

A STUDY OF CALCIUM CHLORIDE AS A STRENGTH ACCELERATOR IN PORTLAND CEMENT CONCRETE

THOMAS E. STANTON, *Materials and Research Engineer, California Division of Highways*

SYNOPSIS

Although previous reports have disclosed the effectiveness of calcium chloride as a strength accelerator, there is a paucity of published data regarding the long-time effects of different percentages of this agent, not only on strength but likewise on volume change and durability under various weathering conditions; and no data on the comparative compressive strengths at earlier than 24 hr. Test data relating to effect on volume change is meager and conflicting and there is very little published data relating to the effect of CaCl_2 on flexural strength.

The report covers tests conducted throughout a period of over 25 yr. involving hundreds of specimens, over 20 different brands and types of California cements, variable test conditions, and repeat series to check the results of previous tests.

The results of the most recent tests may be summarized as follows:

1. There was a very definite acceleration in compressive strength for all California cements.

2. In no case was the compressive strength of the concrete at one year (regardless of the percentage of calcium chloride) less than without CaCl_2 .

3. Under moist-room initial curing at 70 deg. F. the CaCl_2 increased the initial shrinkage as well as the subsequent volume change under wetting and drying cycles; the increase being relatively slight with two percent but sometimes excessive with four percent, particularly in the case of some of the Type III cements.

4. When stored at 100 deg. F. and 30 percent relative humidity immediately after fabrication, the setting shrinkage was less with the CaCl_2 than without, but the subsequent total shrinkage and wet-dry volume changes substantially paralleled the specimens in which no CaCl_2 had been used.

5. The compressive strengths were not materially affected by the initial and subsequent curing and wetting and drying procedure regardless of the type of cement or percentage of CaCl_2 except in one case where the volume change of one of the Type III cements with four percent CaCl_2 was the greatest.

6. When initially cured in the moist room for 7 days the modulus of rupture and modulus of elasticity during the subsequent wet-dry cycles was as a rule lowered by the CaCl_2 , but the differential was not material except in the case of the Type III cements.

7. When initially cured under what may be considered adverse conditions, the CaCl_2 was apparently beneficial with relation to the modulus of rupture as well as compressive strengths.

8. The fact that under initial thorough water curing conditions CaCl_2 apparently increases the initial shrinkage and induces subsequent greater wet-dry volume changes, indicates the sparing use of this additive when high tensile strength is important, or severe rusting of reinforcing steel may be facilitated by the infiltration of moisture through surface cracks.

EARLY STUDIES

Concrete magazine in September 1919 reported on an investigation on the use of calcium chloride started at least as early as 1918 by the U. S. Bureau of Standards for the U. S. Engineers Office at Memphis, Tennessee.

In the fall of 1920 a cooperative series of tests to study and report on accelerators for

concrete was undertaken by ASTM Committee C-9, the Structural Materials Research Laboratory of the Lewis Institute in Chicago (forerunner of the Portland Cement Association), and a number of other cooperating federal, state, city and producer laboratories.

The first results on this cooperative series were a report by Committee C-9 in 1923 (1)¹,

¹ Numbers in parenthesis indicate references listed at the end of the paper.

and a more lengthy report by Duff A. Abrams in 1924 on the work done at the Lewis Institute (2). The report contained a bibliography of previous publications reporting studies on the effect of CaCl_2 , starting with an article on "Influence of Calcium Chloride on Portland Cement" by E. Candlot in 1889. Obviously cement technicians had been aware of the attributes of CaCl_2 as an accelerator prior to 1889.

Also in 1923, Clemmer and Burggraf (3) reported on an extensive investigation begun in Illinois in 1921 on the use of CaCl_2 as a curing agent and as an accelerator in the setting of concrete. In 1926, Stewart (4) reported on tests to determine the effect of CaCl_2 on transverse strength of concrete cured at various temperatures. Later the Calcium Chloride Association established a fellowship at the U. S. Bureau of Standards to study the reactions of CaCl_2 with cements. Progress reports on these studies were presented at the Thirteenth Annual Meeting of the Highway Research Board, December 1933, and at the Fourteenth Meeting the following year by Rapp (5). A final report by Rapp was published in 1935 (6). Rapp's work dealt primarily with the effect of CaCl_2 on the compressive strength of concrete cured at several temperatures within the range 40 to 90 deg. F.

In order to study strengths of similar concrete stored at temperatures within the range 20 to 40 deg. F. and likewise the volume change resulting from wetting and drying, the Calcium Chloride Association Fellowship was re-established in 1939 with Jason C. Yates in charge. Yates reported on this later series in 1941 (7). Further studies on the effect of CaCl_2 as a curing medium and on the corrosion of steel were reported in 1946 by H. C. Vollmer (8).

The above projects cover the principal studies on the effects of CaCl_2 on concrete reported in the proceedings of national societies engaged in research. Numerous other articles have appeared in print, particularly in *Concrete*, describing the results of studies by state and other agencies. They were unanimous in reporting the compressive-strength accelerating effects of CaCl_2 .

CALIFORNIA STUDIES

In the work of the California Division of Highways occasionally a relatively high

strength in a few hours is desired. Typical cases of this nature are: (a) maintenance patches or minor replacements of short sections of concrete pavements where it is desired to open to traffic in a few hours; (b) in winter where low or freezing overnight temperatures are anticipated; and (c) sea wall construction along the coastal shores where it is desired to construct relatively small units between tides.

TABLE 1
COMPOUND ANALYSES AND FINENESS DETERMINATIONS OF ALL CEMENTS IN THE 1944 CALCIUM CHLORIDE TEST SERIES

GROUP I CEMENTS						
Cement Number	CaS	CaS	CaA	Alk. as Na_2O	Auto-clave	Specific Surface
						Wagner Air Perm.
1-I	50	25	11	1.05	.070	1845 3530
2-I	29	46	11	0.31	.048	1750 3520
3-I	47	30	6	0.51	.010	1885 3390
4-I	34	40	13	0.58	.115	1950 3700
5-I	42	30	14	0.98	.198	1880 3480
Avg..	40	34	11	0.69	.084	1858 3524
GROUP II CEMENTS						
1-II	45	33	6	0.49	.003	1925 3430
2-II	37	39	5	0.26	-.031	1755 3300
3-II	54	24	6	0.60	.002	1730 3170
5-II	36	42	3	0.43	-.010	1905 3170
6-II	49	23	6	0.62	.048	1885 3320
7-II	51	23	6	0.38	.166	1850 3770
8a-II	50	23	7	0.89	.105	1965 3960
8b-II	44	32	4	0.48	.046	1915 3900
9-II	67	9	5	0.56	.157	1640 3240
Avg..	49	27	5	0.52	.054	1838 3473
GROUP III CEMENTS (HIGH EARLY STRENGTH)						
1-III	46	26	12	1.09	.047	3080 5420
2-III	51	26	6	0.32	-.004	2035 3830
3-III	62	17	7	0.35	-.018	2895 4930
6-III	61	17	6	0.37	-.029	2460 5270
9-III	53	25	7	0.50	.066	2170 4310
Avg..	55	22	8	0.53	.012	2528 4752

Mortar tests in 1929 and 1939 on a number of California cements, using up to five percent CaCl_2 , confirmed earlier tests indicating that, in so far as compressive strengths are concerned, this amount can safely be used.

However, as the 1929 and 1939 tests had been to determine the effects of CaCl_2 in mortars only, and no studies had been made of other effects such as volume change and modulus of rupture, a more extensive 6-sack concrete series was started in 1944 including all California brands and types of cement being manufactured at that time. The 1944

series included ten California brands of Types I, II and III with a total of 19 cements.

All cement manufacturers in California were requested to submit samples of all of the types manufactured. On the basis of the manu-

All of the rated Type II cements contained less than eight percent C_3A but three contained over 50 percent C_3S . Therefore, in tabulating and illustrating the test data the original segregation has been left but with the

TABLE 2
AVERAGE SHORT-TIME COMPRESSION STRENGTH TESTS ON 6- BY 12-IN. CYLINDER SPECIMENS OF CONCRETE FROM NINE BRANDS AND THREE TYPES OF CALIFORNIA PORTLAND CEMENTS (TOTAL 19 CEMENTS) AS AFFECTED BY FROM TWO TO FIVE PERCENT CALCIUM CHLORIDE. 1944 TEST SERIES

Short Time Compression Strength 6- by 12-in. Concrete Cylinders Cured in Moist Room															
Age		4 Hours					8 Hours					24 Hours			
Percent Calcium Chloride															
Cement	0	2	3	4	5	0	2	3	4	5	0	2	3	4	5
GROUP I CEMENTS															
1-I	0	190	365	485	595	0	685	915	1070	1160	980	1840	2350	2185	2200
2-I	0	270	420	490	640	0	710	785	870	930	680	1435	1500	1500	1575
3-I	0	110	225	190	230	0	555	750	780	860	1100	1710	1815	1820	1785
4-I	0	210	345	355	410	0	710	810	795	760	815	1690	1685	1610	1430
5-I	0	95	205	320	365	0	430	735	770	830	550	1540	1885	1670	1695
Avg.	0	175	312	368	448	0	616	799	857	908	815	1643	1847	1751	1737
GROUP II CEMENTS															
1-II	0	190	310	410	410	0	620	805	950	900	685	1550	1760	1825	1795
2-II	0	225	345	435	480	0	715	775	870	970	870	1730	1570	1615	1815
3-II	0	110	230	320	205	0	555	795	890	765	1035	1745	1885	1845	1690
5-II	0	0	0	0	0	0	145	210	445	475	470	1050	1560	1825	1555
6-II	0	220	465	600	540	0	750	1070	1240	1040	1055	1995	2320	2370	2030
7-II	0	155	320	505	485	0	570	985	1080	985	995	1690	1900	2040	1800
8a-II	0	145	260	350	410	0	630	845	870	850	650	1815	1840	1760	1595
8b-II	0	135	235	380	365	0	635	715	945	925	920	1655	1690	1980	1895
9-II	0	225	405	540	565	0	885	1030	1215	1110	1015	1965	2070	2175	2120
Avg.	0	155	287	393	384	0	623	803	941	891	855	1688	1844	1937	1811
GROUP III CEMENTS (High Early Strength)															
1-III	0	680	1040	1045	1330	570	1645	1785	1865	2000	1665	2705	2855	2905	3000
2-III	0	260	540	735	705	185	1170	1270	1390	1405	1365	2355	2325	2555	2360
3-III	0	455	890	1110	1190	325	1780	1965	2220	2060	2050	3160	3290	3600	3340
6-III	0	480	1010	1425	1385	380	1735	2110	2520	2375	1815	2955	3500	3700	3385
9-III	0	445	840	910	1335	330	1375	1850	1895	2105	1595	2630	2920	2710	3115
Avg.	0	464	864	1045	1189	358	1541	1796	1978	1989	1898	2761	2978	3094	3049
AVERAGES															
GROUP I	0	175	312	368	448	0	618	799	857	908	815	1543	1847	1857	1737
GROUP II	0	155	287	393	384	0	623	803	941	891	855	1688	1844	1937	1811
GROUP III	0	464	864	1045	1189	358	1541	1796	1978	1989	1898	2761	2978	3094	3040
Grand Avg.	0	265	488	602	674	119	927	1133	1259	1263	1123	2031	2223	2263	2196

facturers ratings the cements were grouped as Type I, II and III. Subsequent chemical analyses however, disclosed that the manufacturers classifications were in error in several cases. Thus of the Type I classified cements one (cement 3-I) was a true Type II cement, based on compound analysis, whereas the cement of the same manufacturer furnished as Type II was found to be high in C_3S .

designation "Group" instead of "Type". (Table 1).

