



SELF-CURING CONCRETE UNDER SULFATE ATTACK

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Self-curing concrete SC is a concrete type that can be cured without using any external curing regimes. It can perform by several methods such as using lightweight aggregate or chemical agents. In this research chemical curing agent is used to produce SC. This paper reports the results of a research study conducted to evaluate the effect of sulfates on the performance of self-curing concrete compared to ordinary concrete. Samples are immersed in sodium sulfate Na_2SO_4 solution of 4% concentration. Results are measured in terms of compressive strength, tensile strength, flexural strength and mass loss. It was found that the rate of strength loss is noticed at ordinary concrete compared to SC concrete. Sulfate resistance is improved when using self-curing concrete. This improvement appears to be dependent on using a chemical curing agent.

Keywords: Self-Curing, Polyethylene Glycol, Sulfate, Durability, Concrete

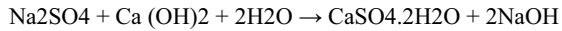
1. INTRODUCTION

Curing is the maintaining of a satisfactory moisture content and temperature in concrete during its early stages to produce a suitable structural concrete. The strength and durability of concrete will be developed only if it is cured as soon as required [1]. Curing methods involve either the introduction of water after placing or the reduction in the rate of evaporation from the surface [2]. An internal curing "IC" system could be created by the introduction of a chemical curing agent during the mixing to reduce water evaporation in the concrete and make it effectively self-curing [3, 2]. A feasibility of curing concrete by adding water-soluble chemicals during mixing that reduce water evaporation during setting and hardening of the concrete, making it self-curing, was discussed by several researchers [4, 3, 5, 6]. The chemicals' abilities to reduce evaporation from solution

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and to improve water retention in hydrating Portland cement was monitored by measuring weight-loss, X-Ray powder diffraction, and thermo-gravimetry. As internal curing maintains saturated conditions within the hydrating cement paste, the magnitude of internal self-desiccation stresses are reduced and long term hydration is increased. IC is particularly effective for the high performance concretes containing silica fume. In cement mortar containing a Type F (ASTM C494) fly ash, the fly ash functions mainly as a diluent at early ages and higher and coarser porosity at early ages result in less autogenous shrinkage [2, 4, 7, 8]. Concrete durability is the ability to last a long time without significant deterioration. Durability may be expressed in terms of sulfate or chloride resistance. Sulfates present in soils, groundwater, sea water, decaying organic matter, and industrial effluent surrounding a concrete structure may permeate the concrete and react with existing hydration products. In the presence of calcium hydroxide (CH) and water (H), mono-sulfate hydrate ($C_3A \cdot CS \cdot H_{18}$) and calcium aluminates hydrate ($C_3A \cdot CS \cdot H_{18}$) react with the sulfate (S) to produce ettringite ($C_3A \cdot 3CS \cdot H_{32}$) [9]. The conventional forms of sulfate attack occur where expansive ettringite together with gypsum has been formed due to the sources of sulfates such as sulfates or sulfides in the ground or due to the presence of mobile groundwater or calcium hydroxide, calcium aluminates hydrate and calcium silicate hydrate (for magnesium sulfate) in the cement matrix [10]. The external sulfate attack "ESA" is characterized by the chemical reaction between sulfate ions with the aluminates component, calcium and hydroxyl of hardened Portland cement. The reaction leads to the formation of expansive ettringite and to a lesser extent, gypsum. The reaction, in case where there is enough water present, will cause expansion leading to cracking. This in turn will allow further ingress of sulfates and accelerate the degradation process. For ESA to occur, three conditions must be fulfilled: high permeability of concrete, sulfate-rich environment and presence of water. The ESA related damage manifests itself in several forms including cracking, spalling, loss of strength and adhesion. In hardened conventional concrete, the formation of ettringite by sulfate attack may result in expansion and lead to cracking of the concrete. The conditions under which ettringite formation produces damage in the concrete are uncertain. It should be noted that ettringite produced by the reactions described above occupies a smaller volume than the reactants occupied. Therefore, the reaction described above must not be responsible for the expansion. It is generally accepted that the expansion caused by sulfate attack is the result of particular mechanisms associated with the ettringite reaction or is the result of reaction other than the formation of ettringite. Gypsum, in addition to ettringite, can be produced during sulfate attack and is capable of producing expansion. Two particular mechanisms for expansion associated with the formation of ettringite have been widely published - the topochemical reaction mechanism and the swelling mechanism [11]. Sulfate attack

can also take the form of a progressive loss of strength and loss of mass due to the loss of cohesiveness in the cement hydration products. The attack of sodium sulfates is performed as follow:



The formation of sodium hydroxide as a byproduct of the reaction ensures the continuation of high alkalinity in the system, which is essential for the stability of the cementitious material C-S-H [12]. Several durability tests were conducted on self-cure concrete specimens by many researchers [6, 13]. It was found that the initial surface absorption, chloride ingress, carbonation, corrosion potential and freeze/thaw resistance characteristics were all better in air cured self-cure concrete than in the air cured control concrete. It may be possible to achieve such properties with higher quantities of self-cure chemical admixtures. In this experimental program, the SC specimens were cast without any curing, while the conventional concrete specimens CC, were cast by conventional procedures with substantial amount of curing water. To investigate the characteristics of compressive, tensile, flexure and bond strengths, samples were subjected to sulfate attack then tested.

2. RESEARCH SIGNIFICANCE

This research aims to investigate the long-term and durability performance of self-curing concrete SC compared to ordinary cured concrete CC subjected to sulfate attack. Main variable is sulfate attack time (0, 2, 4, and 6 months). The importance of this research is based on current research needs knowing the data addressing the long-term behavior of SC concrete. This research provides data for the engineers concerning the influence of using self-curing concrete in aggressive conditions, which contains sulfate ions.

3. MATERIALS AND TEST SPECIMENS

The following sections provide detailed description of the materials used, design of test specimens and testing procedures. The experimental program conducted in this study was performed in the laboratory of testing of building materials at the Faculty of Engineering, Menoufia University, Egypt.

3.1. MATERIALS

CEMENT: The cement used was the ordinary Portland cement CEM I N42.5, from the Suez cement factory. Its chemical and physical characteristics satisfy the Egyptian Standard Specification [14].

FINE AGGREGATE: The fine aggregate used in the experimental program was the natural siliceous sand. Its characteristics satisfy the E.S.S 1109/2008 [15]. It was clean and nearly free from impurities with a specific gravity of 2.63 t/m³ and a fineness modulus of 2.52. Its mechanical properties were shown in table (1) while its grading was shown in Table (1) and Fig. (1).

COARSE AGGREGATES: The coarse aggregate used was crushed dolomite, which satisfies the ASTM C33 Specification [16] with a specific gravity 2.70 t/m³ and a fineness modulus of 6.64 with a maximum nominal size of 12.5 mm. The shape of these particles was irregular and angular with a relatively high percentage of elongated particles and a very low percentage of flat particles.

Table 1. Physical properties of the sand used

PROPERTY		VALUE
Specific gravity	(t/m ³)	2.63
Volumetric weight	(t/m ³)	1.61
Voids ratio	(%)	40.3%
Percent of clay, silt and dust	(by weight)	0.5%

SILICA FUME: It is a waste by-product of silicon and silicon alloys industry consisting mainly of non-combustible amorphous silica (SiO₂) particles. Egyptian Ferro Alloys Corporation (EFACO) produced it. The chemical components analysis was shown in Table (2) and main properties were shown in Table (3). The silica fume used was met the main requirements of ASTM C 1240.

Table 2. The Chemical Components Analysis Result of the Silica Fume Used

CHEMICAL COMPOSITION	SiO ₂	Al ₂ O ₃	Fe ₂ O ₃	CaO	MgO	SO ₃	K ₂ O	L.O.I.
AVERAGE (%)	95.93	0.52	0.05	0.2	0.18	0.1	0.4	2.9

Table 3. Physical Properties of the Silica Fume Used

PROPERTY		VALUE
Specific gravity	(t/m ³)	2.21
Bulk density [uncompacted unit weight]	(t/m ³)	0.3
Fineness	(m ² /gm)	23.52

SUPER-PLASTICIZER: The high-range water-reducing (HRWR) admixtures often referred to as super-plasticizers to help in increasing the workability of concrete without additional amount of water. A naphthalene sulphonate group based super-plasticizer, supplied by Chemicals for Modern Buildings (CMB) Company, and under the brand name of Addicrete BVF was chosen to be used in this study. Its main properties were shown in Table (4). The used super-plasticizer complies with ASTM C494 -Type F [17] and ESS 1899-1.

