

SECTION 03 37 13

SHOTCRETE

1. SCOPE

The work shall consist of furnishing, mixing, applying and curing shotcrete. Except as otherwise specified, either a dry mix or wet mix process may be used.

2. MATERIALS

Portland cement shall conform to the requirements of Section 3 for the specified type.

Aggregates shall conform to the requirements of Section 3 unless otherwise specified. Gradation shall be one of the three options specified by ACI 506R, Table 2.1 unless otherwise specified.

Admixtures, if specified, shall meet the requirements indicated. Non-chloride chemical admixtures shall conform to ASTM C 494. Air-entraining admixtures shall conform to ASTM C 260. Fly ash or pozzolanic materials shall conform to ASTM C 618. Calcium chloride shall conform to ASTM D 98 and shall be in flake or pellet form.

Water used in mixing or curing shotcrete shall be clean and free from injurious amounts of oil, salt, acid, alkali, organic matter or other deleterious substances.

Curing compound shall conform to the requirement of Section 3.

3. STRENGTH AND QUALITY

The compressive strength of shotcrete at the age of 28 days shall be not less than 5000 psi.

Shotcrete shall be uniform and dense, free from "drummy" areas that indicate laminations, voids, sand pockets, or disbanded material.

4. CONSISTENCY

The proportion of water added to the mixture shall be accurately controlled to produce thorough and uniform hydration of the shotcrete. The consistency of the shotcrete shall be such that the surface of the shotcrete in place shall have a rich, glossy appearance and that the shotcrete shall adhere to the supporting surface without flowing, slumping or sloughing. For application to vertical or overhanging surfaces the mix proportions shall be adjusted so that the placed shotcrete will adhere to a minimum thickness of 3/4-inch without sagging or sloughing. For adjustment of consistency the addition of fly ash or pozzolanic material to the mixture in amounts not greater than 20-percent (by weight) of cement in the mixture will be permitted.

5. INSPECTION AND TESTING

Procedures for preparing shotcrete test panels and the testing specimens sawed or cored from panels will be performed in accordance with ASTM Method C 1140. The compression test specimens will be cores taken from the test panels or from the structure.

Similar panels not less than 18 inches square and not less than six (6) inches thick shall be made periodically as directed by the Engineer during the progress of the work.

Cores, taken from the test panels, shall receive standard curing in lime-saturated water at 73.4° +/- 3.0° F within 24 hours after removal. Cores shall continue to receive the prescribed initial cure treatment until standard curing is commenced.

For each strength test, three (3) cores will be tested in compression. The test result will be the average of the strengths of the three (3) specimens, except that if one specimen shows manifest evidence of improper sampling, coring, or testing, it will be discarded and the strengths of the remaining two (2) specimens will be averaged. If more than one (1) specimen representing a test shows such defects, the entire test will be discarded.

The Contractor shall furnish the forms and make the required test panels and shall provide such facilities, materials and assistance as may be necessary for curing, handling, and protecting the panels. Test panels shall be cast only when the Engineer is present.

6. NOZZLE OPERATOR QUALIFICATIONS

The nozzle operator shall be able to document a minimum of 3000 hours of experience as a nozzle operator and shall have completed at least one (1) similar application as a nozzle operator, unless otherwise specified.

The nozzle operator and application crew members shall be required to meet pre-construction testing requirements administered by the Engineer on a test panel or an area as follows:

The Engineer will carefully observe shooting of the test panel or area and note if the nozzle operator examinee:

- a. Cleans the shooting surface with air and water prior to shooting.
- b. Applies a bonding coat on the shooting surface ahead of the heavier shotcrete applications.
- c. Directs shotcrete application around reinforcement in a manner which prevents buildup on the face of the reinforcement and allows the shotcrete to flow and compact tightly around the back of the reinforcement.
- d. If applicable, directs the finisher or nozzle helper to cutout any sags, sand or rebound pockets.
- e. If applicable, and where necessary, directs the finisher or nozzle helper to broom the shotcrete surface prior to application of additional layers.

