*



Performance-Based Concrete Specifications

Recognizing that prescriptive specifications tend to constrain innovation in concrete design and production, NRMCA established its P2P (Prescriptionto-Performance) Initiative in 2002. The goal has been to promote performance-based specifications as a superior alternative to prescriptive mix design specs, and thus benefit the industry in several ways. Performance-based specifications allow ready-mix producers and contractors to develop and place economical, workable concrete mixes, while assuring designers that critical performance requirements are being met. Though it will still take time before performance specs become the general rule, the P2P Initiative has raised industry awareness and prompted many steps in the right direction. New simple and quick test methods for placeability, finishability, and durability have eliminated some contractor objections to P2P. "We're moving closer to performance-based specifications which will help drive increased sustainability and innovation, as well as cost-effectiveness," says Julie Garbini, RMC Foundation.



Front discharge mixers: Although more expensive, these mixers allow the driver to avoid backing onto muddy, uneven jobsites where they must depend on direction from an unknown spotter.



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60 Reasons to Celebrate Concrete



Challenging: "Concrete is the only construction material that arrives onsite perishable," says Chris Plue, Webcor. "Unlike pipe, lumber, or wiring, those that work with concrete have a limited amount of time to deal with the material. Every workday is like gameday."



Build with Strength: Faced with mid-rise buildings being converted to wood-frame structures, NRMCA has launched the Build with Strength program to show owners and designers why concrete should be the preferred alternative. And PCA is developing an industrywide marketing plan for concrete. 58

59

Worker shortage: There are some in the industry who are working to attract new workers. Chicago's Ozinga Brothers put out the Born to Build campaign and Jereme Montgomery produced a video called Tough as Concrete. Meanwhile Tanya Komas' Concrete Preservation Institute is attracting new military veterans.

Decorative concrete: The decorative industry has matured with
some of the original players disappearing or being bought by large
companies (think Scofield, Increte, Bomanite). "I am enthused
by the growth in communications among decorative concrete
professionals," says ASCC's Todd Scharich.

Safety

ASCC's newest strategic plan includes a goal to feature safety at every meeting – and most ASCC meetings these days start with a "safety moment." Contractors are getting much more serious about safety at the very highest level. During this summer's Concrete Executive Leadership Forum, Bill Gilbane, president of the Gllbane Companies, one of the nation's largest construction companies, said, "Safety is everyone's responsibility. Safety and productivity are one and the same. We just completed a 17 million man-hour job without a single lost-time accident—that's what we were most proud of on that project." CC



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TILT-UP

Florida contractor lifts a narrow nine-story panel, *very carefully.*

> Lifting these very tall panels was a challenge due to the height more than the weight. PAUL CARECCIA PHOTOGRAPHY

TILT-UP

TILT-UP HAS REACHED new heights! The world's tallest tilt-up panels were erected this past winter at the Florida International University Biscayne Bay Campus near Miami. The panels stood 111 feet, 9 inches tall and were constructed as part of a nine-story, 600-bed dormitory. The construction required a total of 16 extremely tall panels to form the living rooms within the dormitory, with each panel measuring 13 feet, 2 inches wide, 16 inches thick, and weighing 134,000 to 146,000 pounds.

The project came to Meadow Burke about two years ago when Woodland Construction Co. of Jupiter, Fla., approached the tilt-up engineering team with a nine-story concept panel. At first glance, it seemed that this was pushing the limitations of what was achievable in tilt-up. But an increase in the thickness of the panel to 16 inches made it possible to come up with a preliminary detail using



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Lifting Very Tall Panels

Gary Fischer, president of Woodland Construction, says the panel weights were not the main factor during the lifting. "The main challenge is that when reaching these heights and adding the adequate boom length required for the vertical load, it drastically reduces the crane's capacity due to boom length and angle. For example, the 146-kip panel with 30 kips of rigging put us at the limit with the minimum boom requirement of 230 feet. The crane's capacity with 230 feet of boom is 187-kips at a 40-foot radius, where a typical boom length of 160 feet gives us a capacity of 234 kips. Detailed lift analysis and 'Critical Lift Plans' needed to be completed prior to erecting to be sure everything was perfect and accurately figured, since we typically like to stay within 75% of the crane's capacity with any lift." When asked why they went with such tall panels, Fischer admits that "we wanted to try to do a nine-story panel! It was a challenge and we were successful."