Table 4. Technical information of Addicrete BVF (as provided by manufacturer)

BASE	Appearance	Density	Chloride content	Air entrainment	Compatibility
NAPHTHALENE SULPHONATE	Brown liquid.	1.18±0.01 kg/liter	Nil	Nil	All types of Portland cement

CURING AGENT: The self-curing agent used in this study was Polyethylene glycol PEG200 as chemical agent in a liquid form for internal curing of concrete. It is free of chlorides and produces an internal membrane that protects and prevents fresh concrete against over-rapid water evaporation. Table (5) showed the characteristics of Polyethylene glycol PEG200 as produced by manufacturer. The PEG used was Polyethylene Glycol 200 that produced by Qualikems Fine Chemicals Pvt. Ltd.

Table 5. Technical information of Polyethylene Glycol 200 "PEG200" (as provided by manufacturer)

Chemical Curing Agent	Average molecular weight	Hydroxyl Number, mg KOH/g	Liquid Density, g/cc			Melting or Freezing range °C	Viscosity at 100°C, cSt
			20 °C	60°C	80°C		
PEG 200	190 to 210	535 to 590	1.1238	1.0921	1.0763	4-8°C	4.3

WATER: Drinkable clean water, fresh and free from impurities was used for mixing and curing the tested samples according to the Egyptian code of practice [18].

STEEL: Deformed high tensile steel bars of grade 360/520 with a nominal diameter of 16 mm and length of 160 mm were used as individual rebars and as embedded reinforcement with a proof stress of 360 MPa. Its mechanical characteristics satisfy the Egyptian Standard Specification (E.S.S. 262/ 1999).

3.2. CONCRETE AND TEST SAMPLES

Two concrete mixes were proportioned. The first concrete mix SC was self-curing concrete based on previous researches [5, 19, 6, 20]. Samples were cast using ordinary Portland cement, crushed dolomite with a maximum nominal size of 12.5 mm, graded sand with a fineness modulus of 2.40, silica fume as 15% of cement content, super-plasticizer "Addicrete BVF" as 0.07% of cement content [20, 6], chemical curing agent "Poly ethylene glycol PEG200" as 2% of cement content [5] and tap water for the first concrete mix. The second concrete mix CC is normally cured concrete mix with the same proportions of the self-curing concrete mix but without additional chemical curing agent "PEG200" to produce the possibility to compare between the both mixtures. Samples were cast using two used concrete mixtures SC and CC. The second concrete mix CC was cured for 28 days.

Table 6. Concrete mixes used

Mix.	Cement kg/m ³	Water kg/m ³	Sand kg/m ³	Dolomite kg/m ³	Silica fume kg/m ³	Super- plasticizer kg/m ³	Chemical Agent PEG200 kg/m ³
SC	300	150 (as 50% C)	643	1193	45 (as 15% C)	2.1 (as 7% C)	6 (2% C)
CC							--

SC = Self-curing concrete.

CC = Conventional curing concrete.

For each concrete mix, fifteen cube specimens, 100x100x100 mm, were prepared for evaluating the compressive strength. Fifteen cylindrical concrete specimens, 100 mm in diameter and 200 mm high, were prepared to evaluate the split tensile strength. They were tested for split tensile strength according to E.C.P. 203/2007 [18]. The flexural strength was determined according to ASTM C 293 using a mid-point loading method utilizing using fifteen 100x100x500 mm prismatic concrete specimens. To obtain bond strength, reinforcing bar push-down tests were conducted at various ages of concrete, starting from the setting time of concrete at 28 days to 6 months days under sulfate attack and values were compared. Steel rebars (St.52) of 16 mm diameter were cut into 16 cm length specimens then they embedded in 150x150x150 mm concrete cubes during casting process. The bond properties of reinforcing bars in SC were studied by conducting direct push-down test of reinforcing bars embedded in SC specimens and also in CC specimens and the results are compared. The concrete-steel bond strength is formulated according to E.C.P. 203/2007 [18] as $F_{bu} = f_s \cdot \phi / (4 \cdot L_d)$ where, L_d (mm) is bond length of steel; ϕ (mm) is the diameter of the steel; and f_s (N/mm²) is the