7. MEASURING MATERIALS

The proportions of the shotcrete mix shall be controlled on the basis of the weight of each component material, unless otherwise specified in Section 19 of this specification, except that water may be measured by volume. Materials shall have the following batch tolerances of their mix proportion weights: Cement, plus or minus two (2) percent; Aggregate, plus or minus four (4) percent; Admixtures, plus or minus six (6) percent. Weighing equipment used shall be accurate to within 0.4 percent of scale capacity.

8. EQUIPMENT

The Contractor shall furnish all equipment necessary for batching, mixing and placing the shotcrete. The equipment shall meet the following requirements.

The placing equipment for dry mix shotcrete shall be designed and equipped to receive the dry mix, introduce the mix into a stream of compressed oil free dry air, convey the mix pneumatically through a delivery hose to a nozzle at the point of discharge, inject water under pressure into the suspended stream of dry sand and cement within the nozzle, and spray the resulting shotcrete mix onto the surface of the work at a uniform rate and at a controlled velocity. The placing equipment shall be equipped with accurate gauges to indicate the air pressure and water pressure and with devices capable of accurately controlling the air pressure at any level between 50-psi and 80-psi, the water pressure at any level between 50-psi and 100-psi, and the rate of application of water at the nozzle.

The placing equipment for wet mix shotcrete shall be designed and equipped to receive the shotcrete from the mixer, convey it through a delivery hose to a nozzle at the point of discharge, accelerate it in the nozzle by means of compressed oil free dry air, and spray it onto the surface of the work. It shall be capable of delivering shotcrete to the nozzle uniformly and continuously and discharging it from the nozzle at a uniform rate and at a controlled velocity sufficient for all parts of the work.

Batch and continuous mixing equipment shall include: a power-driven mixer capable of thoroughly mixing the materials at a rate adequate to insure uniform feeding of the mixture to the placing equipment; and a feeding apparatus capable of supplying the mixture to the placing equipment at an adequate and uniform rate.

9. MIXING

Dry Mix Shotcrete The cement and admixtures and other additives (except accelerator) shall be mixed into a predampened homogeneous mass that thoroughly coats the aggregate before being fed through a vibratory screen into the placing equipment. Proper pre-dampening shall be indicated by the "ball-in-hand" test as follows: When a small amount of mix is tightly squeezed the resulting ball will hold together or crack slightly but essentially remain whole. The mix has too little pre-dampening moisture if the ball crumbles into discrete particles when the hand is opened and/or color is light gray. If moisture comes off on the hand, too much pre-dampening moisture is in the mix. The properly pre-dampened dry mix shall be used within 45 minutes after mixing (15 minutes in hot weather conditions with temperatures over 85° F) and any material that becomes dried out or caked after mixing shall be wasted. Rebound material shall not be remixed or reused.

Wet Mix Shotcrete Air-entrainment and chemical admixtures may only be used in wet mix concrete. The cement, sand, admixtures (except accelerator) and water shall be thoroughly mixed in the mixer drum sufficiently to produce shotcrete of the required consistency that is uniform within each batch and uniform from batch to batch when discharged into the placing equipment.

Accelerators, if specified, shall be mixed at the nozzle. Ready-mix concrete shall conform to the requirements of ASTM C 94 unless otherwise specified.

The entire contents of the mixer shall be discharged from the drum before materials for a succeeding batch are placed therein. A mix that becomes difficult to pump shall be discarded; otherwise, a batch shall be gunned within 1 1/2 hours of batching in normal weather and within 45 minutes during hot weather conditions (temperatures over 85° F). Rebound material shall not be remixed or reused.

10. FORMS

Forms shall be structurally adequate and of such design that rebound or accumulated loose sand can freely escape or be readily removed. Shooting strips shall be used at corners, edges, and on surfaces where necessary to obtain true lines and proper thickness. Where practicable, ground wires shall be installed as guides to accurately establish the specified contour of the finished surface of shotcrete. Ground wires shall be set and used as guides for templates in forming curved and molded surfaces. When shotcrete is to be placed on horizontal or sloping surfaces, headers and ground wires shall be provided to the extent necessary to insure control of slab thickness. Ground wires shall be tightened and kept taut, secure, and true to line and plane during placement of shotcrete and shall be removed when placement is completed.