The test specimens in the 1944 series consisted of (a) 6- by 12-in. cylinders of 6-sack concrete, and zero to five percent $CaCl_2$ (one set stored in the moist room and another set in the open on the roof of the laboratory); and (b) 2- by 2- by 6½-in. bars (5 in. between gage points; max. ¼-in. aggregate and two

percent and four percent CaCl_2) for length change, modulus of rupture and compression tests. The percent of cement in the bars was the same as in the minus $\frac{3}{4}$ -in. portion of the 6-sack concrete mix, or the equivalent of 6.75 sacks of cement per cu. yd.

F. and 30 percent R.H. immediately after fabrication and kept there for 7 days after which exposure was in the open as with the first set.

Bar specimens were removed from the molds and initial length measurements were made at

TABLE 3

AVERAGE ONE YEAR COMPRESSION STRENGTH TESTS ON 6- BY 12-IN. CYLINDER SPECIMENS OF CONCRETE FROM NINE BRANDS AND THREE TYPES OF CALIFORNIA PORTLAND CEMENTS (TOTAL 19 CEMENTS) AS AFFECTED BY FROM TWO TO FIVE PERCENT CALCIUM CHLORIDE. 1944 TEST SERIES

One Year Compressive Strength 6- by 12-in. Conc. Cylinders															
	Moist Rm Entire Period					Moist Room 10 Days Air 353 Days Water 48 Hr.					Moist Room 10 Days Air 355 Days Tested Dry				
Percent Calcium Chloride															
Cement	0	2	3	4	5	0	2	3	4	5	0	2	3	4	5
GROUP I CEMENTS															
1-I	4965	5155	5985	6250	6125	4215	4180	4960	5210	5580	4860	5160	5750	5640	6370
2-I	4220	6395	5925	6990	6825	3045	3850	4135	3915	4170	3325	4650	4425	5115	5285
3-I	5635	6405	6085	6160	5745	4340	4510	4745	4340	4010	5140	4410	4980	5210	—
4-I	4955	5520	6130	5900	6665	3705	4385	4825	4005	4500	4150	5190	5635	5195	5480
5-I	5690	5600	6125	6495	6435	3840	3650	4455	4230	4495	3975	4335	4685	4970	4955
Avg.	5094	5815	6050	6359	6359	3829	4115	4624	4340	4551	4290	4749	5095	5226	5523
GROUP II CEMENTS															
1-II	4395	6715	7095	6765	7365	4205	4735	4910	5345	5150	5290	5270	5500	6225	5820
2-II	5410	6380	6605	7220	7055	4755	4175	3990	3990	4315	5580	5015	5385	4850	5375
3-II	5885	5830	6350	6025	6300	4385	4245	4385	4170	4805	5455	4915	5605	5115	5285
5-II	4945	6445	6710	7335	6985	4265	4820	4870	5280	4465	4390	5505	5565	4550	5490
6-II	5180	6315	6240	5795	5485	4490	4490	4760	5160	4705	5460	5630	5485	5520	5830
7-II	6320	6455	6985	7610	6510	4960	4370	4390	4845	4255	5075	5340	5860	5530	5735
8a-II	4395	5915	6420	6400	5820	3950	4220	4720	3645	4355	4400	4945	5240	4975	5260
8b-II	4735	5110	6270	6645	6455	4390	4945	4845	5330	4975	4540	5790	5280	6065	5525
9-II	4990	6630	6525	6310	6870	4570	4885	5670	5365	5210	5405	5280	5350	5470	6250
Avg.	5139	6288	6577	6678	6538	4441	4543	4727	4790	4693	5066	5299	5474	5371	5619
GROUP III CEMENTS (High Early Strength)															
1-III	4535	6125	6155	6605	6665	4165	4355	5230	4930	5070	4565	5085	5435	5785	5775
2-III	4960	6915	7400	7480	6780	3610	4510	4305	4835	4355	5215	5610	5355	5290	5390
3-III	6260	6850	7090	6885	6525	5355	5095	5370	5745	6095	4960	6155	5745	6800	5450
6-III	5215	6710	6460	6575	6955	4125	4460	4955	4870	4870	4735	4975	5240	5720	5795
9-III	5390	6110	6290	6570	6570	4700	5030	4960	5070	5425	5615	6005	5895	6580	5580
Avg.....	5276	6542	6679	6823	6699	4391	4690	4964	5094	5163	5018	5566	5534	6035	5598
AVERAGES															
GROUP I	5094	5815	6050	6359	6359	3829	4115	4624	4340	4551	4290	4749	5095	5226	5523
GROUP II	5139	6288	6577	6678	6538	4441	4543	4727	4790	4692	5066	5299	5474	5371	5619
GROUP III	5276	6542	6679	6823	6699	4391	4690	4964	5094	5163	5018	5566	5534	6035	5598
Grand Avg. .	5169	6215	6435	6620	6532	4220	4449	4772	4741	4902	4791	5205	5368	5544	5580

To study the effects of CaCl_2 under good and bad initial curing and subsequent atmospheric weathering, one set of the bars was cured in the moist room for 7 days and then exposed on the roof of the laboratory until the start of the wet-dry length change tests. A second set was placed in an oven at 110 deg.

24 hr. on the moist-room initially-cured specimens and at 6 hr. on the oven-initially-cured specimens. Pressure of other work delayed starting the wet-dry cycles until late summer of 1945, at which time the bars averaged 320 days age. Seventeen alternate wet-at-70 deg. F. and dry-at-110 deg. F. cycles of variable

length (Fig. 4 to 14) were then started and continued for a period of approximately 200 days, after which the bars were tested for modulus of rupture and the ends of the broken bars in compression at an average age of 520 days.

In general all previous tests to determine the effect of CaCl_2 on compressive strength were confirmed; i.e., higher compressive strength at all ages, up to 520 days at least. (Tables 2,

in the 1944 series. Some of the cylinder specimens were cured in the moist room for the entire period and others exposed to the atmosphere on the roof of the laboratory after 7 days in the moist room. (Tables 2, and 3, and Fig. 1 and 2). Six-sack concrete mixes (1½-in. maximum size coarse aggregate) were used with an average slump of 1½ in.

An effort was made to determine the setting as well as long time shrinkage of the 2- by 2-in. bars. To accomplish this, the screws holding the accurately spaced pins at each end of the specimens were loosened shortly after the specimens were fabricated. Regardless of precautions, however, the setting measurements were very erratic, in many cases indicating disturbance and hang-up of the pins. However, by discarding the obviously erroneous readings and averaging the others, it is believed that certain trends are indicated with sufficient accuracy (Table 6 and Fig. 3).

The subsequent long-time length-change measurements (Tables 7 and 8 and Fig. 4 to 14) were based on the initial set length as zero. Because of the pressure of other work, no fixed wet-dry schedule was followed, this phase of the operations being conducted as opportunity afforded.

All outdoor exposure specimens were stored on the roof of the laboratory throughout the winter following fabrication and until late in the following summer, length-change measurements being made at infrequent intervals to determine the effect of moisture from rain and the maximum shrinkage from thorough drying during the hot, dry weather of the summer. (The humidity on hot days was usually less than 20 percent.)

Before the second winter, and when the specimens were thoroughly dry, the series of wetting and drying cycles was started, the time intervals conforming to the demands of other work—first at 28 days, then at 7 days, and finally several cycles of 14 to 17 days (a total of 17 cycles) just prior to the final measurements. These included Dynamic E, modulus of rupture, and compressive strength at an average age of 520 days.

As will be noted from Table 6 and Figure 3, the initial or setting shrinkage was increased by the CaCl_2 under 100 percent humidity and normal temperature (70 deg. F.) storage; whereas when the storage conditions are what may be considered adverse, such as

TABLE 4
AVERAGE OF ALL TESTS FOR DYNAMIC MODULUS OF ELASTICITY, MODULUS OF RUPTURE AND COMPRESSIVE STRENGTH OF 2- BY 2- BY 6½-IN. CONCRETE BARS (½-in. max. size aggregate) CONTAINING ZERO, TWO, AND FOUR PERCENT CALCIUM CHLORIDE BY WEIGHT OF CEMENT 1944 TEST SERIES*

Cement Group	Avg. Age	PERCENT CALCIUM CHLORIDE								
		Dynamic E × 10 ⁻⁸			Mod. of Rupt.			Compr. Strength		
		0	2	4	0	2	4	0	2	4

(a) Bars initially stored in moist room at 70 deg. F. 7 days, then on Lab. Roof and subsequent wet and dry cycles

I	512	5.34	5.43	5.21	1170	1156	1042	5778	6890	6976
II	536	5.66	5.55	5.43	1312	1147	1017	6794	7658	7399
III	527	5.51	4.95	4.34	1120	964	788	6798	7164	6826
Avg.	525	5.50	5.31	4.99	1201	1089	949	6456	7237	7067

(b) Bars initially stored in oven at 110 deg. F. 7 days, then on Lab. Roof and subsequent wet and dry cycles

I	514	5.07	5.22	5.60	1028	1008	1116	4974	6750	6728
II	537	5.19	5.50	5.57	992	1127	1076	5406	7030	7083
III	530	5.64	5.60	5.62	1184	1154	1120	6630	7890	7924
Avg.	527	5.30	5.44	5.60	1068	1096	1104	5670	7223	7245

* One set of bars cured in moist room for 7 days and the other set in an oven at 110 deg. F. at an average humidity of 30 for the same period (7 days). Both sets then stored in the open on the Laboratory roof for an average of approximately 320 days, then to 17 alternate cycles of immersion in water at 70 deg. F. and drying in the oven at 110 deg. F. over a period of approximately 200 days until breaking test at an average age of 526 days. (Fig. 4).

3, 4 and 5). The results on volume change and modulus of rupture are contained in Tables 4 to 8 and Figures 4 to 16. The CaCl_2 generally induced greater length changes in the initially moist-room cured specimens which with some cements (particularly the finely ground Type III) became excessive under the 17 wet-dry cycles.