tensile stress in steel. If in the previous equation $f_s = F / (\pi \cdot \phi^2 / 4)$, where F (N) is the applied force on the rebar, it then comes out as, $F_{bu} = F / (L_d \cdot \pi \cdot \phi)$. Three specimens representing same constituent were used for each test throughout this study and the average values were reported. The samples of each were tested after 28 and after 56 days to determine the main mechanical properties for each mix including the compressive strength (f_{cu}), tensile strength (f_t), and modulus of rupture (f_r) as well as bond strength. Table (7) shows the mechanical properties of the two mixes at 28 and 56 days.

Table 7. Main mechanical properties of used concrete at tests of 28 days

Mix.		Compressive strength <i>MPa</i>	Splitting Tensile strength <i>MPa</i>	Flexural strength <i>MPa</i>
SC	28 days	43	4.25	8.93
	56 days	35.2	4.55	9.1
CC	28 days	48	4.78	9.68
	56 days	50	4.95	9.9

3.3. SULFATE ATTACK SIMULATION

The samples were immersed in sodium sulfate Na_2SO_4 solution. The amounts of added sulfates were computed to provide total dissolving sulfate ions of 4% concentration solution. It is worth mentioning that the selected concentration of sulfate ions was 10 times higher than that allowed by the E.C.P. 203/2007 [18] in order to accelerate the sulfate attack mechanism. The samples were immersed in that solution for 2, 4 and 6 months and then tested. Results were compared to control specimens. Crystals of salt were seen on the surface of samples due to evaporation of the solution. During this test both temperature and relative humidity were measured once a week. Statistical results showed that the temperature varied in the range 24-32 oC with an average of 28 oC, while the relative humidity varied in the range 65-73 % with an average of 69 %.

4. TEST RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

4.1. COMPRESSIVE STRENGTH TEST RESULTS

The compressive strength results are shown in Fig. 2 as a function of exposure time to sulfate attack. It shows the variation in the cube compressive strength with time for SC concrete specimens, which were immersed in a 0.04 g/ml Na₂SO₄ solution (4% concentration) for 2, 4 and 6 months compared to CC concrete specimens at the same conditions. The first measurements of compressive strength were unable to show any significant changes in the mechanical properties of the specimens within the first 2 months of sulfate exposure time under the specific conditions adopted in this work.

Samples of conventional curing CC concrete are more sensitive to sulfate effect comparing to self-curing SC concrete samples. That can be attributed to the presence of pores in CC concrete compared to SC concrete. For less than 2 months of immersion, the differences in the compressive strength of the specimens were small. The compressive strength is increased by about 3.5 and 4.2% for SC and CC concretes respectively. This result can be explained by the simultaneity of calcium hydroxide dissolution and C-S-H decalcification with sulfate diffusion in concrete, where the dissolution and decalcification dominated at early immersion times. However, after 6 months of immersion, the highest sulfate concentration was observed for CC specimens, whereas the SC specimens exhibited the lowest sulfate concentrations and with maximum loss of compressive strength by about 14 and 20 % for SC and CC concretes respectively. After 6 months, the compressive strength of SC and CC samples decreased. Samples became denser and thus the micro-structure was positively modified. The cracks have been observed when a continual load is applied to specimens because the enlargement of the channels for sulfate diffusion into concrete which increases the sulfate diffusion rate.

Figure 2 clearly shows that the compressive strength test results of the SC and CC samples exposed to sulfate. It consisted of two stages, an initial increasing stage of up to 2 months and a declining stage. This behavior can be attributed to the transport of sulfate ions into the pores of concrete where they reacted with hydration products to form expansive materials that blocked the pores, resulting in the development of micro-cracks and an interfacial transition zone at early immersion times; consequently, the SC and CC became with more close pores and hence, the strength of the SC and CC specimens increased. However, when the concrete pores cannot provide the material expansion, the concrete properties are negatively impacted. In particular, if the volume of the expansive material produced by the sulfate ions is much greater than the pore volume, internal expansion stresses can

create both micro- and macro-cracks. Thus, the strength decreased in the late stages of the specimen immersion in the Na_2SO_4 solution.