Header boards will be required where the drawings indicate a square edge and at required joints. Form surfaces shall be thoroughly cleaned and a form release agent applied before shotcrete is placed.

11. PREPARATION OF SURFACES TO RECEIVE SHOTCRETE

All surfaces to receive or support shotcrete shall be carefully prepared and conditioned. All such prepared surfaces shall be inspected and approved by the Engineer prior to the application of shotcrete.

Earth surfaces to which shotcrete is to be applied shall be firmly compacted and neatly trimmed to line and grade.

Asphaltic concrete surfaces shall be thoroughly cleaned of any growths, earth, or any other material that would affect bond, or be detrimental to the shotcrete.

Concrete, mortar, or rock surfaces shall be thoroughly cleaned by water blasting or sand blasting to remove all dirt, laitance, weak or unbonded mortar, loose material, grease or other deleterious substances.

Surfaces on which the shotcrete is to be placed shall be sufficiently rough to insure the adherence of the shotcrete. Offsets which would cause an abrupt and substantial change in thickness of the shotcrete shall be removed or tapered.

All surfaces shall be maintained in a moistened condition for three (3) hours before application of shotcrete. Shotcrete shall not be applied to mud, dried earth, uncompacted fill, rebound material, or surfaces on which free water exists unless otherwise specified in Section 19. All ice, snow and frost shall be removed and the temperature of all surfaces, to be in contact with the new shotcrete shall be no colder than 40° F.

12. PLACING

The Contractor shall have all equipment and materials required for curing available at the site and ready for use before placement of shotcrete begins. No shotcrete shall be placed except in the presence of the Engineer or authorized representative. The Contractor shall give reasonable notice to the Engineer each time shotcrete placement is scheduled. Such notice shall be far enough in advance to give the Engineer adequate time to inspect the surfaces to which the shotcrete is to be applied, the forms, steel reinforcement, and other preparations for compliance with the specifications prior to the start of placement operations.

During placement of shotcrete the air pressure shall be adjusted as required to control rebound and density of shotcrete. For a given application, once the optimum operating pressures have been established they shall be maintained constant throughout the application. For dry mix shotcrete, the air pressure at the material outlet or air-inlet on the gun shall be not less than 40 psi plus 5 psi for each 50 feet of length of the discharge hose greater than 100 feet and 5 psi for each 25 feet the nozzle is above the gun (shotcrete delivery equipment). The water pressure at the nozzle shall be not less than 15 psi greater than the air pressure at the material outlet or air-inlet on the gun.

For most applications the placing nozzle shall be held between two (2) and six (6) feet from and approximately normal to the surface of the work. At longer distances it may be necessary to increase the nozzle velocity so that the impact velocity will suit the requirements of the application. Corners shall be filled first.

Shotcrete shall be applied in a single thickness or to a layer thickness no greater than that which will cause sagging, sloughing, or dropout. Sags and sloughs shall be cut out and regunned. Replacement shall be accomplished before the previously placed shotcrete has completely set. When shotcrete is placed on a vertical surface, application shall be started at the bottom and be completed at the top.

In any case when the placing of shotcrete is interrupted for more than one (1) hour, the edge of the layer shall be sloped off at an angle of approximately 45 degrees to the surface being shot, and the sloped portion shall be covered with a double layer of six (6) ounce burlap and kept continuously moist until the application of shotcrete is resumed. Before applying new material, the sloped portion shall be thoroughly cleaned and wetted by means of an air and water blast or an equally effective method approved by the Engineer.

Material that rebounds and accumulates on forms, subgrade surfaces or reinforcing steel ahead of the shotcrete being placed shall be removed and discarded.