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a conventional four-high rigging pattern and requiring reinforcing using #9 rebar.

Meanwhile, designers worked on an efficient plan for an eight-high lift. The lift included using 16 inserts which were cast into the face of the panel and anchored with Meadow Burke's Super-Lift III Face and Edge Lift Anchors and Clutch System. The inserts were placed in a combination of eight rows and two columns to be able to lift and rotate the panel.

Super-Lift III face lift inserts were used to provide a safe and secure panel lift while the Super-Lift III Edge lift



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Zimmerman Industries, Inc. Ephrata, PA USA | Phone: 717-733-6166 www.zimmermanindustries.com inserts were used for final setting with the panels in a plumb position. Other lifting products supplied for the job included 8-inch steel strongbacks, which were used for the tall panels in order to resist bending moments, as well as B-75 bracing inserts.

RIGGING WAS CRITICAL IN SOLVING THE CHALLENGE SO THE CRANE COULD WORK WITH THE MAXIMUM REACH OF THE BOOM. LAST MINUTE ADJUSTMENTS TO SLING LENGTHS WERE REQUIRED WITH THE FIRST PANEL.

Extreme height

By late summer of 2015, the project was a go and engineering began to further tackle the lifting design. While the weight of each 9-story panel was not uncommon compared to the typical tilt-up panel, the extreme height of the panel presented several lifting challenges including potentially exceeding the crane's lifting capacity. Rigging was critical in solving that challenge so that the crane worked with the maximum reach of the boom. Last minute adjustments to sling lengths were required when lifting the first panel.

Besides the nine-story-tall panels, three other types of panels were used on this project. These additional panels were divided into four, three, and two stories attached to the structural steel building in a stacked arrangement on top of each other, with the four-story panels at the bottom, the three-story panels in the middle, and the two-story panels at the top. In all, there were 106 additional panels, besides the 16 nine-story tall











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panels, for a total of 122 panels for the entire project.

With the concept of the shorter panels resolved, tilt-up engineer Elizabeth St. John took on the engineering for the standard panels while Meadow Burke's Engineering Manager, Scott

Collins, took on the design work for the unstacked tall panels.

As the panel design was being worked on, the eight-high lifting analysis was also ready for beta testing. After several updates from the programmers, Collins was confident that it was suitable for the





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panels and that it would reduce some of the risk that would have been taken with a four-high lift.

Setting the panels

The final lifting design used an eighthigh by two-wide rigging pattern. During the lifting the contractor had to transfer the load to additional plumb-setting lift inserts near the top of the panel. Bracing the panels after lifting was not required since setting of the panels was completed after all the floors had been placed. Despite being designed for 185 mph wind loads, since the panels were attached to the steel building frame at each floor, minimal steel reinforcement was needed for the final in-place loads.



The Meadow Burke tilt-up inserts for the project were supplied by leading distributor HD Supply White Cap of Pompano, Fla.

Amidst the complexities and challenges that came with the design, the results proved to be a worthy concept. The project now holds the record for the world's tallest tilt-up panel as recorded by the Tilt-Up Concrete Association. With the ingenuity of the teams involved, this was another successful tilt-up project to add to the books for Meadow Burke and Woodland Construction. CC

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Changing the Game with Concrete Maturity

Can maturity replace concrete cylinders for long-term strength testing?



BY J. BELKOWITZ, W. BELKOWITZ, AND D.W. HARRIS » IN THE MID-1970S more than 65 people died in two tragic construction accidents. In both cases, cold weather had delayed the hardening of concrete elements and early stripping of formwork resulted in failure of the concrete and reinforcing steel. These tragedies led to the recognition that concrete maturity, originally developed in the 1940s, could be used to evaluate the hardening process in concrete elements in cold weather.

The American Concrete Institute (ACI) and ASTM define concrete maturity as a method to estimate strength development in construction based on the assumption that samples of a given concrete mixture attain equal strengths if they attain equal values of the maturity index regardless of temperature changes. Today, concrete maturity provides real-time data that enables the end-user to make betterinformed and instantaneous decisions.

Within the last three decades, through the efforts of concrete contractors, the Federal Highway Administration, and state DOTs, concrete maturity has resurfaced as a quality assurance method for fast-track pavement construction, specifically in determining when the pavement can be opened to traffic. Concrete maturity found a foothold where a concrete manufacturer and contractor could use maturity to assure the purchasing agency that the concrete mix would attain the trafficopening strength at the specified time. This concept has been repeated for years with few failures.

