

Section 8.6 Volume II

FLOWING CONCRETE FOR PRECAST/PRESTRESSED CONCRETE PRODUCTS

8.6.1 PURPOSE

This procedure provides guidance to the precast/prestressed concrete fabrication facilities (Plants) that are involved in the manufacture of products using flowing concrete. The procedure includes requirements related to the Plants' Quality Control (QC) Plans, field trial batches of the concrete mix designs, and inspection and testing of production concrete. Obtain flowing concrete from a concrete plant listed on the Department's Structural Concrete Production Facility Listing.

8.6.2 AUTHORITY

Sections 334.044(10)(a) and 334.048(3), Florida Statutes.

8.6.3 REFERENCES

Manual for Quality Control for Plants and Production of Structural Precast Concrete Products, Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute (PCI), Manual MNL 116

Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction

Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Florida Sampling and Testing Methods (FSTM)

American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), Part I Specifications, and Part II Tests

American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) Standard Test Methods and Specifications

8.6.4 SCOPE

This procedure establishes guidelines for Plants that utilize flowing concrete for the manufacturing of precast/prestressed concrete products (Products). The Plants shall comply with the requirements of the **Specifications**.

8.6.5 FLOWING CONCRETE RELATED QC PLAN PROVISIONS

The Plants' QC Plans shall address the following flowing concrete related items in addition to/or in lieu of the items that are included for conventional concrete:

- A. Routine flowing concrete QC tests.
- B. Placement, finishing, and curing methods.
- C. The appropriate flowing concrete placement pattern and methods for the manufacturing of each Product.
- D. The qualifications and training of personnel who are involved in flowing concrete QC inspection and testing activities.
- E. The proposed inspection and test methods for field trial and production batches.
- F. The adequacy of the forming strength to support the pressure of flowing concrete during placement. Provide information about form joint sealing methods to prevent paste or mortar leakage.
- G. Considering weather conditions, include guidelines regarding the starting time of finishing, application of water fog mist, evaporation reducer or finishing aid if needed, and finishing methods for each type of product.
- H. The lifting device placement method and capacity to handle the Products.

8.6.6 FLOWING CONCRETE MIX DESIGN REQUIREMENTS

Table I			
Properties	Test	Standard Method	Acceptance Criteria
Filling Ability	Slump	ASTM C143	Target = 9.0 in Tolerance = ± 1.5 in
Static Segregation	Column Segregation (S)	ASTM C1610	$S \leq 15\%$
	Aggregate Distribution of Hardened SCC	FM 5-617	CAI $\leq 15\%$
	Hardened Visual Stability Index (HVSI)	AASHTO R 81	HVSI ≤ 1
Compressive Strength	Compressive Strength	ASTM C39	Depends on the application
Assessment of Durability	Surface Resistivity	AASHTO T 358	Depends on the application

8.6.6.1 SPECIFIED 346 CLASS CONCRETE

Proposed flowing concrete mix designs require State Materials Office (SMO) approval. The District Materials and Research Offices (DMRO) review the proposed concrete mix designs and verify they meet the requirements of ***FDOT Specifications Section 346, Materials Manual Volume II, Section 9.2***, and this Section.

Upon the Department's approval of the proposed mix design and satisfactory field demonstration, the use of flowing concrete will be allowed for the fabrication of Products.

8.6.6.2 ASTM OR AASHTO CLASS OF CONCRETE

The proposed ASTM or AASHTO class of flowing concrete mix design for the fabrication of Products shall meet the requirements of this Section and ***Materials Manual Volume II, Section 9.2*** except for the mix design approval process. The DMRO reviews and approves mix designs for Products that require ***ASTM*** or ***AASHTO*** class concrete with specified strength requirements. Production testing requirements for ***ASTM*** or ***AASHTO*** class concrete are specified in the applicable ***Materials Manual*** sections.

8.6.7 FIELD DEMONSTRATION OF FLOWING CONCRETE

Perform a field demonstration of the proposed mix design following a satisfactory laboratory trial batch. Perform the field trial batches and cast a partial or full-scale mockup in accordance with **FM 5-617**. Submit the mockup design to the DMRO for approval. Coordinate with the DMRO to witness the field demonstration.

Ensure that the field demonstration concrete is placed, consolidated, and cured in accordance with the proposed methods and sequences that are addressed in the QC Plan.