13. FINISHING

Rebound material shall be carefully swept off the finished shotcrete surface and discarded before it becomes too hard for removal. After the shotcrete has been placed to the depth required, the surface shall be checked with a straightedge or template and any low spots shall be brought up to grade by placing additional shotcrete. The finished surface of the shotcrete shall be left as a natural gun finish unless screeding and or further finishing are specified in Section 19 of this specification.

When specified screeding shall be accomplished as follows: Place shotcrete a fraction beyond the guide strips, ground wires or forms. Allow the surface of the shotcrete to stiffen to the point it will not pull or crack under screeding or troweling. Trim, slice, or scrape excess material to true line and grade and remove the placing guides.

A natural rod finish shall consist of the removal, by floating, of the impressions left after the guide strips or ground wires have been removed.

A natural broom finish shall be that finish resulting from brooming the natural rod finish.

A float finish shall be that finish resulting from floating the natural rod finish with a wood or rubber float.

14. CURING

Shotcrete shall be prevented from drying for a curing period of at least seven (7) days after it is placed. Exposed surfaces shall be kept continuously moist for the entire period or until curing compound is applied as specified below. Moisture shall be maintained by sprinkling, flooding or fog spraying, or by covering with continuously moistened canvas, cloth mats, straw, sand or other approved material. Wood forms left in place during the curing period shall be kept wet. Formed surfaces shall be thoroughly wetted immediately after forms are removed and shall be kept wet until patching and repairs are completed. Water, or covering, shall be applied in such a way that the shotcrete surface is not eroded or otherwise damaged.

Water for curing shall be clean and free from any substances that will cause discoloration of the shotcrete where finished surfaces will be exposed to view.

Except as otherwise specified in Section 17 d. of this specification, and except for surfaces to which additional shotcrete is to be applied, shotcrete may be coated with curing compound as an alternative to the continued application of moisture.

The compound shall be sprayed on the moist shotcrete surfaces as soon as rebound has been removed and any required repairs are completed, or as soon as water curing is discontinued.

The curing compound shall be thoroughly mixed immediately before applied and continuously agitated during application. It shall be applied at a uniform rate of not less than one (1) gallon per 100 square feet of surface for natural gun finishes. Curing compound shall be applied in two (2) applications, one (1) in each direction. If a natural rod, broom, or float finish is specified, the curing compound application rate shall be at least one (1) gallon per 150 square feet. Curing compound shall not check, crack or peel, and shall be free from pinholes or other imperfections.

Curing compound shall not be applied to subgrade surfaces or other surfaces requiring bond with subsequently placed shotcrete, such as construction joints, reinforcing steel and other embedded items.

Surfaces subjected to heavy rainfall or running water within three (3) hours after the compound has been applied, or surfaces damaged by subsequent construction operations during the curing period shall be resprayed in the same manner as for the original applications.

Surfaces covered by the membrane shall not be trafficked unless protected from damage and/or wear.

15. REPLACEMENT OR REPAIR

When shotcrete lacks uniformity, exhibits segregation, honeycombing, or laminations, or contains dry patches, slugs, voids or sand pockets the Contractor shall remove and replace the defective shotcrete. The Engineer's concurrence in the extent of removal and replacement is required.

Prior to starting significant removal and replacement work the Contractor shall obtain the Engineer's approval of their plan for making the repair. Such approval shall not be considered a waiver of the Contracting Officer's or owner's right to require complete removal of defective work if the completed repair does not produce shotcrete of the required quality and appearance.

Repair work shall be performed only when the Engineer is present.

Repair shall be made with shotcrete conforming to this specification. When removal of defective shotcrete is required, reinforcement damaged or destroyed shall be replaced prior to replacement of the shotcrete. At the edges of removed sections the sound shotcrete shall be carefully trimmed to the extent required to expose sufficient reinforcement for effecting competent splices. The sound shotcrete at the edges of removed sections shall be trimmed to a slope of approximately 45 degrees with the surface of the work and shall be thoroughly moistened prior to placement of the new shotcrete.

