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**DIVISION OF ENGINEERING SERVICES**  
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## METHOD OF SAMPLING FRESH CONCRETE

### A. SCOPE

This method describes the procedure for obtaining samples of fresh concrete from stationary and paving mixers, from truck mixers, agitators or dump trucks, and from forms and subgrade.

### B. REFERENCES

California Test 518 - Density of Fresh Concrete  
AASHTO T 141 - Test for Sampling Freshly Mixed Concrete  
ASTM C 172 - Sampling Freshly Mixed Concrete

### C. SIZE OF SAMPLE

1. When the sample will be used for strength tests, it shall be a minimum of 1 ft<sup>3</sup>. Smaller samples may be permitted for other routine tests.

### D. WHERE SAMPLE SHOULD BE TAKEN

1. When sampling to determine whether the compressive strength conforms to a strength specification, take the sample as close as practicable to the mixer discharge.
2. When sampling to determine compressive strength for form stripping purposes, etc., take the sample as close as practicable to the final resting place of the concrete.

### E. PROCEDURE FOR SAMPLING

When sampling, include every precaution necessary to obtain samples that will be representative of the true nature and condition of the concrete being sampled. Sample concrete during the placing operation as follows:

1. Sampling from stationary mixers, except paving mixers: Obtain the sample by passing a receptacle completely through the discharge stream of the mixer at about the middle of the batch, or by diverting the stream completely so that the whole stream discharges into a container. Take care not to restrict the flow from the mixer in such a manner as to cause the concrete to segregate. These requirements apply to both tilting and non-tilting mixers.
2. Sampling from paving mixers and from haul vehicles without agitation: Discharge the concrete onto the subgrade and collect the sample from at least five different portions of the pile. Samples may be obtained after concrete has passed through a spreader box.
3. Sampling from revolving drum truck mixers or agitators: Sample from two or more regular intervals throughout the discharge of the entire batch avoiding the very beginning and the end of the discharge. If water is added to the mixer to adjust the slump at the site of the work, sample after the water is added and the concrete is thoroughly mixed. Sample by repeatedly passing a receptacle through the entire discharge stream, or by diverting the stream completely so that the whole stream discharges into a container.

Regulate the rate of discharge of the batch by the rate of revolution of the drum, and not by the size of the gate opening.

4. Sampling from forms and subgrade: Special care must be taken to obtain a representative sample. Make up the sample from several portions at different locations within the batch and at sufficient depth to include representative ingredients. Take samples prior to any finishing operations.

#### **F. REMIXING SAMPLE**

Prior to testing or molding test specimens, remix the sample with a shovel to ensure uniformity. Protect the sample from sunlight and wind during the period between taking and using. Combined testing and molding time shall not exceed 15 min from the time of sampling.

#### **G. ADDITIONAL PROCEDURE FOR LARGE MAXIMUM SIZE AGGREGATE CONCRETE**

When the concrete contains aggregate larger than that appropriate for the size of the molds or equipment to be used, wet-sieve the sample as described below except make density in accordance with California Test 518.

After sampling the concrete, pass the concrete over the designated sieve and remove and discard the aggregate retained. This shall be done before re-mixing. This shall be done before re-mixing. Shake or vibrate the sieve by hand or mechanical means until no undersize material remains on the sieve. Mortar adhering to the aggregate retained on the sieve shall not be wiped from it before it is discarded. Place only enough concrete on the sieve at any one time so that after sieving, the thickness of the layer of retained aggregate is not more than one particle thick. The concrete, which passes the sieve, shall fall into a batch pan of suitable size, which has been dampened before use or onto a clean, moist, non-absorbent surface. Scrape any mortar adhering to the sides of the wet-sieving equipment into the batch. After removing the larger aggregate particles by wet sieving remix the batch with a shovel the minimum amount necessary to ensure uniformity and proceed testing immediately.

#### **H. PRECAUTIONS**

Use proper lifting methods to avoid injuries when lifting the concrete and secure assistance when needed. Be careful to keep clear of moving equipment when obtaining samples.

#### **I. SAFETY AND HEALTH**

It is the responsibility of the user of this test method to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use. Prior to handling, testing or disposing of any materials, testers must be knowledgeable about safe laboratory practices, hazards and exposure, chemical procurement and storage, and personal protective apparel and equipment.

Caltrans Laboratory Safety Manual is available at:

[http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/esc/ctms/pdf/lab\\_safety\\_manual.pdf](http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/esc/ctms/pdf/lab_safety_manual.pdf).

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(California Test 539 contains 2 Pages)**