Perform inspection and testing of the field demonstration concrete during delivery, placement, and post placement. Observe the placement methods and sequences of the flowing concrete. During placement, ensure that the concrete batches meet all plastic property requirements of the **Specifications** and maintain their cohesive nature without excessive bleeding, segregation, or abnormal retardation. Observe the finishing and curing methods of the concrete.

8.6.7.1 NUMBER AND QUANTITY OF BATCH SIZES

Place a total volume of 9 cubic yards in a minimum of three batches of at least 3 cubic yards each. Plants that are placing concrete with batch sizes of less than 3 cubic yards are required to place the necessary batches to reach the required volume of 9 cubic yards.

8.6.7.2 SAMPLING AND TESTING OF THE FIELD DEMONSTRATION CONCRETE

Perform the field demonstration tests, in accordance with **Table II**, on the first three consecutive batches to ensure that the concrete properties of the proposed mix design meet the requirements of the **Specifications**.

Take representative samples at the point of final concrete placement and perform the tests prescribed in **Table I** and **Table II** as appropriate. If the Plant is receiving flowing concrete from an off-site ready-mixed concrete facility, perform the field demonstration at the location where the Products will be manufactured. When a previously approved flowing concrete mix design is used at a Plant for the first time, manufacture and evaluate a mockup in accordance with **FM 5-617** at that location.

Perform the slump loss test as described in **Section 8.6.7.3**.

8.6.7.3 SLUMP LOSS TEST OF THE FIELD DEMONSTRATION CONCRETE

A. Determine the workability of the three selected demonstration concrete batches by performing the slump tests. Take the samples at 15-minute intervals from each batch.

- B. Continue sampling and testing each batch until the slump measures 7.5 inches, or a minimum of three data points are obtained.
- C. From the plot of slump versus time, determine the time for each batch of concrete to reach a slump value of 7.5 inches.
- D. The average time period determined from three demonstrated batches to reach a slump value of 7.5 inches is considered the cutoff time of the proposed concrete mix design. The time for each batch is counted from the time that the concrete is batched at the concrete production facility.

8.6.7.4 MOCKUP PRODUCT OF THE FIELD DEMONSTRATION CONCRETE

The field demonstration shall include the manufacture and evaluation of a mockup product in accordance with **FM 5-617** if the Plant is utilizing flowing concrete for the first time, and shall meet the following requirements:

- 1) The mockup shall contain reinforcing steel typical of those Products.
- 2) The mockup shall use the proposed mix design.
- 3) The Coarse Aggregate Index (CAI) shall be determined by saw cutting the mockup's entire cross-section.
- 4) The mockup shall be subject to vibration practices of the same type and frequency as the production method it is representing.

8.6.7.5 STATIC SEGREGATION OF THE FIELD DEMONSTRATION CONCRETE

The DMRO may exempt the mockup for a particular mix design. In this case, the assessment of static segregation shall be verified in accordance with **AASHTO R 81** and at least one of the following conditions shall be met:

- 1) The flowing concrete is centrally batched at the Plant.
- 2) Permissible adjustments to previously approved mix design have been made as referenced below:
 - a) Allowable variation of Coarse or Fine Aggregate: The variation for each aggregate can be ± 75 pounds per cubic yard of concrete.
 - b) Admixtures: Should be within the admixture manufacturer's technical data sheet range. Dosage rates outside of this range may be used with written recommendation from the admixture manufacturer's technical representative. Mixes with adjustments falling outside the technical data sheet range shall be suspended when written recommendation from the admixture manufacturer's technical representative has not been obtained.
 - c) Allowable variation of total Cementitious Materials: ± 6.5 percent per cubic yard but not less than the specified minimum for that class of concrete.

The adjusted mix design must meet the theoretical yield requirements of the approved mix design.

Inform the DMRO of any adjustments to the concrete mix design. Batch adjustments shall not be used for batch tolerances of aggregate and cementitious materials. The adjustments shall be noted on the concrete delivery tickets.

8.6.7.6 POST-PLACEMENT EVALUATION OF THE AGGREGATE DISTRIBUTION

Reject the proposed mix design if there is an indication of segregation after performing the aggregate distribution test in accordance with **FM 5-617** or **AASHTO R 81** as appropriate. Determine the cause of the segregation and submit a corrective action plan to prevent the recurrence of the problem during production. The DMRO will review the plan and will require retesting the mix design until the aggregate distribution reaches the required values.