Any portions of the work having thickness less than those specified may be repaired by the placement of additional layers of shotcrete, provided that such repair is expressly approved by the Engineer.

Surfaces of the work to which additional shotcrete is to be applied shall be prepared as required by Section 11 of this specification.

Curing as specified in Section 14 of this specification shall be applied to repaired areas immediately after the repairs are completed.

16. PLACING IN COLD WEATHER

When the atmospheric temperature may be expected to drop below 40° F at the time shotcrete is placed, or at any time during the curing period, the following provisions shall also apply:

- a. Shotcrete placement shall be permitted when the air temperature is at least 40° F and rising. Placement shall be discontinued if the temperature falls to 40° F and is expected to continue to fall.
- b. The temperature of the shotcrete at time of placing shall not be less than 50° F nor more than 90° F. The temperature of neither aggregates nor mixing water shall be more than 100° F just prior to mixing with the cement.
- c. When the daily minimum temperature is less than 40° F, shotcrete shall be insulated or housed and heated after placement. The temperature of the shotcrete and air adjacent to the shotcrete shall be maintained at not less than 50° F nor more than 90° F for the duration of the curing period.
- d. Methods of insulating, housing and heating the structure shall be in accordance with "Standard Specification for Cold Weather Concreting," ACI Standard 306.1.
- e. The use of accelerators or antifreeze compounds will not be allowed unless otherwise specified.

f. When dry heat is used to protect shotcrete, means of maintaining an ambient humidity of at least 40 percent shall be provided unless the shotcrete has been coated with curing compound as specified in Section 14 of this specification or is covered tightly with an approved impervious material.

17. PLACING IN HOT WEATHER

When climatic factors such as high air temperature, reduced relative humidity and increased wind velocities are present, or conditions are such that the temperature of placed shotcrete exceeds 90° F at, or during the first 24 hours after placement, the following provisions shall also apply:

- a. The Contractor shall maintain the temperature of the shotcrete below 90° F during mixing, conveying, and placing using the methods given in items b, c, and d below.
- b. Exposed shotcrete surfaces which tend to dry or set too rapidly shall be continuously moistened by means of fog sprays or otherwise protected from drying immediately after placement.
- c. Shotcrete surfaces exposed to the air shall be covered as soon as the shotcrete has hardened sufficiently and shall be kept continuously wet for at least the first 24 hours of the curing period, and for the entire curing period unless curing compound is applied as specified in Subsection d., below.
- d. If moist curing is discontinued before the end of the curing period, white pigmented curing compound shall be applied immediately, following the procedures specified in Section 14 of this specification.

18. MEASUREMENT AND PAYMENT

Method 1 For items of work for which specific unit prices are established in the contract, the dimensions of the exposed surface of the shotcrete will be measured to the neat lines shown on the drawings and the surface area will be computed to the nearest square foot. Payment will be made at the contract unit price for shotcrete. Such payment will constitute full compensation for completion of the work, including making and handling test panels but not including reinforcing steel or other items listed for payment elsewhere in the contract.

Measurement and payment for furnishing and placing reinforcing steel will be made as specified in Construction Specification 34.

Method 2 For items of work for which specific unit prices are established in the contract, cement and aggregates used in shotcrete and in authorized test panels will be measured by the batch weights of the materials charged into the mixer. No deduction will be made for normal rebound; however, payment will not be made for material wasted because the in-place shotcrete does not conform to the specifications. Payment will be made at the contract unit prices for cement and aggregates for shotcrete. Such payment will constitute full compensation for completion of the work, including making and handling test panels but not including reinforcing steel or other items listed for payment elsewhere in the contract.

Measurement and payment for furnishing and placing reinforcing steel will be made as specified in Construction Specification 34.

All Methods The following provisions apply to all methods of measurement and payment. Compensation for any item of work described in the contract but not listed in the bid schedule will be included in the payment for the item of work to which it is made subsidiary. Such items and the items to which they are made subsidiary are identified in Section 19 of this specification.

END OF SECTION