That brings us to today; the objective of this article is to determine if the same concrete maturity used for short-term strength development, cold weather precautions, and fast-track construction can be extended to long-term strength estimation and as a supplement to concrete cylinders.

Maturity curves

The maturity method establishes a relationship between strength,

MATURITY METHODS

temperature, and time that can be used to estimate strength development (ASTM C 1074-11). That relationship builds on the idea that the maturity, or strength development, of a given concrete mixture will be equal no matter the ambient temperature during the time over which it gains strength. Assuming these temperatures are not so extreme as to be detrimental to the hydration process of cement, the mix cured in a hotter environment will more quickly reach the same maturity (and therefore, theoretically, the same strength) as that



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achieved by samples cured in a standard cure environment and much more quickly than samples cured in a colder environment, as illustrated above.

The basis of concrete maturity is an empirical relationship between the compressive strength of the concrete and the maturity index. These relationships are obtained by testing for compressive strength on laboratory specimens whose temperature history has been measured, recorded up to the time of testing, and can be compared at a later point to the concrete maturity on the jobsite.

Implementing concrete maturity

Concrete maturity implementation can be cumbersome and costly, but despite the needed initial investment of time and resources, concrete maturity is an invaluable method for strength estimation on a jobsite. While concrete maturity has the potential of giving the end-user immediate real-time data of a particular concrete mix's strength development, the process to get to the prediction takes some legwork. The user must conduct the following three steps for each concrete mix design:

1. Develop the strength-maturity relationship for the mix

2. Place maturity loggers into the forms prior to concrete placement

3. Use the appropriate model to determine the maturity index Let's look at each of these in detail.





Developing maturity curves

A strength-maturity relationship is developed with laboratory compressive strength tests on the concrete mixture to be used. A maturity curve is specific to a single concrete mix design. When a concrete producer has a change in a material's source or concrete mix design, a new maturity curve must be developed.

Part of the laboratory work for the concrete maturity curve is to determine the datum temperature or equivalent energy of the concrete. This includes casting, curing, and breaking grout samples that represent the concrete mixture to be used. The grout samples are cured at three different temperatures and broken intermittently over 32 days. This practice allows us to determine the minimum temperature or energy needed for cement hydration.

In most cases, though, the datum temperature and equivalent energy are assumed by the end-user. While this practice is usually considered a conservative approach to maturity, it can result in wasting time and money on the jobsite. And, in some instances, especially in long-term applications of maturity, assuming the wrong maturity data can risk the safety of workers.

As an example, consider two concrete mixes. One, a classic curb and gutter concrete mix with a low total cementitious materials content and the other a fast-track pavement mix with a much higher total cementitious content and high admixture content for rapid strength gain. The fast-track concrete with higher cementitious content would be more likely to continue hydrating at lower temperatures and thus the datum temperature and activation energy will be lower for the fast-track mix than for the curb and gutter concrete.

But if instead of determining the datum temperature and activation energy, we assume a value it could be too low or too high. If too low, the result will be a set of calculated concrete maturity values that are higher than the actual value which could lead us to pull our forms too early. If a higher value is assumed, it would take a longer time to reach the target maturity, which is conservative, but also wastes time and money waiting for the strength gain that has actually already been achieved. Since the objective of concrete maturity is to expedite construction safely, assuming datum temperatures and activation energies results in reduced reliability for both short- and long-term strength prediction.

Installing maturity meters

The second step in implementing a maturity program is to attach a concrete maturity logger or meter in the formwork where the concrete in question is to be placed. The temperature history of the in-situ concrete, for which strength is to be estimated, is recorded from the time



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MATURITY METHODS

of concrete placement to the time when we want to estimate the strength. The recorded temperature history is used to calculate the maturity index of the field concrete. There are several different types of maturity loggers and meters that will be covered in a follow-up article.

Maturity models

The final step in estimating the strength of the field concrete is to use the appropriate model to calculate the maturity index and the strengthmaturity relationship. This step can be another source of error when using

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Concrete Temperature and Strength

BY KENNETH C. HOVER, CORNELL UNIVERSITY

Concrete hardens and gains strength not because it "dries," but because the cement "hydrates," forming microscopic bonds that hold the cement grains and aggregates together in a manner similar to the bond between two strips of Velcro.