Compressive strengths and moduli of elasticity (compressive and dynamic) were determined at 4, 8, and 24 hr.; 7 and 28 days; and 6 months and 1 yr. on the 6- by 12-in. cylinders

TABLE 5

DYNAMIC MODULUS, MODULUS OF RUPTURE AND COMPRESSIVE STRENGTH OF 2- BY 2- BY 6½-IN. CONCRETE BARS (¾-in. max. size aggregate, 6.75 sacks cement per cu. yd.) CONTAINING ZERO, TWO, AND FOUR PERCENT CALCIUM CHLORIDE; TESTS AT AVERAGE AGES INDICATED AFTER WET AND DRY CYCLES

(a) GROUP I CEMENTS

Cement Number	Age Days	PERCENT CALCIUM CHLORIDE												Dynamic E × 10 ⁻⁶	Modulus of Rupt.]	Compr. Strength
		0				2				4						
		0	2	4	0	2	4	0	2	4						

(1) Bars stored in moist room at 70 deg. F., 7 days, then on Laboratory Roof and subsequent wet and dry cycles

1-I	595	5.43	5.71	5.29	1340	1330	970	8000	7580	7000
2-I	519	5.57	5.45	5.58	1370	1240	1240	8080	6640	7430
3-I	505	5.41	5.39	5.43	1180	1100	1110	5890	7030	6790
4-I	471	5.21	5.20	5.05	850	1110	1080	5340	6480	6650
5-I	469	5.09	5.35	4.69	1110	1000	810	5580	6720	7010
Avg.	512	5.34	5.43	5.21	1170	1156	1042	5778	6890	6976

(2) Bars stored in oven at 110 deg. F. first 7 days, then on Laboratory Roof and subsequent wet-dry cycles

1-I	590	4.80	5.20	5.80	900	1190	1240	4720	7100	7320
2-I	521	5.53	5.48	5.50	1220	1170	1032	5230	7360	6710
3-I	507	5.54	5.54	5.51	1080	1110	1260	5870	6350	6930
4-I	478	4.78	4.63	5.31	850	1030	920	4130	6110	6680
5-I	476	4.68	5.26	5.87	1090	1040	1130	4920	6830	6000
Avg. ...	514	5.07	5.22	5.60	1028	1008	1116	4974	6750	6728

(b) GROUP II CEMENTS

(1) Bars stored in moist room at 70 deg. F., 7 days, then on Lab. Roof and wet and dry cycles.

1-II	589	5.83	5.91	5.74	1370	1230	1100	6480	7650	7450
2-II	518	5.66	5.71	5.76	1300	1190	1220	6690	7950	7910
3-II	504	5.59	5.47	5.64	1250	1170	1150	6630	7710	7330
5-II	477	5.68	5.67	5.52	1280	1080	910	7140	7030	7450
6-II	574	5.63	5.53	5.40	1420	1180	1137	6710	7820	7160
7-II	471	5.64	5.51	5.58	1420	1240	1070	6940	7650	7450
8a-II	575	5.63	5.43	5.16	1340	1250	1090	7110	7700	6780
8b-II	581	5.51	5.49	5.44	1300	1050	830	8620	7460	7960
9-II	532	5.78	5.23	4.66	1130	930	740	7330	7950	7090
Avg.	536	5.66	5.55	5.43	1312	1147	1017	6794	7658	7399

(2) Bars stored in oven at 110 deg. F., 7 days, then on Laboratory Roof and subsequent wet and dry cycles.

1-II	588	5.18	5.88	5.93	880	1320	1020	5270	7430	7360
2-II	520	5.63	5.59	5.82	1150	1200	1210	5390	6960	6820
3-II	506	5.26	5.52	5.54	1130	1400	1180	6060	7710	7540
5-II	475	5.43	5.52	5.48	840	1060	990	4600	6360	6530
6-II	576	5.37	5.42	5.56	750	1130	1140	5750	6950	7200
7-II	477	5.27	5.47	5.54	1300	1240	1060	5380	7110	6230
8a-II	577	4.46	5.10	5.02	700	1040	890	5210	6880	7260
8b-II	583	5.44	5.47	5.61	990	980	1130	5210	6510	6980
9-II	534	5.66	5.57	5.63	1190	1050	1060	5780	7360	7330
Avg.	537	5.19	5.50	5.57	992	1127	1076	5406	7030	7083

TABLE 5—Continued

Cement Number	Age Days	PERCENT CALCIUM CHLORIDE												Dynamic E × 10 ⁻⁶	Modulus of Rupt.	Compr. Strength			
		0	2	4	0	2	4	0	2	4									

(c) GROUP III CEMENTS (High Early Str.)

(1) Bars stored in M.R. at 70 deg. F., then on Lab. Roof and subsequent wet-dry cycles

1-III	582	5.44	5.22	4.54	1170	1040	750	6450	7590	7770
2-III	513	5.70	5.49	5.37	1140	960	890	6890	6680	7000
3-III	484	5.47	5.38	5.33	1220	1150	1080	6560	7340	6970
6-III	533	5.43	3.56	2.05	930	560	430	6970	7020	5890
9-III	525	5.52	5.11	4.43	1140	1110	840	7320	7190	6500
Avg.	527	5.51	4.95	4.34	1120	964	788	6798	7164	6826

(2) Bars stored in oven at 110 deg. F. first 7 days, then on Lab. Roof and subsequent wet-dry cycles

1-III	584	5.27	5.46	5.83	1010	1180	1250	6010	7860	8270
2-III	514	5.66	5.63	5.57	1160	1070	1180	6990	7810	7890
3-III	485	5.91	5.55	5.54	1400	1280	1070	6810	7900	7870
6-III	542	5.82	5.79	5.60	1230	1160	1020	7500	8660	7940
9-III	526	5.53	5.59	5.57	1120	1080	1080	5840	7220	7650
Avg.	530	5.64	5.60	5.62	1184	1154	1120	6630	7890	7924

TABLE 6

INITIAL (SETTING) LENGTH CHANGES OF 2- BY 2- BY 6½-IN. MORTAR BARS CONTAINING ZERO, TWO, AND FOUR PERCENT CALCIUM CHLORIDE. 1944 TEST SERIES

Average setting shrinkage of all bars, Cement Groups I, II and III

Percent $CaCl_2$	CEMENT GROUP			Average
	I	II	III	

(a) Initially cured in moist room at 70 deg. F. Bars removed from molds and measured at 24 hr.

0%	-122	-134	-178	-145
2%	-220	-199	-224	-214
4%	-275	-235	-260	-257

(b) Initially cured in oven at 110 deg. F., 30 percent R.H. Bars removed from molds and measured at 6 hr.

0%	-554	-527	-724	-602
2%	-166	-320	-216	-234
4%	-160	-387	-298	-282

Note: The pins for measuring length changes were very accurately spaced between gage points and held rigid by set screws prior to fabricating the concrete. As soon as the concrete had stiffened the set screws were loosened in an effort to free the pins from all restraint. The effort was only partially successful, but as there were over 340 specimens in all groups it is believed that the average of the measurements in each group and for the whole indicates the trend of initial or setting shrinkage as influenced by the $CaCl_2$ and the initial storage conditions.

relatively low humidity (30 percent) and moderately high temperatures (110 deg. F.) the initial or setting shrinkage was materially retarded by the CaCl_2 . Subsequent shrinkage on thorough drying over a long period (300+ days) and under variable atmospheric conditions was about the same, with or without the CaCl_2 , for the specimens initially stored in the moist room for 7 days; there was a moderate increase in shrinkage of the specimens initially stored in the oven for 7 days (Fig. 4 to 14).

There were two interesting developments from the wetting and drying cycles: (1) the

III cement specimens initially moist-room cured for 7 days developed excessive expansion during the wet-dry cycles ultimately leading to lower strength (particularly lower modulus of rupture) and even to failure (Fig. 16(a)) with CaCl_2 , particularly with four percent.

It would appear from the results of these tests that the CaCl_2 minimizes the initial (setting) shrinkage under adverse high temperature-low humidity initial weathering, but has little effect on the subsequent shrinkage under normal atmospheric weathering conditions.

The wet-dry length changes of 2- by 2- by

TABLE 7
AVERAGE FINAL DRY AND WET BAR LENGTHS IN THE 1944 CALCIUM CHLORIDE TEST
SERIES JUST PRIOR TO FINAL TEST AT AVERAGE AGES INDICATED

Figures Millionths of an Inch per Inch

1	2	3 ^a	4 ^a	5 ^a	6 ^a	7 ^a	8 ^a	9	10	11	
Cement Group	Avg. Age Days	Oven 17 Days at 110 deg. F.			Water 16 Days at 70 deg F.			Final Range Dry to Sat.			
		PERCENT CALCIUM CHLORIDE									
		0	2	4	0	2	4	0	2	4	
(a) Bars initially stored in moist room at 70 deg. F. then on Lab. Roof and subsequent wet-dry cycles. Based on initial measurement at 24 hr.											
I	512	-604	-493	-123	-325	-148	+307	279	346	451	
II	536	-530	-433	-190	-273	-104	+209	257	329	399	
III	527	-421	+187	+860	-113	+736	+1643	308	549	783	
Avg.	525	-518	-246	+182	-237	+161	+720	281	408	544
(b) Bars initially stored in oven at 110 deg. F. first 7 days then on Lab. Roof and subsequent wet-dry cycles. Based on initial measurement at 6 hr.											
I	514	-576	-641	-708	-347	-376	-423	229	265	285	
II	537	-484	-619	-708	-289	-386	-452	216	234	256	
III	530	-528	-520	-539	-304	-212	-187	224	308	352	
Avg.	527	-529	-593	-652	-307	-325	-354	223	269	298

* Length changes shown in Columns 3 to 8 are with relation to the initial measurement on removal from molds at 24 hr. for the (a) and 6 hr. for the (b) group specimens.

specimens initially cured for 7 days in the moist room developed substantially greater subsequent volume change in the wetting and drying cycles than the specimens initially oven-cured; and (2) the CaCl_2 specimens initially cured in the moist room had a greater wet-dry length change than those without CaCl_2 , while the initially oven-cured specimens developed relatively low subsequent volume change whether with or without CaCl_2 . The CaCl_2 specimens, which developed greater wet-dry length changes when initially moist-room cured than those without CaCl_2 , showed about the same length changes with CaCl_2 as without when initially oven-cured. The Type

6½-in. bars of concrete (max. ¾-in. aggregate, 6.75 sacks of cement per cu. yd.) when subjected to alternate cycles of immersion at 70 deg. F. and oven-drying at 110 deg. F. are shown in Figures 4 to 14. Initial measurement was made on the specimens on removal from forms after 24-hr. storage in moist room at 70 deg. F. ("Series A"), and on the specimens on removal from forms after 6 hr. in the oven at 110 deg. F., relative humidity 30 percent ("Series B"). After an initial curing period of 7 days in the moist room for the Series A specimens and 7 days in the oven for the Series B specimens all specimens were stored in the open on the roof of the Labora-