Perform post-placement inspection of the mockup after removal of the forms. Examine the concrete for any signs of honeycombs, cracks, segregation, sedimentation, cold joints, or any other surface defects. Ensure that the hardened concrete is free from these defects.

Perform saw cutting of the mockup when demonstrating the use of flowing concrete for the first time at the Plant. Visually inspect the saw-cut section and examine the distribution of the aggregates within the saw-cut surfaces and around the reinforcing steel and prestressing strands. Verify that the concrete is free from any sign of honeycombs, cracks, segregation, and any other defects.

The DMRO may waive saw cutting of the mockup for routine mix design approvals of flowing concrete. A waiver will only be granted when the Plant has satisfactorily performed the saw cutting of previous mockups and has demonstrated that concrete has been placed without any visible sign of defects during approval of previous flowing concrete mix designs.

Dispose of concrete produced for demonstration purposes at no expense to the Department.

8.6.8 SUBMITTAL OF VERIFIED MIX DESIGN AND HISTORICAL PRODUCTION TEST DATA

The concrete production facility may propose the approval of flowing concrete mixes, centrally mixed at the placement site, without the production of field demonstration batches, provided that the proposed mix meets the following criteria:

1. A previously approved flowing concrete mix of the same class has demonstrated satisfactory performance under the proposed job placing conditions with a minimum of fifteen Department-accepted consecutive QC

or verification tests, which have met all plastic and hardened concrete test requirements.

2. The cementitious materials and chemical admixtures, used in the proposed mix, are the same materials from the same source used in the previously approved mix. The mix proportions of the proposed mix are similar to the proportions of the previously approved flowing concrete mix.
3. The proposed flowing concrete mix design will be subject to the same type and frequency of vibration as the previously approved mix.

In any of the previous cases, the slump loss test as described in **Section 8.6.7.3** shall be verified.

8.6.9 PRODUCTION BATCH QUALITY CONTROL

1. Check that the forms are stable and leak-proof. Forming materials shall be strong enough to withstand the concrete pressure and prevent any paste or mortar leakage.
2. Ensure that the proposed mix design has been approved prior to the production of concrete.
3. Ensure that the Plant has a proper plan for the continuous placement of concrete to prevent excessive slump loss or cold joints. The plan must provide for actions in case of mechanical failures, or other unforeseen incidents.
4. Ensure that vibrating equipment is available to consolidate the concrete. Continue vibration long enough to achieve proper consolidation of the concrete.
5. In addition to the random sampling and testing, visually check every batch before the concrete is transported to the placement area. Perform additional testing to verify any concrete batch that appears to be out of tolerance, as appropriate.
6. Concrete shall stay plastic and within the slump tolerance range during placement.
7. The time between batching and depositing of each load of concrete shall be less than the slump cutoff time of the mix design unless the load passes the slump test.
8. Perform flowing concrete tests at the point of placement or testing station established for that express purpose, provided that a correlation between the plastic properties of the point of placement and testing station has been established.
9. Ensure that the following plastic properties are measured for every LOT of concrete per class as defined in the **FDOT Specifications Section 346**:
 - a) Slump

- b) Air Content
 - c) Temperature
10. Reject any LOT of concrete that does not meet the specified plastic property requirements.
 11. Ensure that the concrete is placed in a continuous and timely manner to maintain its workability and specified slump during placement and to minimize the possibility of segregation and cold joints.
 12. Use methods of placement that prevent segregation or other detrimental effects. These methods must be identified in the QC Plan.
 13. Do not add water to re-temper the concrete.
 14. Perform the finishing of concrete to prevent the occurrence of cracks, honeycombs, voids, and a lack of bonding between the concrete and reinforcing steel.
 15. Apply the appropriate curing method in accordance with ***FDOT Specifications Sections 400 or 450.***

8.6.10 SUMMARY OF TEST METHODS

TABLE II			
Test Method	Mix Design	Field Demonstration	Production (Every Lot)
Slump	X	X	X
Column Segregation (S)	X		
Aggregate Distribution (CAI)		X	
Hardened Visual Stability Index (HVS)		When required	
Compressive Strength	X	X	X
Surface Resistivity	X		
Density (Unit Weight)	X	X	
Air Content	X	X	X
Temperature	X	X	X

8.6.11 TRAINING

Ensure that Plant personnel involved in the performance of lab and field trials for flowing concrete have the required qualifications specified in ***FDOT Specifications Section 105.***

8.6.12 FORMS

None needed.