Like most chemical reactions, the rate of hydration increases with temperature, approximately doubling with each 20°F increase in concrete temperature. Compared with concrete at the standard laboratory temperature of 73° F, concrete in the field at a temperature in the mid-90s is hydrating twice as fast and concrete at a comfortable temperature in the mid-50s is hydrating half as fast. This effect is readily seen in the lower curve in Fig. 1 for compressive strength at an age of one day. But an aggravating fact is that speeding up the hydration usually lowers the quality of the Velcro-like bonds, lowering later-age strength as shown in the upper curve (28-day strength) in Fig. 1.

The result is that increasing concrete temperature accelerates early-age strength, usually at the expense of reduced later-age strength (Fig.2). Around 73° F and higher, warmer concrete results in higher strength up to about three days, at which age concrete that had been kept cooler begins to show higher strength (Fig. 2).

As seen in Fig. 3, temperatures cooler than about 73° F result in lower strength up to about 28 days, after which "cooler is better." Ages at which the effect of temperature switches from beneficial to detrimental, or vice versa, are known as the "crossover points."

One of the challenges in classical maturity applications is compensating for the crossover effect, given that maturity will always give more credit toward strength-gain for warmer concrete. This is why maturity predictions are usually more accurate in cold weather, or for early-age in hot weather or intentional high-temperature curing.

All charts from Design and Control of Concrete Mixtures, 15th Edition, Portland Cement Association, with permission.





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MATURITY METHODS

concrete maturity to predict longterm strength. There are two models used: the temperature-time factor and the equivalent-age. While changing from one model to the other can be as simple as changing the selection in a drop-down menu, most maturity loggers default to the temperaturetime factor. But for long-term strength prediction the maturity curves should be based on the equivalent-age method, which is better suited to predicting strength development of concrete after 14 days. For strength development within 14 days, the temperature-time method (most widely used method) is recommended.

Advantages and limitations

Concrete maturity is often used in critical construction activities such as removing formwork and reshoring; post-tensioning of tendons; termination of cold-weather protection; and opening roads to traffic. We have identified the advantages of using concrete maturity for short-term and long-term concrete strength prediction by conducting a survey with concrete and construction entities that have used maturity methods.

From the survey, we found that end-users prefer concrete maturity as an estimation technique because it is an inexpensive, repeatable, and easyto-implement process. And while the traditional method of casting cylinders creates a snapshot of the concrete strength in given sections of the concrete, cylinders provide only limited information from a larger concrete pour. Maturity loggers and meters are relatively easy to use and maintain, and downloading the data takes no more than five minutes in the most extreme cases. End-users can include maturity





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loggers in multiple locations to create a more detailed account of in-situ concrete strength development, monitor critical areas of construction, and take advantage of early strength gains to move the project schedule forward.

Despite the potential of concrete maturity as a nondestructive prediction method, there are limitations that must be recognized. As listed in ASTM C 1074-11, here are the top three limitations to implementing and employing concrete maturity:

1. Concrete must be maintained in a condition that permits cement hydration.

2. Concrete maturity does not take into account the effects of early-age temperature on long-term strength (see sidebar by Ken Hover).

3. Concrete maturity is recommended by ASTM, ACI, and others as an estimation method only. Concrete maturity must be supplemented by other indications of the potential strength of the concrete mixture. This practice is often dismissed when it comes to long-term strength determination. But concrete maturity was never intended to be a stand-alone prediction method for the entirety of the concrete elements in question on a jobsite.

Roadblocks

One of the toughest roadblocks to overcome in implementing a maturity program is the cost of developing the concrete maturity curves. The maturity loggers are inexpensive; but developing the maturity curves is a costly and involved process that must be done months before starting the project. Ultimately, the cost of developing the concrete maturity curves is a burden that hangs between the concrete manufacturer and the general contractor.

Another roadblock with concrete maturity is that it is not concrete strength. And while there are plenty of case studies to prove the effectiveness of concrete maturity over the short term, it's less common to estimate long-term concrete strength with maturity. Whether you believe that concrete cylinders are accurate representations or not, as an industry there is more confidence in concrete cylinders and beams than in concrete maturity when evaluating long-term strength.



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field technician activates a bluetooth concrete maturity meter.