TABLE 8
FINAL DRY AND WET LENGTHS OF ALL BARS IN THE 1944 SERIES
(a) GROUP I CEMENTS

1	2	3 ^a	4 ^a	5 ^a	6 ^a	7 ^a	8 ^a	9	10	11
Cement Number	Avg. Age Days	Oven 17 Days at 110° F.			Water 16 Days at 70° F.			Range—Dry to Sat.		
		PERCENT CALCIUM CHLORIDE								
		0	2	4	0	2	4	0	2	4
(1) Bars initially stored in moist room at 70 deg. F. 7 days. Then on Lab. Roof and subsequent wet-dry cycles										
1-I	595	-600	-487	-480	-340	-153	-113	260	314	347
2-I	519	-633	-613	-400	-360	-260	+13	273	353	413
3-I	505	-640	-660	-587	-360	-313	-193	280	347	394
4-I	471	-627	-367	+187	-353	-20	+633	274	347	554
5-I	469	-520	-360	+647	-213	+7	+1193	307	367	546
Avg. .	512	-604	-493	-123	-325	-148	+307	279	346	451
(2) Bars initially stored in oven at 110 deg. F. first 7 days then on Lab. Roof and subsequent wet-dry cycles										
1-I	590	-460	-547	-680	-213	-267	-420	247	280	260
2-I	521	-580	-607	-680	-380	-393	-420	200	214	260
3-I	507	-580	-767	-900	-367	-520	-640	213	247	260
4-I	478	-713	-673	-627	-473	-360	-287	240	313	340
5-I	476	-547	-613	-653	-300	-340	-347	247	273	306
Avg.	514	-576	-641	-708	-347	-376	-423	229	265	285

(b) GROUP II CEMENTS

(1) Bars initially stored in moist room at 70 deg. F., 7 days, then on Lab. roof and subsequent wet-dry cycles										
1-II	589	-607	-587	-593	-353	-313	-313	254	274	280
2-II	518	-533	-540	-140	-280	-247	+220	253	293	360
3-II	504	-567	-560	-547	-307	-233	-153	260	327	394
5-II	477	-507	-413	-187	-240	-80	+253	267	333	440
6-II	574	-573	-480	-60	-333	-160	+287	240	320	347
7-II	471	-473	-427	-80	-193	-53	+367	280	374	447
8a-II	575	-553	-520	-380	-313	-220	-20	240	300	360
8b-II	581	-487	-413	-293	-253	-113	+33	234	300	328
9-II	532	-473	+40	+567	-187	+480	+1207	286	440	640
Avg.	536	-530	-433	-190	-273	-104	+209	257	329	399
(2) Bars initially stored in oven at 110 deg. F., 7 days, then on Lab. roof and subsequent wet and dry cycles										
1-II	588	-453	-600	-773	-253	-393	-553	200	207	220
2-II	521	-547	-687	-860	-320	-453	-580	227	234	300
3-II	506	-573	-827	-780	-360	-567	-500	213	260	280
5-II	475	-467	-573	-760	-200	-340	-493	267	233	267
6-II	576	-473	-613	-707	-307	-413	-493	166	200	214
7-II	477	-453	-587	-687	-160	-313	-407	293	274	280
8a-II	577	-427	-660	-673	-260	-453	-433	167	207	240
8b-II	583	-500	-547	-653	-313	-335	-420	187	214	213
9-II	534	-467	-480	-500	-247	-207	-213	220	273	287
Avg.	537	-484	-619	-708	-269	-386	-452	216	234	256

(c) GROUP III CEMENTS (High Early Strength)

(1) Bars initially stored in moist room at 70 deg. F., then on Lab. roof and subsequent wet-dry cycles.										
1-III	582	-453	-180	+293	-193	+227	+793	260	407	500
2-III	513	-540	-253	+60	-233	+153	+587	307	406	527
3-III	484	-420	-313	-113	-87	+87	-327	333	400	440
6-III	533	-293	+1520	+2880	+47	+2540	+4567	340	1020	1687
9-III	525	-400	+160	+1180	-100	+673	+1940	300	513	760
Avg.	519	-421	+187	+860	-113	+736	+1643	308	549	783
(2) Bars initially stored in oven at 110 deg. F. first 7 days, then on Lab. roof and subsequent wet-dry cycles.										
1-III	584	-533	-460	-667	-287	-153	-327	246	307	340
2-III	514	-513	-700	-700	-300	-413	-420	213	287	280
3-III	485	-587	-567	-513	-353	-273	-147	234	294	366
6-III	542	-500	-327	-300	-300	+13	+93	200	340	393
9-III	526	-507	-547	-513	-280	-233	-133	227	314	380
Avg.	530	-528	-520	-539	-304	-212	-187	224	308	352

^a Length changes shown in Columns 3 to 8 are with relation to the initial set length at 24 hr. for specimens initially cured in the moist room at 70 deg. F. and at 6 hr. for specimens initially cured in the oven at 110 deg. F.

At the end of the wet-dry cycles and just prior to test for dynamic modulus of elasticity, modulus of rupture and compressive strength, all specimens were stored in the oven at 110 deg. F. for 17 days—measured and then stored in water for 16 days at 70 deg. F.

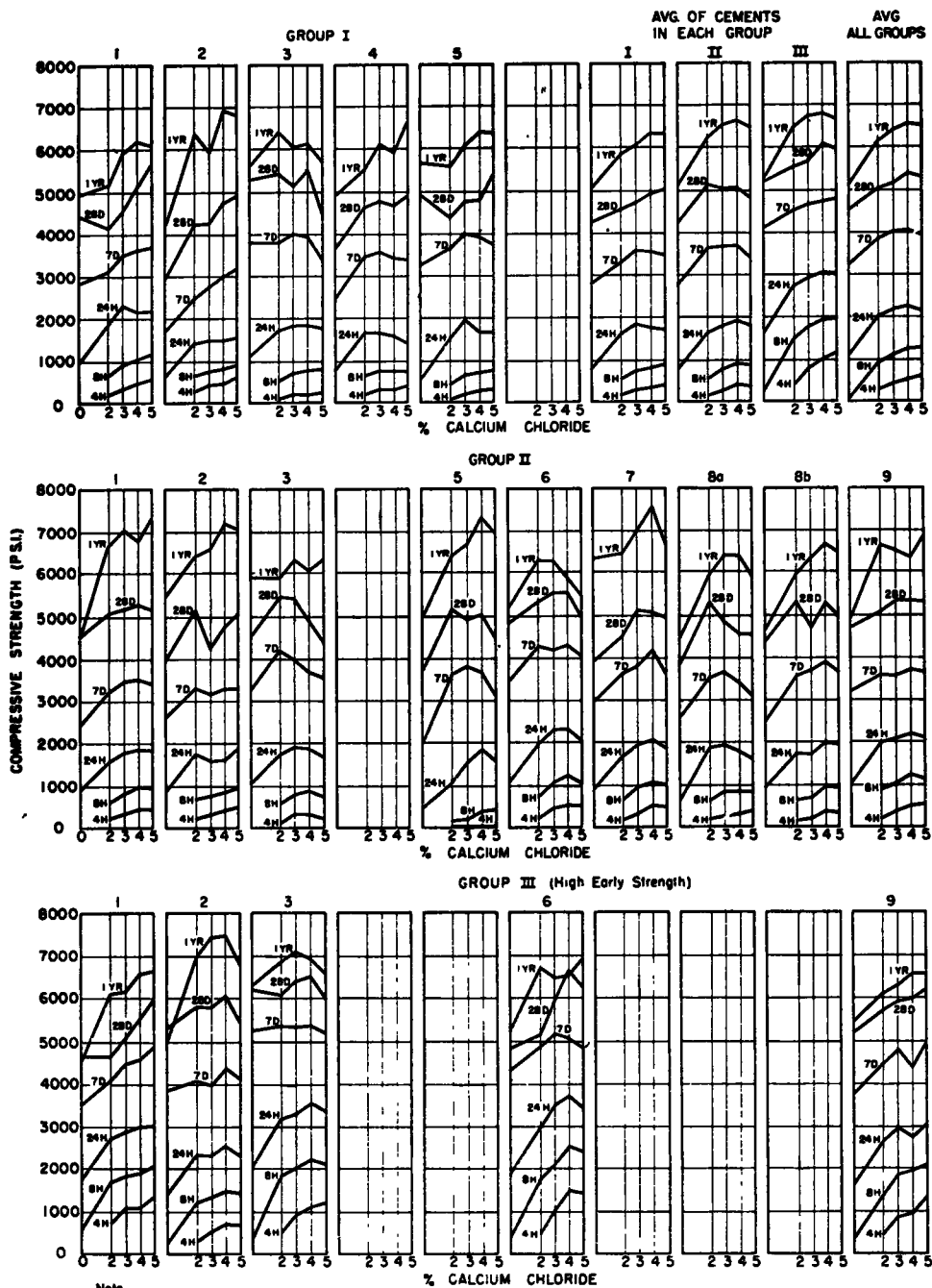


Figure 1. Effect on Compressive Strength of Zero to Five Percent Calcium Chloride in a Six-Sack Concrete Mix. All Specimens 6- by 12-in. Cylinders, Cured in the Moist Room at 70 deg. F. for Entire Period. 1944 Test Series

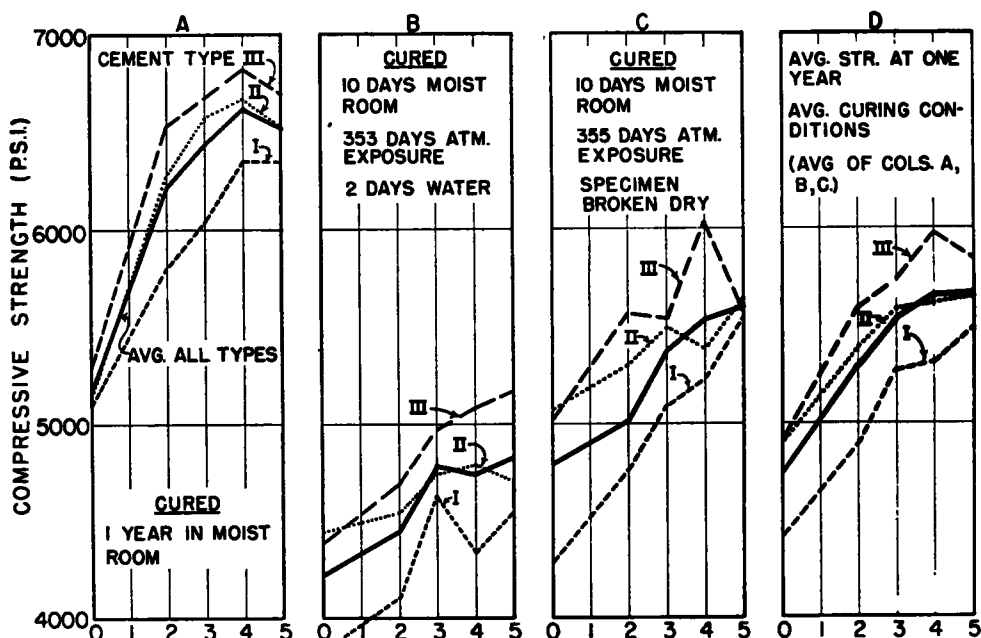


Figure 2. Average One-Year Compression Strength Tests on 6- by 12-in. Cylinder Specimens of Concrete from Nine Brands and Three Types of California Portland Cements (Total 19 Cements) as Affected by from Two to Five Percent Calcium Chloride

