

Admixtures for Self Consolidating Concrete

The Grace Solution



Self Consolidating Concrete Benefits Producers, Contractors, Engineers, Architects and Owners

► **Precast and Prestressed Concrete Producers**

- Eliminate the need for vibration and manual compaction in hard-to-reach areas with congested reinforcement
- Improve labor safety and reduce noise levels during production
- Improve concrete consolidation throughout highly reinforced, thin-walled units, and reduce repairs
- Produce the highest quality surface finish, with minimal finishing operations and touch-ups required
- Increase flexibility in design and orientation of formwork and improve plant productivity

► **Concrete Contractors**

- Eliminate the need for vibration and manual compaction in hard-to-reach areas with congested reinforcement
- Shorten construction times with faster placement of vertical and horizontal elements
- Reduce labor and workmanship skill level required to place consistent, high quality concrete with excellent surface finish
- Reduce vibration equipment and associated costs

► **Engineers and Architects**

- Allows increased design flexibility by enabling innovative construction techniques

► **Owners**

- Enables more design choice to develop functional and cost-effective structures
- Improves durability and reduces maintenance of concrete surfaces through improved compaction of cover concrete



SCC is used to produce precast tunnel segments without vibration.

SCC may be produced by wet or dry batch readymix systems and pumped into place.



SCC flows and compacts around obstacles and reinforcement to give complete consolidation.

Fine edge details and good surface finish in precast and prestressed concrete using SCC.



Self Consolidating Concrete (SCC) is an advanced approach to the production of highly flowable, self-levelling concrete that can be placed without vibration equipment and without segregation.

Self Consolidating Concrete Is Different from Flowing Concrete

Today, flowable concrete with 175 to 225 mm (7 to 9 inch) slumps can easily be produced using conventional mix designs and standard plasticizers.

However, flowable concrete still requires vibration to ensure complete consolidation within the formwork and around embedded reinforcing steel.

Self Consolidating Concrete Has Unique Advantages

Self Placement —The need for vibration can be eliminated because SCC is highly flowable concrete that will change shape under its own weight to self-level and self-consolidate within formwork.

No Segregation — SCC is a flowable yet highly cohesive material with no segregation and significantly reduced bleeding.

No Blocking — SCC can pass freely through narrow openings and congested reinforcement without aggregates “blocking” behind obstructions and stopping the flow of concrete.

Fields of Application

Self Consolidating Concrete is an innovative technology that can be used to enable new construction techniques and solve construction problems in many traditional fields of application:

- Precast and prestressed concrete
- Bridges and civil engineering projects
- Residential and commercial structures
- Pumped concrete



Self Consolidating Concrete in precast production fills formwork without segregation or blocking.



The Grace Product Range

Grace offers a range of products for Self Consolidating Concrete.

ADVA® Series

New generation, high efficiency polycarboxylate superplasticizers designed to produce concrete with excellent workability and high early and ultimate strengths

V-MAR™ Series

High efficiency, concrete rheology modifying agents to increase concrete cohesion and resistance to bleeding and segregation

Mix Designs and Raw Material Selection

SCC can be made with standard available raw materials, however, in order to achieve the unique rheological properties of SCC, special attention must be paid to mix design process.

Cementitious and filler material contents are normally higher in SCC than in conventional concrete.

Water cement ratios are also low, typically under 0.40. Therefore, under practical field conditions, SCC requires a **high performance superplasticizer** to achieve and maintain desired workability.

SCC performance requirements may also dictate additional methods to ensure mix homogeneity and **prevent segregation**. Various techniques are available, including using **viscosity modifying admixtures** which effectively increase mix cohesion.

Coarse aggregate content is typically reduced, and gradations are modified to include more fines.



Slump Flow Test to measure slump diameter

Self Consolidating Concrete Production

SCC is a high performance concrete material and careful attention to all elements is a key element to a successful project.

The increased flow characteristics of SCC may impact batching operations, transportation and placement choices, particularly with regard to formwork.

Grace can offer technical expertise and guidance on all aspects of SCC, including mix design, batching, placement and testing to ensure consistent, predictable performance of all SCC mixes.



Self Consolidating Concrete Test Methods

SCC is designed with very high flowability. Standard concrete rheology test methods are not appropriate to measure flow, stability and “blocking” resistance of very high slump concrete.

The “Slump Flow Test” has been developed for use in SCC to measure slump flow diameter and flow rate over time. SCC slump flow typically reaches a spread diameter of between 600 and 800 mm (24 to 32 inch) on a specially marked board.

Additional test methods such as the “L box”, “U box”, “J-ring” and “V-funnel” tests are also available.

For more information and assistance, please contact your local Grace representative.