The strength loss increased as the exposure time increased. Thus, using self-curing agent prevented the ingress of sulfate into the concrete, whereas the sulfate diffusion rate increased in conventional cured concrete. These results are in an agreement with the observations of Emam (2012) and Vyawahare et al., (2014) [6, 13] discarding using different curing agents.



Fig. 1. SC samples after compressive strength test and immersion time for 6 months.

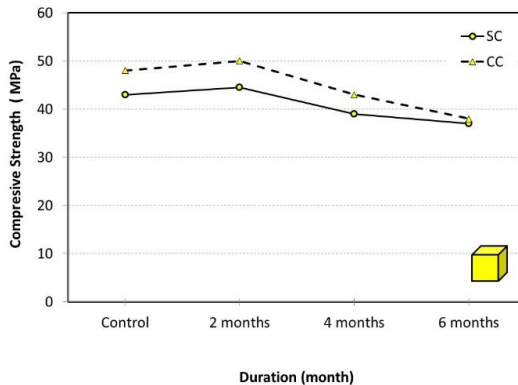


Fig. 2. Sulfate effect on compressive strength values of SC and CC samples.

4.2. SPLITTING TENSILE TEST RESULTS

Figure 3 shows examples of tensile strength measurements as a function of exposure time to sulfate attack. It shows the variation in the cylinder indirect tensile strength with time for SC specimens, which were immersed in a 0.04 g/ml Na_2SO_4 solution (4% concentration) for 2, 4 and 6 months. The results showed that the sulfate concentration at the specimens in all of the environments increased with the immersion time. Thus, sulfate diffused freely into the concrete from the external sulfate solution. The both types of concretes, CC and SC concretes, nearly behave the same in indirect tensile test as it behave in compression test. For 2 months of immersion, the tensile strength is increased by about 3.5 and 6.7 % for SC and CC concretes respectively. However, after 4 months the tensile strength decreased by about 5 and 7 % for SC and CC concretes respectively. After 6 months of immersion, the highest sulfate concentration was observed for CC specimens, whereas the SC specimens showed the lowest sulfate concentrations and with maximum loss of compressive strength by about 8 and 13.4 % for SC and CC concretes respectively. The strength loss was increased as the exposure time increased.

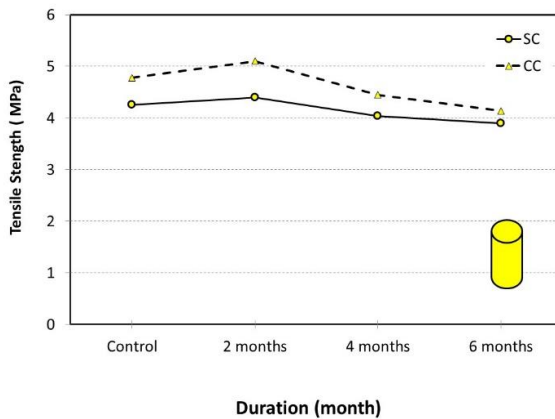


Fig. 3. Sulfate effect on indirect tensile strength values of SC and CC samples.

As a result, the strength decreased in the late stages of the specimen immersion in the Na_2SO_4 solution. These results agreed with those of Wang et al. [21, 22].

4.3. FLEXURAL TEST RESULTS

The flexural strength results are shown in Fig. 4. The both types, CC and SC concretes, nearly behave the same in flexure. For 2 months of immersion, the flexural strength is increased by about 1.9 and 2.3 % for SC and CC concretes respectively. However, after 4 months the tensile strength decreased by about 3 and 16 % for SC and CC concretes respectively. After 6 months of immersion, the highest sulfate concentration was observed for CC specimens, whereas the SC specimens exhibited the lowest sulfate concentrations and with maximum loss of compressive strength by about 5 and 22 % for SC and CC concretes respectively. The strength loss was increased as the exposure time increased.