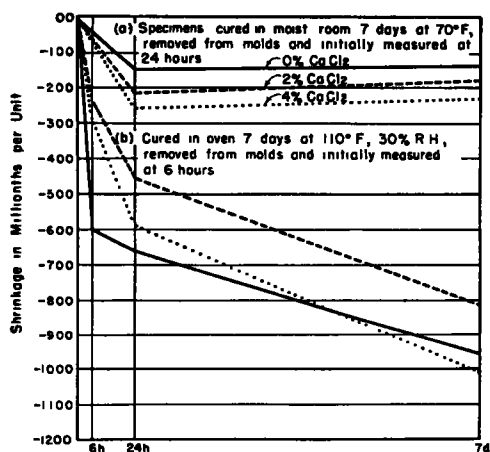


Figure 3. Initial and Seven-Day Shrinkage of 2- by 2- by 6½-in. Concrete Bars with Zero, Two, and Four Percent Calcium Chloride Additions. 1944 Test Series, Average of 19 Cements, All Types. (See Table 6.)

tory until the start of the wet-dry cycles. The first measurement indicates the shrinkage during this outdoor exposure period. All measurements starting at average age of 320 days

indicate departure from the initial set measurements. Figures 5 to 14 show length changes for each brand and type cement, for which the averages are shown in Figure 4. Figure 7 illustrates a minimum effect of CaCl_2 on a Type III cement as well as a negligible effect on the Type I and Type II cements of the same brand. Brand 5 (Fig. 9) shows the greatest effect on a Type I cement, and Brand 9 (Fig. 14) the greatest effect on a Type II cement. Brand 6 (Fig. 10) is affected the greatest of the Type III cements.

All bar specimens were tested for modulus of rupture and modified cube compressive strength at the conclusion of the wet-dry cycles, the average age being shown on the respective figures. The modulus of rupture and compressive test data are shown in the two columns to the right of the plotted length change data.

The length changes in the wet-dry cycles in the case of the specimens initially cured for 7 days in the moist room were greater with the CaCl_2 additions than without. The final expansion was substantial with four percent CaCl_2 regardless of type of cement, but par-

ticularly so in the case of the Type III cements, where, as will be noted, a material reduction in flexural strength developed.

The initial oven cure at 110 deg. F., however, seemed to temper the concrete, with the result that the wet-dry length changes were of a low order, even with four percent CaCl_2 ,

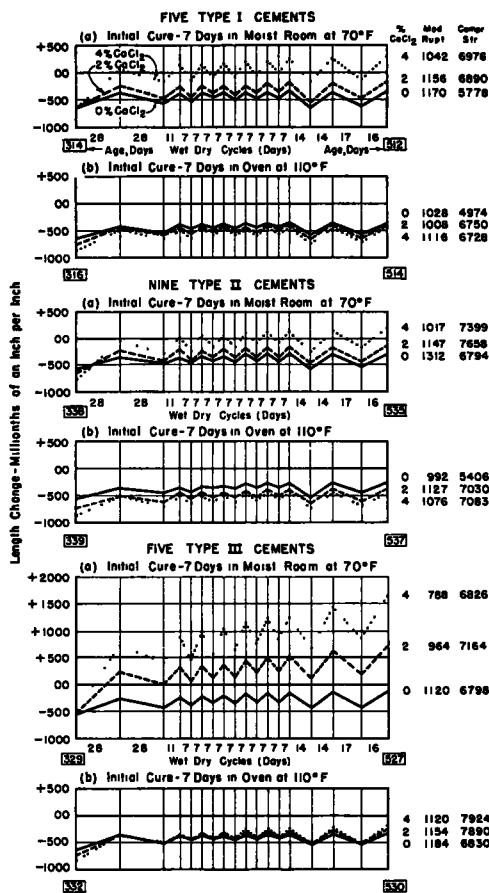


Figure 4. Average Length Changes of 2-by 2- by 6½-in. Bars (5 in. between gage points) with Zero, Two, and Four Percent Calcium Chloride Additions

and there was little if any reduction in flexural strength induced by the CaCl_2 . The effect of any high ultimate expansion of the initially moist-room cured specimens was reflected in lower modulus of rupture. There was little adverse effect, however, on the compressive strength; the ultimate compressive strengths of the four percent CaCl_2 additions was al-

most invariably higher than without CaCl_2 regardless of initial cure.

That these results are not accidental is evident from a study of the data which show the test results for each brand and type cement. The same pattern is apparent throughout although some cements are affected to a greater extent than others.

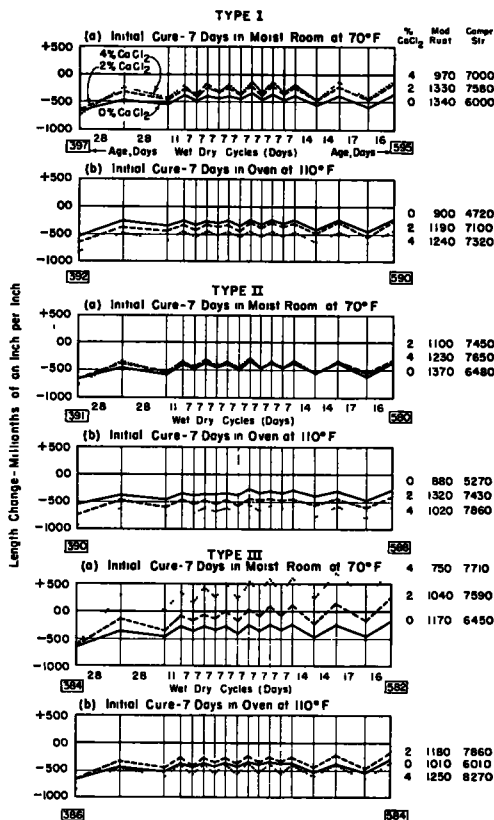


Figure 5. Length Changes with Calcium Chloride Additions. Cement Brand 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8a, 8b, 9

The indications from this series are that under normal construction operating conditions where, particularly in hot weather, the concrete temperature and moisture conditions during the early curing periods may on occasion more nearly conform with the treatment of the Series B specimens than the ideal moist-room cure of the Series A, the actual concrete performance will probably fall somewhere between the two extremes.

1945 Series—Because the 1944 series was necessarily limited in scope through the large number of cements tested (nineteen) a new series was started in 1945 on one standard cement of the 1944 series (Cement 1-I) with variable cement content and water-cement ratio.

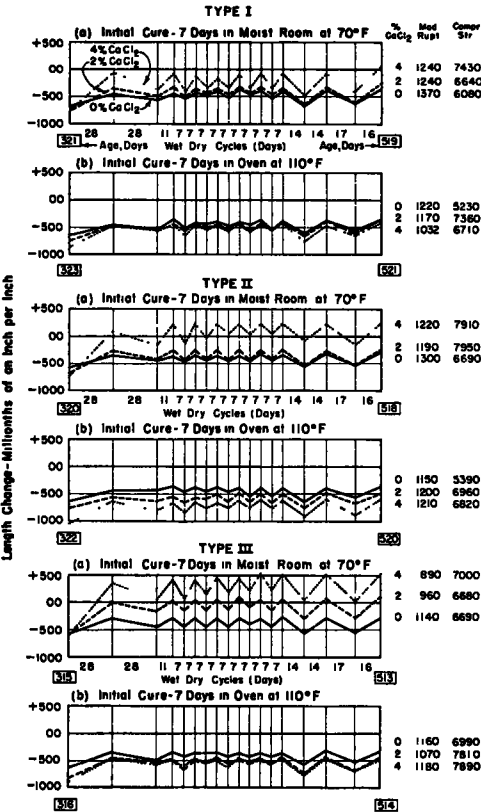


Figure 6. Length Changes with Calcium Chloride Additions. Cement Brand 2

These later tests were further limited to 2- by 2- by 6½-in. bars, ¾-in. maximum size aggregate, the proportions of cement being on the basis of 4.50 sacks, 6.75 sacks and 9.00 sacks per cu. yd. of the ¾-in. top size aggregate portion of standard 4-, 6-, and 8-sack concrete mixes.

Two slumps, 1½ and 3 in., were used. One set of specimens was initially cured in the moist room for 24 hr. and then in the oven for an additional 6 days. The other set was in the oven for 7 days from the start. Both

sets were then stored at normal laboratory temperature and relatively low humidity for 84 days until opportunity presented for a

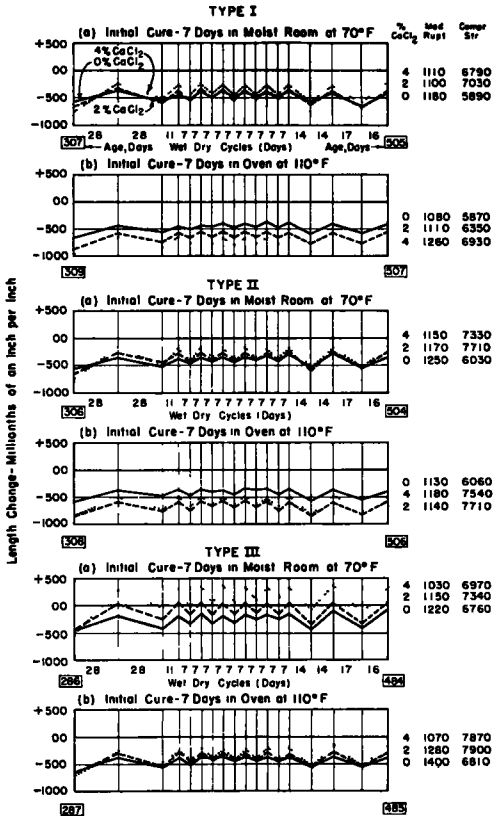


Figure 7. Length Changes with Calcium Chloride Additions. Cement Brand 3

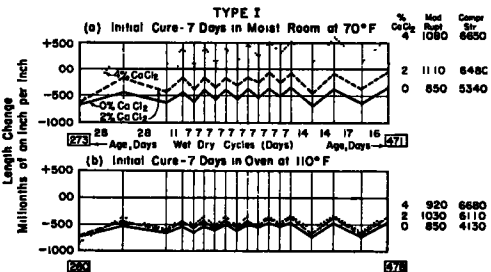


Figure 8. Length Changes with Calcium Chloride Additions. Cement Brand 4

long time series of 28-day wet (70 deg. F.) and dry (110 deg. F.) cycles (19 total) after which (age 616 days) all specimens were

tested for modulus of rupture, dynamic modulus and compressive strengths, as well as for wet-dry length changes.