L Box Test to measure flow and blocking resistance of mix

ADMIXTURES FOR
SELF CONSOLIDATING
CONCRETE

KEY CONCRETE PRODUCTS LOCATIONS

NORTH AMERICA

United States and Canada

Customer Service
Tel. +1-877-4AD-MIX1
(+1-877-423-6491)
Fax +1-877-4AD-MIX2
(+1-877-423-6492)

AFRICA

South Africa

W. R. Grace Africa (Pty.) Ltd.
64 Rigger Road, Spartan
P.O. Box 2256
Kempton Park 1620
Tel. +27-(11)-923-4631
Fax +27-(11)-923-4672

ASIA PACIFIC

Australia

Grace Australia Pty. Ltd.
Regents Park Estate, Block M
391 Park Road
Regents Park, NSW 2143
Tel. +61-2-9743 8811
Fax +61-2-9743 8539

Hong Kong

W. R. Grace (HK) Ltd.
Grace Industrial Building
No. 6 On Chuen Street
On Lok Tsuen
Fanling, NT
Tel. +852-26757898
Fax +852-26764370

Japan

Grace Chemicals K. K.
2-9-6 Hamamatsu-cho
Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-0013
Tel. +81-3-5405-2991
Fax +81-3-5405-2994

Korea

Grace Korea Inc
70-1 Namdong
Industrial Complex
639 Kojan-Dong,
Namdong-ku
Inchon City 405310
Tel. +82-32-814-2051
Fax +82-32-814-2058

Malaysia

W. R. Grace (Malaysia)
Sdn Bhd
7 Lorong CJ 1/1A
Off Jalan Balakong
43200 Cheras Jaya
Tel. +60-3-9074 6133
Fax +60-3-9074 7322

Singapore

W. R. Grace
(Singapore) Pte. Ltd.
25 Tanjong Penjuru
Jurong Industrial Town
Singapore 609024
Tel. +65-2-65-3033
Fax +65-2-65-9232

EUROPE

France

PIERI S.A.S.
A Grace Company
71580 Saillenard
Tel. +33-3-85-76-45-00
Fax +33-3-85-74-10-84

W. R. Grace, S.A.S.
33, Route de Gallardon
Boite Postal 39
F-28234 Epernon Cedex
Tel. +33-2-37-18-86-00
Fax +33-2-37-18-86-82

Ireland

Grace Construction
Products (Ire) Ltd.
Unit 200 Holly Road
Western Industrial Estate
Dublin 12
Tel. +353-1-4569600
Fax +353-1-4569604

Italy

W. R. Grace Italiana S.p.A.
Via Trento, 7
20017-Passirana di Rho
(Milano)
Tel. +39-02-93537-532/291
Fax +39-02-93537-516

Spain

Grace S.A.
Riera Fonollar, 12
08830 Sant Boi de Llobregat
(Barcelona)
Tel. +34-93-6351043
Fax +34-93-6351033

Turkey

Grace Yapi Kimyasallari
San. Ve Tic. A.S.
Mahir Iz Cad.
No. 15 A Blok Kat: 1
81130 - Altunizade - Üsküdar
Istanbul
Tel. +90-216-474-87-74
Fax +90-216-474-87-67

United Kingdom

Grace Construction
Products Limited
852 Birchwood Boulevard
Birchwood, Warrington
Cheshire WA3 7QZ
Tel. +44-(0)-1925-824824
Fax +44-(0)-1925-824033

LATIN AMERICA

Argentina

Grace Argentina S.A.
Primera Junta 570
1878 Quilmes
Prov. Buenos Aires
Tel. +54-1-4229-5303
Fax +54-1-4229-5308

Brazil

Grace Brasil Ltda.
Adva. Parana 4640
Cajuru Do Sul
Tel. +55-15-235-4765
Fax +55-15-235-4764

Chile

Grace Química Compania Ltda.
Grace Construction Products
Puerto Montt 3250
Renca Santiago
Tel. +56-2-463-2304
Fax +56-2-463-2394
www.graceconstruction.cl

Mexico

W. R. Grace
Av. Paseo San Isidro
Metepec México
Tel. +52(7)2327575
Fax +52(7)2327572

Venezuela

Grace Venezuela S.A.
Prolongacion Av. Michelena
Michelena C/C Norte Sur 3
Z.L.M. Norte, Apartado 1243
Valencia, Estado Carabobo
Tel. +58-241-8744251 or 8744252
Fax +58-241-8744250

MIDDLE EAST

United Arab Emirates

Emirates Chemicals L.L.C.
Grace Construction Products
P.O. Box 5006
Office 104, Carrera Building
Karama, Dubai
Tel. +971-4 3374484
Fax +971-4 3347104

 Visit our web site at: www.graceconstruction.com

W. R. Grace & Co.-Conn. 62 Whittemore Avenue Cambridge, MA 02140

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