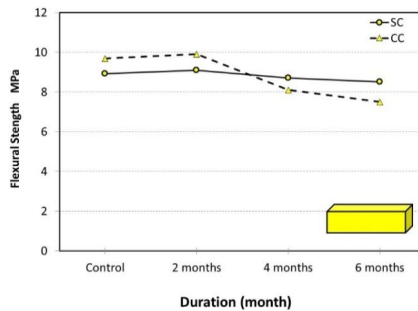


Fig. 4. Sulfate effect on flexure strength values of SC and CC samples

As a result, the strength decreased in the late stages of the specimen immersion in the Na_2SO_4 solution. These results agreed with those of Wang et al. (2013) [22] for CC samples and nearly agreed with Emam (2012) [6] for SC samples.

4.4. EFFECTS ON CONCRETE MASS

No significant visible damage was detected with lower sulfate exposure time. Damages with higher exposure time were a little more severe but always related to the specimen's surface only.

The damage – as detected by visual observation – if any, deals with the skin of the specimens and then causes only negligible changes in main mechanical properties related to the whole mass of the specimens as shown in Fig. 5. However in real concrete structures the sulfate attack can become more severe because of micro cracks (caused by restrained thermal and drying shrinkage or loading in service) which favor a deeper penetration of sulfate into the cement matrix. Results are in agreed with Lee et al., (2015) [23].

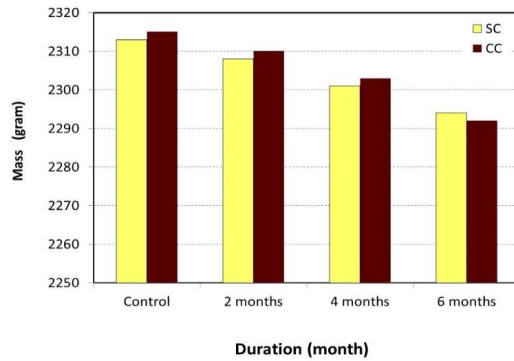


Fig. 5. Mass loss of SC and CC samples due to sulfate attack.

4.5. EFFECTS ON BOND STRENGTH

Figure 6 showed the behavior of bond strength values of SC compared to CC concrete samples after different periods of sulfate attack. Results have shown that the bond strength values are improved in both samples, SC and CC, with improving values up to 16%. The behavior in both types are nearly the same. That enhancement may be referred to the internal expansion of sulfates which cause higher pressure of cement matrix on bars that led to higher friction between matrix and bars during bond test. Also, it may be referred to the insufficient duration to notice the sulfate effect on concrete samples.

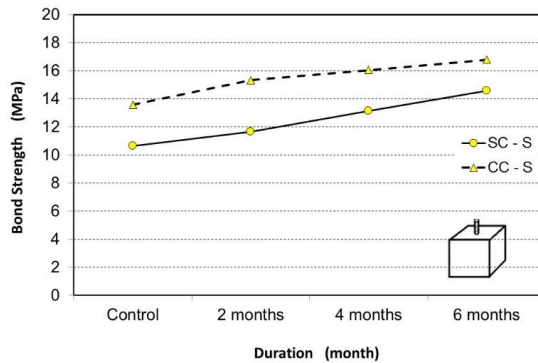


Fig. 6. Bond strength of SC and CC samples due to sulfate attack

5. CONCLUSIONS

Based on the results obtained from the current research, the following main conclusions can be summarized:

1. Self-curing concrete behaved nearly identical to the same CC concrete but the self-curing SC concrete with chemical curing agent gives less strength values by about 8-10% comparing to conventional curing CC concrete.
2. Samples of conventional curing CC concrete are more sensitive to sulfate attack in comparison to the self-curing SC concrete samples especially when increasing exposure time.
3. The strength loss was increased as the exposure time increased but bond strength has improved (in the range of this study).
4. The durability is not affected much by using chemical curing agents for internal curing.
5. The relationship between bond strength and compressive strength of CC concrete is more consistent than SC.

Finally, it is noticed that normal curing method seems to be the better method for curing providing satisfactory strength and durability [24, 13]. By using internal curing agents also we can achieve almost 90% strength and durability achieved by normal curing method without much attention. There is not major strength loss. Self-curing concrete can be used in urban areas of aggressive weather.