Some results of this 1945 series of tests on the Type I cement were:

(1) No cracking, spalling, or evidences of disintegration was seen in any of the specimens.

(2) The effect of CaCl_2 upon the initial drying shrinkage was very apparent. For all mixes and storage conditions, the initial drying shrinkage increased with increasing percentages of the salt.

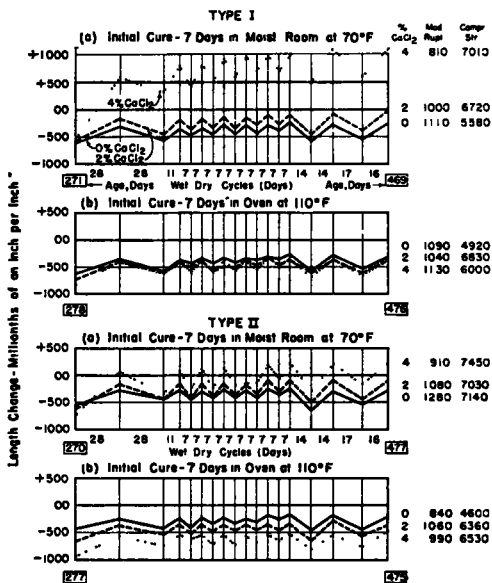


Figure 9. Length Changes with Calcium Chloride Additions. Cement Brand 5

(3) Subsequent wet-dry length changes were less with the CaCl_2 in the 4.5-sack mixes but greater in the case of the 6.75- and 9.0-sack mixes.

(4) Compressive strengths at 616 days after the wet-dry cycles were substantially greater for the CaCl_2 additions.

(5) The modulus of rupture and dynamic modulus of elasticity averaged moderately lower for the CaCl_2 additions than without.

1950 Series—The results of the 1944 and 1945 tests indicated greater shrinkage and greater wet-dry volume change of concrete containing CaCl_2 when initially cured under moist-room

conditions at 70 deg. F., but less differential shrinkage and less wet-dry volume change when initially exposed to relatively high tem-

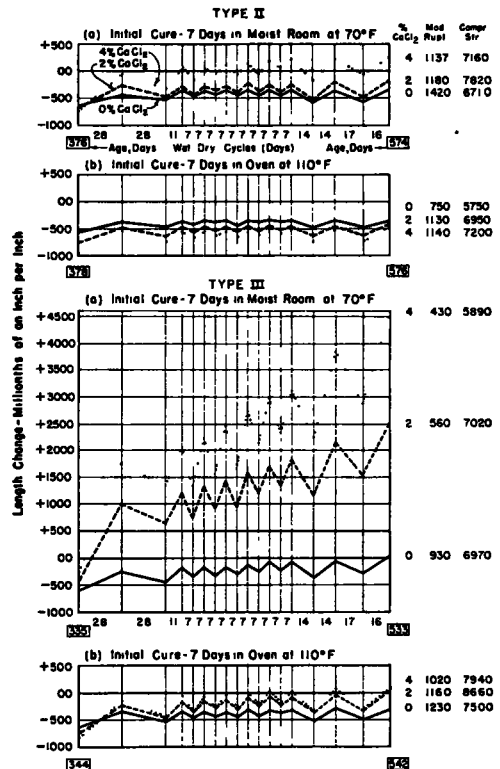


Figure 10. Length Changes with Calcium Chloride Additions. Cement Brand 6

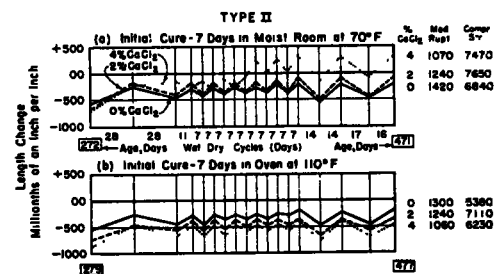


Figure 11. Length Changes with Calcium Chloride Additions. Cement Brand 7

peratures (100 to 110 deg. F.) and relatively low humidity conditions (30 percent R.H.). At the same time, although the compressive strengths were not adversely affected by the

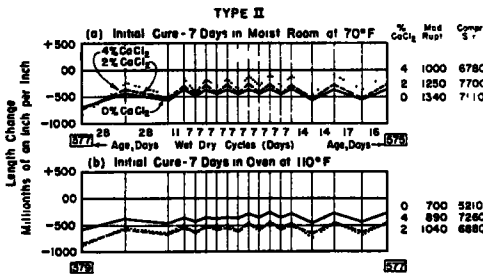


Figure 12. Length Changes with Calcium Chloride Additions. Cement Brand 8a

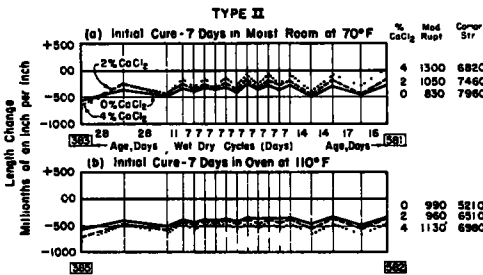


Figure 13. Length Changes with Calcium Chloride Additions. Cement Brand 8b

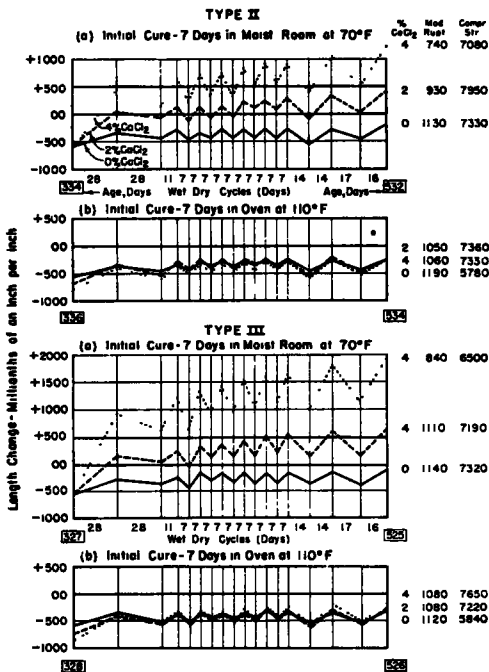


Figure 14. Length Changes with Calcium Chloride Additions. Cement Brand 9

addition of two to four percent CaCl_2 regardless of curing conditions, the modulus of rupture was apparently adversely affected to an extent depending on the volume change under alternate wet-dry cycles.

It was therefore deemed desirable to make a check of this tendency through a supplementary series of tests. It did not appear necessary to repeat all the cements included in the original series, particularly for the reason that, except for the fine ground Type III cements which are infrequently used (and seldom, if at all, in combination with CaCl_2), no substantial differences in performance between the different brands of cements had been observed in the 1944 tests.

The check series of tests was started in 1950 using Brand 1—Type I, five- and six-sack mixes, with zero, two, and four percent CaCl_2 , and with a modified curing or storage procedure. The test specimens in this series consisted of 6- by 12-in. cylinders for standard compression tests and 3- by 3- by 11½-in. beams for modulus of rupture, compression (modified cube on beam ends) and length-change measurements.

Storage of different sets of specimens prior to and during the test periods was as follows: (1) 6- by 12-in. cylinders and 3- by 3-in. bars continuous moist-room storage at 70 deg. F.; (2) bars moist-room 60 days, then alternate wet (70 deg. F.) and dry (100 deg. F.) cycles; (3) cylinders and bars at 100 deg. F. protected from moisture loss for 7 days, then stored on Laboratory roof until final test; and (4) bars same as in (3) until age 60 days, then alternate wet (70 deg. F.) and dry (100 deg. F.) cycles.

The results of this series are shown in Figures 18, to 20. The conclusions derived from the 1944 Series were essentially confirmed, i.e.:

1. Wet-dry volume changes of the 60-day moist-room-cured specimens were in proportion to the percentage of CaCl_2 .

2. Early drying shrinkage and subsequent volume change of the specimens initially cured at 100 deg. F. under good moisture conditions were also increased by the CaCl_2 , but with less range than in the case of the moist-room-cured specimens, thereby confirming the results of the 1944 Series with regard to the effect of initial curing conditions on the subsequent performance.

3. Greater wet-dry volume change occurred

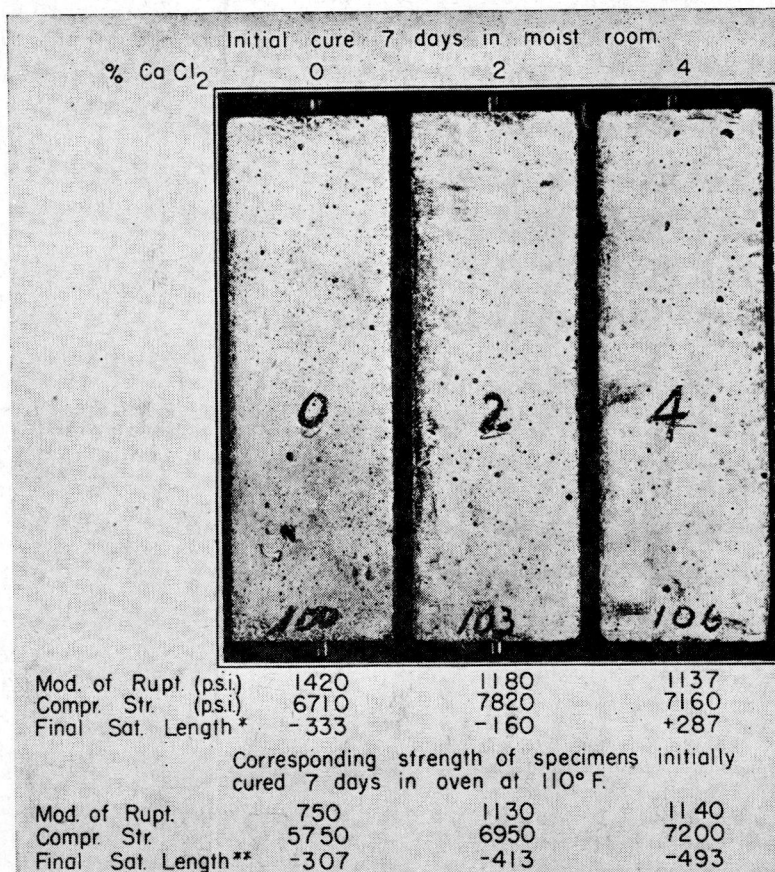


Figure 15. Condition of Cement 6-II Bars at Age 574 Days, After Nine Cycles of Water Immersion at 70 deg. F. and Oven Drying at 110 deg. F.

