



CONTROL OF ADMIXTURE ADDITION

It is essential that we accurately control and record the addition of admixtures through observing batching processes and procedures. Addition timing in the batching process and maintaining the correct dosage, is critical to ensure that admixtures perform as designed and the correct end performance is achieved.

What can go wrong?

Incorrect dosages or timing in the batching sequence can lead to:

- delayed or increased setting times
- failure to meet maximum free water cement ratio specification.
- reduced compressive strength
- incorrect consistence at the point of delivery
- variable workability and cohesion

We have a number of complaints recorded where end performance and issues with placing or finishing the material have arisen as a result of admixtures being added incorrectly during the batching process. All admixtures should be added as part of the automatic batching sequence. The only exception to this is where prior authorisation has been given and a controlled manual addition procedure has been agreed.

Should an instance occur where the automatic batching procedure does not perform correctly and admixtures are incorrectly weighed/discharged, any further manual addition must be authorised by an Area Technical Manager prior to any adjustment being made. If this is not possible no further admixture should be added and the load dumped and re-batched. If there is any doubt regarding the accuracy of a load guidance should be sought before the load is dispatched to site.

STOP & THINK

Always seek advice if the quality of a load is in doubt, never send suspect material to the customer. The cost of removing hardened concrete that has been placed will far outweigh the cost of a dumped load.