

## **VOLUMETRIC CONCRETE BATCHING:**

(5-18-10)

R10 R13

Revise the *2006 Standard Specifications* as follows:

**Page 10-19**, after **Article 1000-12**, add the following as a new article:

### **1000-13      VOLUMETRIC MIXED CONCRETE**

Upon written request by the contractor, the Department may approve the use of concrete proportioned by volume. The volumetric producer must submit and have approved a process control plan and product quality control plan by the Materials and Tests Unit. If concrete is proportioned by volume, the other requirements of these specifications with the following modifications will apply. Unless otherwise approved by the Department, use of concrete proportioned by volume shall be limited to Class B concrete and a maximum of 30 cubic yards per unit per day.

#### **(A)    Materials**

Use materials that meet the requirements for the respective items in the *Standard Specifications* except that they will be measured by a calibrated volume-weight relationship.

Storage facilities for all material shall be designed to permit the Department to make necessary inspections prior to the batching operations. The facilities shall also permit identification of approved material at all times, and shall be designed to avoid mixing with or contaminating by unapproved material. Coarse and fine aggregate shall be furnished and handled so variations in the moisture content affecting the uniform consistency of the concrete will be avoided.

Moisture content of the coarse and fine aggregate will be made available onsite for the Engineer's review for each load. The frequency of moisture testing will be dependent on certain variables such as weather, season and source; however, moisture tests should be performed at least once at the beginning of the work day for each source material. Additional daily moisture tests for the coarse and fine aggregate shall be performed if requested by the Engineer.

Unused materials should be emptied from hopper daily. Concrete should not be mixed with materials that have been left in the hopper overnight.

#### **(B)    Equipment**

Provide volumetric mixers with rating plates indicating that the performance of the mixer is in accordance with the Volumetric Mixer Manufacturer Bureau or equivalent. Mixers must comply with ASTM C685. Unless otherwise specified, all mixing operations must be in strict accordance with the manufacturer's recommended procedures. Such procedures shall be provided to the Department for review upon request.

The volumetric mixer shall be capable of carrying sufficient unmixed dry bulk cement, pozzolan (if required), fine aggregate, coarse aggregate, admixtures and water, in separate compartments and accurately proportioning the specified mix. Each batching or mixing unit (or both) shall carry in a prominent place a metal plate or plates on which are plainly marked the gross volume of the unit in terms of mixed concrete, discharge speed and the weight-calibrated constant of the machine in terms of a revolution counter or other output indicator.

The concrete mixing device shall be an auger-type continuous mixer used in conjunction with volumetric proportioning. The mixer shall produce concrete, uniform in color and appearance, with homogeneous distribution of the material throughout the mixture. Mixing time necessary to produce uniform concrete shall be established by the contractor and shall comply with other requirements of these specifications. Only equipment found acceptable in every respect and capable of producing uniform results will be permitted.

Each volumetric mixer shall be equipped with an onboard ticketing system that will electronically produce a record of all material used and their respective weights and the total volume of concrete placed. Alternate methods of recordation may be used if approved by the Engineer. Tickets should also identify the following information, at minimum:

- Contractor Name
- Contractor Phone Number
- NCDOT Project No. and TIP No.
- Date
- Truck No.
- Ticket No.
- Time Start/End of Pour
- Mix ID & Description (Strength)
- Aggregate Moisture Before Mixing

**(C) Proportioning Devices**

Volume proportioning devices, such as counters, calibrated gate openings or flow meters, shall be easily accessible for controlling and determining the quantities of the ingredients discharged. All indicating devices that affect the accuracy of proportioning and mixing of concrete shall be in full view of and near enough to be read by the operator and Engineer while concrete is being produced. In operation, the entire measuring and dispensing mechanism shall produce the specified proportions of each ingredient.

The volumetric mixer shall provide positive control of the flow of water and admixtures into the mixing chamber. Water flow shall be indicated by a flow meter and be readily adjustable to provide for slump control and/or minor variations in aggregate moisture. The mixer shall be capable of continuously circulating or mechanically agitating the admixtures.

Liquid admixtures shall be dispensed through a controlled, calibrated flow meter. A positive means to observe the continuous flow of material shall be provided. If an admixture requires diluting, the admixture shall be diluted and thoroughly mixed prior to introducing the admixture into the dispenser. When admixtures are diluted, the ratio of dilution and the mixing shall be approved by and performed in the presence of the Department.

The volumetric mixer shall be capable of measurement of cement, pozzolan (if required), liquids and aggregate being introduced into the mix.

**(D) Calibration**

Volume-weight relationships will be based on calibration. The proportioning devices shall be calibrated by the contractor prior to the start of each NCDOT job, and subsequently at intervals recommended by the equipment manufacturer. Calibrations will be performed in the presence of the Department and subject to approval from the Department. Calibration of the cement and aggregate proportioning devices shall be accomplished by weighing (determining the mass of) each component. Calibration of the admixture and water proportioning devices shall be accomplished by weight (mass) or volume. Tolerances in proportioning the individual components will be as follows:

**TABLE 1000-4  
VOLUMETRIC MIXED CONCRETE CALIBRATION  
PROPORTION TOLERANCES**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Tolerance</b>
Cement, Weight (Mass) percent	0 to +4
Fine Aggregate, Weight (Mass) percent	± 2
Coarse Aggregate, Weight (Mass) percent	± 2
Admixtures, Weight (Mass) or Volume percent	± 3
Water, Weight (Mass) or Volume percent	± 1

Each volumetric mixer must be accompanied at all times by completed calibration worksheets and they shall be made available to the Department upon request.

**(E) Verification of Yield**

Verification of the proportioning devices may be required at any time by the Department. Verification shall be accomplished by proportioning the rock and sand based on the cement meter count for each concrete mobile mixer. Once the count (revolutions) for 94 pounds of cement has been determined then delivery of the correct amount of rock and sand can be verified.

**(F) Uniformity**

When concrete is produced, have present during all batching operations a Certified Concrete Batch Technician. During batching and placement, the sole duty of this employee is to supervise the production and control of the concrete, perform moisture tests, adjust mix proportions of aggregates for free moisture, complete and sign approved delivery tickets, and assure quality control of the batching.

Two samples of sufficient size to make the required tests will be taken after discharge of approximately 15 and 85 percent of the load. Each of the 2 samples of concrete will be separately tested for the properties listed in Table 1000-3. Tests will be conducted in accordance with the test procedures specified in Table 1000-3 or procedures established by the Materials and Tests Unit. The Engineer may recheck mixer performance at any time when in his opinion satisfactory mixing is not being accomplished.