(Compare with corresponding high early strength cement of the same brand, Fig. 16)

* Based on zero at 24 hr.

** Based on zero at 6 hr.

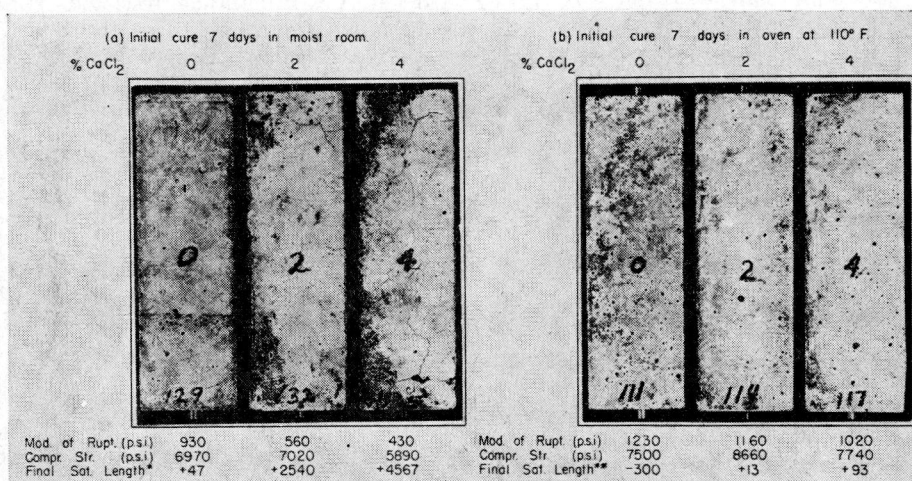


Figure 16. Condition of Cement 6-III Bars at Age 533 Days, After Nine Cycles of Water Immersion at 70 deg. F. and Oven Drying at 110 deg. F.

* Based on zero at 24 hr.

** Based on zero at 6 hr.

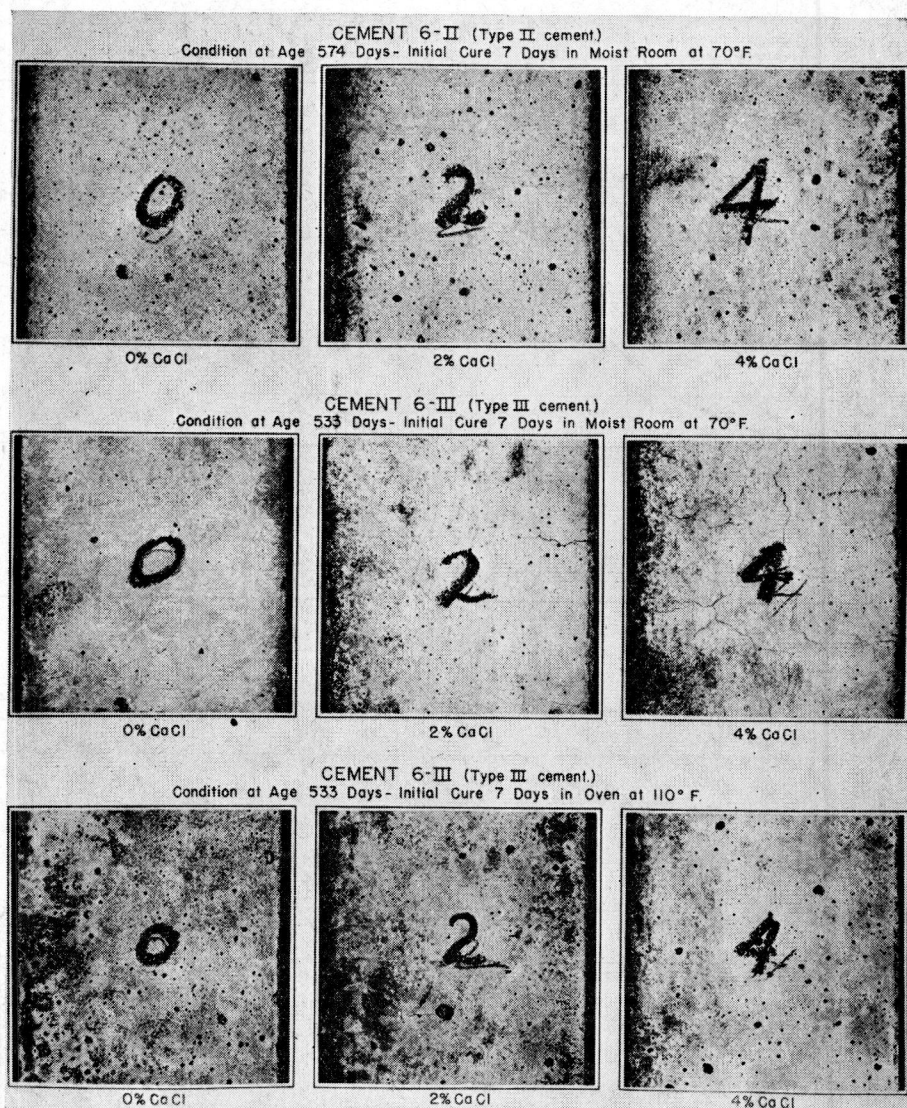


Figure 17. Condition of Cement 6-II and 6-III Bars in the 1944 Test Series at Ages and Initial Curing Indicated, After 17 Alternate Wet-Dry Cycles as Shown in Fig. 10

with the initially moist-room-cured specimens than with the specimens initially cured at 100 deg. F.

4. Lowered modulus of rupture was observed with specimens with CaCl_2 after a succession of wet-dry cycles when initially cured in moist room at 70 deg. F., but as a rule there was either increase in modulus or less differential with added CaCl_2 when initially cured at 100 deg. F.

5. Increase in compressive strength with CaCl_2 was obtained regardless of initial cure and subsequent treatment.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The author wishes to express appreciation to the staff of the Materials and Research Department for their assistance, particularly to Associate Materials and Research Engineer W. E. Haskell for the excellence of his work

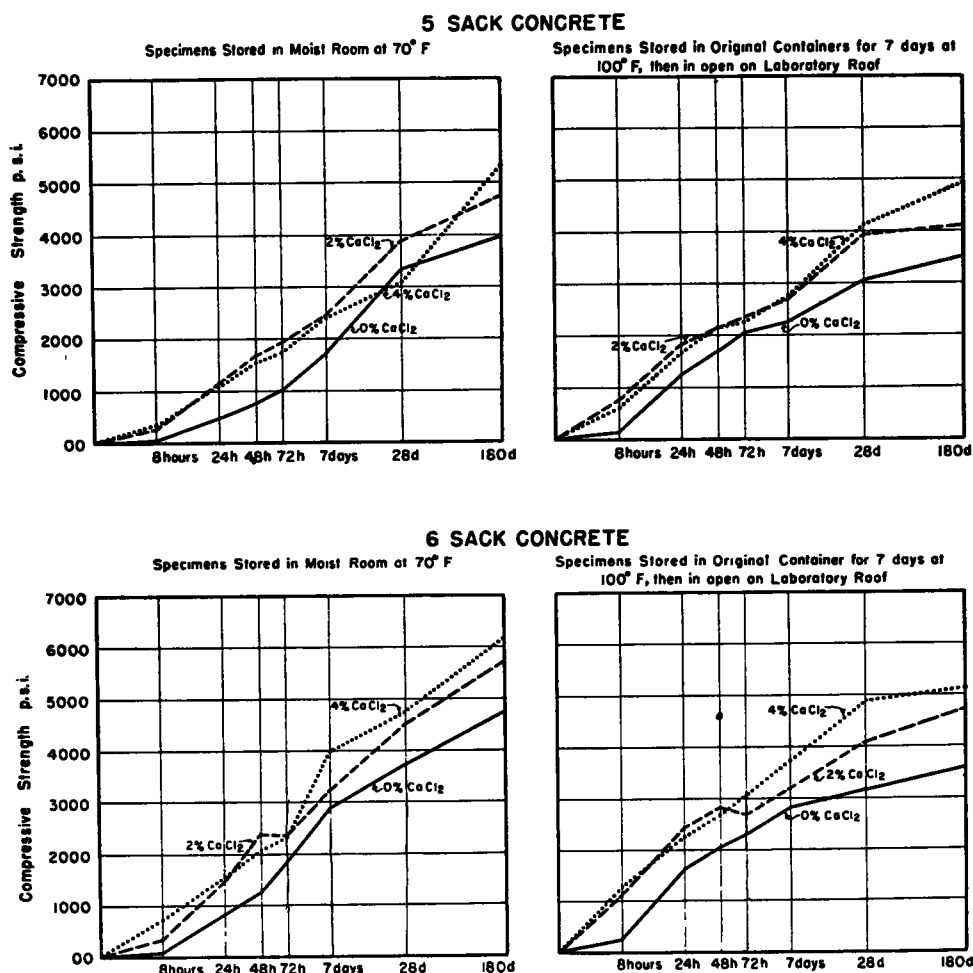


Figure 18. Compressive Strength of 6- by 12-in. Concrete Cylinders (Cement 1-I), 1950 Calcium Chloride Test Series

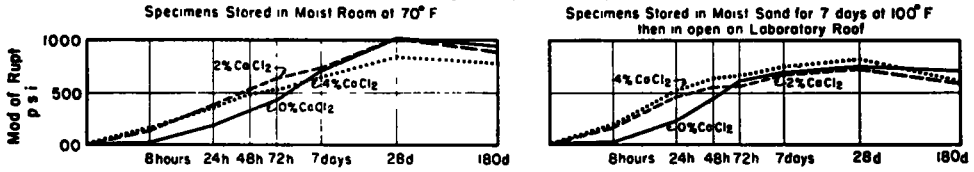
in designing the bar mixtures and his meticulous care in fabricating and performing the numerous tests on the bars; also to Associate Materials and Research Engineer L. P. Kovanda for work done in connection with the design and fabrication of the mixtures for the concrete cylinder tests.