The next step

The road the industry must go down to adopt concrete maturity as a long-term strength prediction method includes several questions and activities.

- Are we using the right prediction method for long-term qualification of strength?
- Should we use concrete curing boxes?
- How many data loggers are needed per volume of concrete?
- Can we assume a single datum temperature or activation energy for all concrete mixes?
- Do the swings in concrete constituents allowed by ASTM C 94 invalidate the established maturity curves?

Currently, the authors, working with concrete manufacturers, universities, and contractors in Colorado have started a pilot program on active jobsites that includes concrete maturity methods and devices. These results will be compared to the theories at the foundation of this strength prediction method. Ultimately, the hope is that the pilot programs will validate the established practices and suggest revisions to some of those practices if they are not feasible in the field. Details of this work will be published in a follow-up article where we will attempt to show whether concrete maturity is an effective and realistic means to supplement concrete cylinders on a jobsite. **CC**

Jon Belkowitz is director of research and development, Whitney Belkowitz is CEO and president, and David Harris, P.E.. is principal engineer all with Intelligent Concrete in Elbert, Colo. For more information visit intelligent-concrete.com.



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ANSWER: WE ASKED ROGER ROATCH WITH APA - THE ENGINEERED WOOD ASSOCIATION, TO RESPOND:

When it comes to concrete structures, formwork may represent close to half the cost. Fortunately, concrete forms are durable workhorses that can be used over and over with proper maintenance and upkeep. Here are seven



A chemically reactive release agent will give overlaid panels the longest life and should be applied before the first pour. Check with the manufacturer of the forming plywood for more details. PHOTO: NOX-CRETE PRODUCTS GROUP

ways to extend the life and usefulness of your plywood concrete forms:

1. Strip forms carefully. Metal bars or pry bars should not be used on plywood because they will damage the panel surface and edge. Instead, use wood wedges, tapping gradually when necessary.

2. Clean and apply release agents. Soon after removal, plywood forms should be inspected for wear, cleaned, and repaired, spot-primed, refinished, and lightly treated with a form-release agent before reusing. Use a hardwood wedge and a stiff fiber brush for cleaning. Avoid using a metal brush because it may cause wood fibers to "wool."

3. **Apply sealants and release agents as directed.** Protective sealant coatings and release agents for plywood increase form life and aid in stripping. Some panels may require only a light coating between uses. Applying a form release agent a few days before the plywood is used, then wiped so a thin film remains, will prolong the plywood's life, increase release characteristics, and minimize staining.

4. Know the difference between release agents and coatings. Release agents and coatings can affect forms and concrete differently, so select a release agent keeping mind its influence on the finished concrete surface. For example, some release agents including waxes or silicones should not be used where the concrete is to be painted.

Plywood form coatings, such as lacquers, resin, or plastic base compounds sometimes are used to form a hard, dry, water-resistant film on plywood forms. Usually, the field-applied coatings reduce the need for application of release agents between pours and result in greater reuse.

5. Patch and repair forms. On prefabricated forms, plywood panel faces (when the grade is suitable) may be reversed if damaged. Tie holes may be patched with metal plates, plugs, or plastic materials. Nails should be removed and holes filled with patching plaster, plastic wood, or other materials.

6. Handle and store forms properly. Be carful to prevent panel chipping, denting, and corner damage during handling. Panels should never be dropped. Forms should be carefully piled flat, face to face and back to back. Forms should be cleaned immediately after stripping and can be solid-stacked or stacked in small packages with faces together.

Hairline cracks or splits may occur in the face ply. These "checks" may be more pronounced after repeated use of the form. Checks do not mean the plywood is delaminating. Form maintenance, including careful storage to assure slow drying, will minimize face checking.

7. Consider the effects of admixtures and chemicals. Many admixtures and pozzolans increase the abrasiveness or alkalinity of the concrete. While wood and phenolic overlays resist alkaline solutions and abrasion, some admixtures may significantly decrease the lifespan of a concrete-forming panel.

There's much to consider when it comes to proper upkeep and maintenance of concrete forms. But following these tips will ensure the best life and use of forms project after project. **CC**

Roger Roatch is an Engineered Wood Specialist for APA. For more on concrete form maintenance and selecting the best form panel for the project, download the APA Concrete Forming Design/Construction Guide at www.performancepanels.com/concrete-form-panels.

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