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BETON SAMO-UTWARDZALNY SKAŻONY SIARCZANEM

Słowa kluczowe: samoutwardzalny, glikol polietylenowy, siarczan, trwałość, beton

STRESZCZENIE:

Niniejsza praca przedstawia wyniki badania przeprowadzonego w celu oceny wpływu siarczanów na beton samoutwardzalny, w porównaniu z betonem zwykłym.

Beton samoutwardzalny SC, jest typem betonu, który utwardzany jest bez jakichkolwiek zewnętrznych systemów utwardzania. Można to osiągnąć stosując kilka metod, jak użycie lekkiego kruszywa, czy też środków chemicznych. W tym badaniu, do produkcji SC wykorzystano chemiczny środek utwardzający.

Przygotowano dwie mieszanki betonu. Pierwszą mieszanką SC był beton samo-utwardzalny oparty na poprzednich badaniach. Próbkę zostały odlane przy wykorzystaniu zwykłego cementu portlandzkiego, zgniecionego dolomitu o maksymalnym rozmiarze nominalnym 12,5 mm, sortowanego piasku ze współczynnikiem delikatności 2,40, pyłem krzemionkowym jako 15% zawartości cementu, super-plastyfikatorem "Addicrete BVF" jako 0,07% zawartości cementu, chemicznym utwardzaczem "Glikolem polietylenowym PEG200" jako 2% składnika cementu oraz z wodą kranową do pierwszej mieszanki betonu. Druga mieszanka betonu CC, jest zwyczajnie utwardzaną mieszanką, o tych samych proporcjach co mieszanka samoutwardzająca, ale bez dodatku chemoutwardzacza "PEG200", aby dać możliwość porównania obu mieszanek. Próbkę zostały odlane przy wykorzystaniu dwóch użytych mieszanek, SC i CC. Drugą mieszanką betonu była CC, utwardzana przez 28 dni.

Dla każdej mieszanki, piętnaście sześciokątnych próbek, 100x100x100 mm, zostało przygotowanych do oceny wytrzymałości na ściskanie. Piętnaście cylindrycznych próbek betonowych, o średnicy 100 mm i wysokości 200 mm, zostało przygotowanych, aby ocenić wytrzymałość na rozciąganie. Poddano je badaniom na wytrzymałość na rozciąganie, według E.C.P. (Europejska Platforma Betonu). 203/2007. Wytrzymałość na zginanie została ustalona według ASTM C-293, wykorzystując środkowy punkt obciążenia, przy użyciu piętnastu przyrządów przyrządowych próbek betonowych, 100x100x500 mm. Aby otrzymać siłę wiązania, w różnych etapach zastygania betonu, przeprowadzono badanie wciskając pręty zbrojeniowe, poczynając od stwardnienia betonu po 28 dniach, do 6 miesięcy od skażenia siarczanem, a następnie porównano wartości. Stalowe pręty zbrojeniowe (St.52), śr. 16 mm, zostały pocięte na 16 cm próbki, a następnie osadzone w betonowych kostkach 150x150x150 mm, w trakcie procesu odlewania. Właściwości wiązania prętów zbrojeniowych w SC zostały zbadane przez przeprowadzenie bezpośredniego badania wciskowego prętów zbrojeniowych osadzonych w próbkach SC oraz w próbkach CC, a wyniki zostały porównane.

Próbki zostają zanurzone w 4% roztworze siarczanu sodu Na₂SO₄. Wyniki są porównywane pod kątem wytrzymałości na ściskanie, rozciąganie, zginanie oraz utraty masy.

Okazało się, że tempo utraty wytrzymałości zauważyć można w betonie zwykłym, w porównaniu z betonem SC. Odporność na siarczan jest zwiększona poprzez wykorzystanie betonu samoutwardzalnego. To udoskonalenie zdaje się być zależne od wykorzystania czynnika utwardzającego. Zauważono, że normalna metoda utwardzania wydaje się lepszą metodą, dającą zadowalającą odporność oraz trwałość. Poprzez wykorzystanie wewnętrznych czynników utwardzających, możemy osiągnąć prawie 90% wytrzymałości oraz trwałości osiąganą przez normalne metody utwardzania, bez większego wysiłku. Nie nastąpiła poważna utrata odporności.