REFERENCES

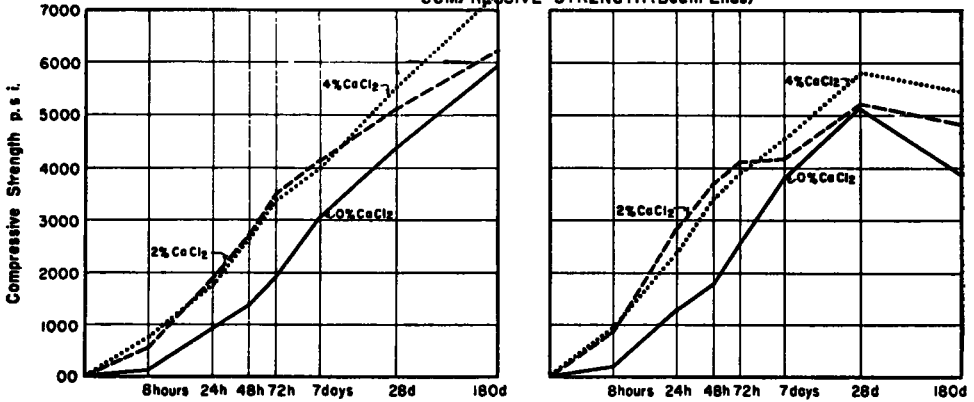
1. "Report of Comparative Series of Tests on Accelerators," *Proceedings, Amer. Soc. for Test. Matls.*, Vol. 23, Part I, p. 223 (1923).
2. "Calcium Chloride as an Admixture in Concrete," *Proceedings, Amer. Soc. for Test. Matls.*, Vol. 24, Part II, p. 781 (1924).
3. "An Investigation of the Use of Calcium Chloride as a Curing Agent and Accelerator of Concrete," *Proceedings, Amer. Soc. for Test. Matls.*, Vol. 23, Part II, p. 296 (1923).
4. "Effect of Calcium Chloride on Transverse Strength of Concrete Cured at Various Temperatures," *Proceedings, Amer. Soc. for Test. Matls.*, Vol. 26, Part II, p. 451 (1926).
5. *Proceedings of the Thirteenth Annual Meet-*

5 SACK CONCRETE

MODULUS OF RUPTURE

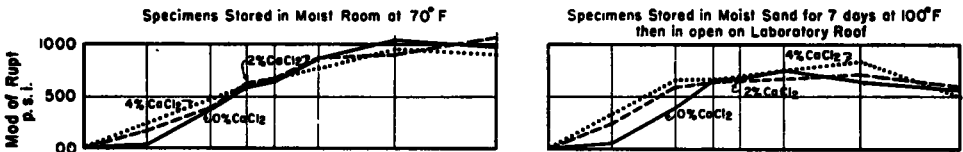


COMPRESSIVE STRENGTH (Beam Ends)



6 SACK CONCRETE

MODULUS OF RUPTURE



COMPRESSIVE STRENGTH (Beam Ends)

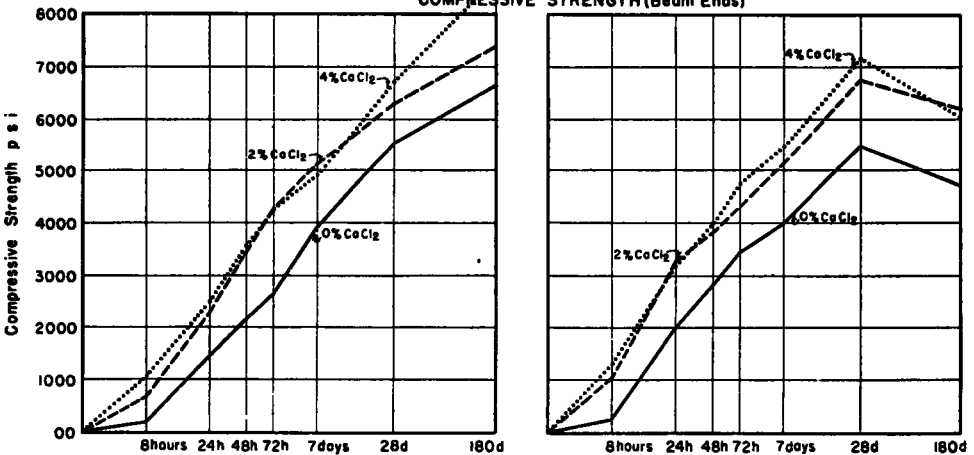


Figure 19. Modulus of Rupture and Compressive Strength of 3- by 3- by 11½-in. Concrete Beams (Cement 1-I), 1950 Calcium Chloride Test Series

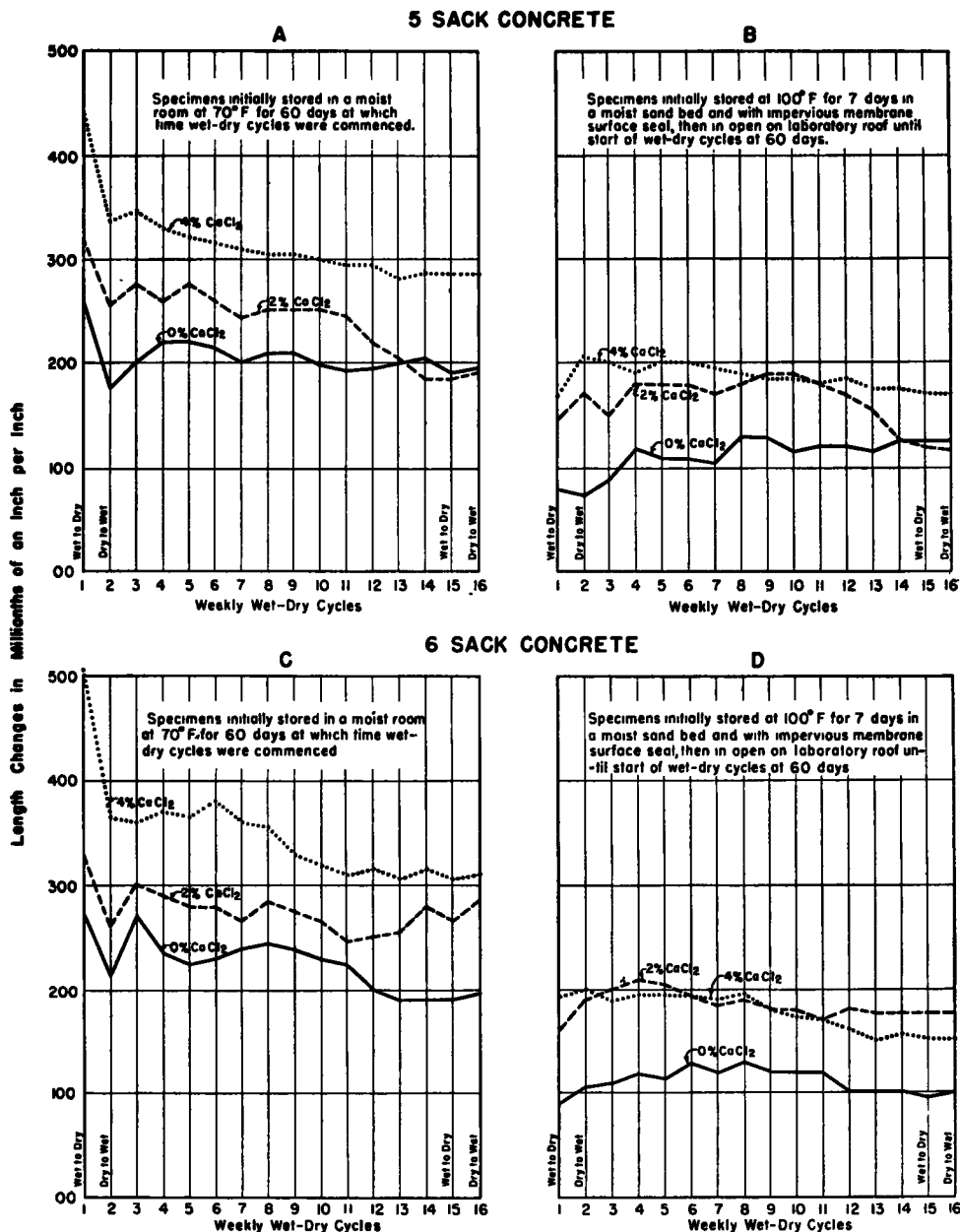


Figure 21. Wet-Dry Length Changes of 3- by 3- by 11½-in. Concrete Beams (Cement 1-I), 1950 Calcium Chloride Test Series. Specimens Alternately Soaked in Water at 70 deg. F. and Dried at 100 deg. F., 30 percent R. H.

- ing, Highway Research Board, p. 291 (1933); and the Fourteenth Meeting, p. 341 (1934).
6. Research Paper RP 782, *Journal of Research of the National Bureau of Standards*, Vol. 14, p. 499 (1935).
 7. *Proceedings of the Twenty-First Annual Meeting*, Highway Research Board, p. 288, 294 (1941).
 8. *Proceedings of the Twenty-Seventh Annual Meeting*, Highway Research Board, p. 189 (1947).

MICHIGAN'S EXPERIENCE IN THE USE OF WHITE-PIGMENTED MEMBRANE CURING COMPOUNDS

C. C. RHODES, *Chemical Research Engineer, Michigan State Highway Department*

SYNOPSIS

Michigan, in 1949, adopted specifications for white-pigmented curing compounds in an attempt to minimize temperature cracking in concrete pavements built during the spring and summer months. Previous laboratory studies and field tests had demonstrated the effectiveness and practicability of this type of curing.

At first there was some difficulty encountered in applying the compound with the spraying equipment then in use, which led to a modification of pump design by the manufacturer. It was found that most operational troubles were caused by: (1) inadequate stirring of the compound before and during application; and (2) failure to clean the spraying equipment properly after use.

Whiteness and hiding power are important properties of white-pigmented compounds. Michigan specified a minimum apparent reflectance of 70 percent relative to magnesium oxide for the former and 100 sq. ft. per gal. for the latter. The method of determining color by means of a spectrophotometer is described and details of other tests and application requirements are given in the Michigan specifications appended to the report.

As a result of more than 4 years of research and cooperative development, Michigan in 1949 adopted specifications for white-pigmented membranes as an alternate method of curing concrete pavements. The use of clear, or transparent, membrane curing compounds had been permitted since the spring of 1942, but a subsequent appraisal (1)¹ clearly revealed the need for controlling heat pickup in pavements cured by this method. The first full-scale use of white-pigmented compounds in Michigan was in July of 1949, and white compounds have been required on all membrane-cured concrete paving projects authorized since that time.

While it is still too early to make a statistical evaluation of their performance in actual service, the benefits to be derived from the use of white-pigmented compounds appear to be well established and there is a definite trend toward their preferment over the trans-

parent type of membrane. New materials bring new problems, however, and it is the purpose of this paper not so much to present the case for white-pigmented compounds as to transmit experience gained in handling, specifying and testing these materials.

WHY USE WHITE-PIGMENTED COMPOUNDS?

That measures should be taken to prevent excessively high temperatures in immature concrete seems obvious, but it might be well to review briefly the basic reasons behind the use of white-pigmented curing compounds.

In the year A.D. 97 Sextus Junius Frontinus, Water Commissioner of Rome, wrote: "The proper time for masonry work is from the 1st of April to the 1st of November; but with this restriction: that the work be interrupted during the hottest part of the summer;—for the heat of the sun is no less destructive to masonry than is too violent frost." (2) Since that time, the wisdom of the Roman Commissioner's remarks has been demon-

¹ Italicized figures in parentheses refer to the list of references at the end of the paper.