

# TB-1000 — ECLIPSE<sup>®</sup> Shrinkage Reducing Admixture Technical Bulletin

/ concrete / mix design

ECLIPSE<sup>®</sup> shrinkage reducing admixture is a liquid concrete admixture which reduces material shrinkage due to drying. This technical bulletin outlines recommended shrinkage testing mix matrices, reviews pertinent sections of ASTM C157, “Standard Test Method for Length Change of Hardened Hydraulic-Cement Mortar and Concrete,” and details a suggested format for reporting laboratory shrinkage test results. The Technical Bulletin is relevant for ECLIPSE<sup>®</sup>4500 and ECLIPSE<sup>®</sup>Floor 200.

## Shrinkage Testing Mix Matrix

- Water content, mortar paste fraction, admixture selection, cementitious and pozzolan types and quantities, coupled with aggregate characteristics and mix design proportions most significantly impact concrete’s drying shrinkage characteristics. Careful selection of these variables are critical when designing and testing low shrinkage mixes.
- Drying shrinkage properties of ECLIPSE<sup>®</sup> admixed concrete is typically, but not always, linear from 1% to 2.5% by weight of cement ECLIPSE<sup>®</sup> dosage rates. Therefore, it is recommended concrete admixed with, at a minimum, low and high dosage rates of ECLIPSE<sup>®</sup> be included in the shrinkage test matrix.
- Reference concrete containing no ECLIPSE<sup>®</sup> must be included in the test matrix. This is essential because ECLIPSE<sup>®</sup> admixed concrete shrinkage performance is measured relative to reference concrete shrinkage performance.
- It is recommended both superplasticized and mid-range water reduced mixes be incorporated into the shrinkage test matrix, since these admixtures may optimize reductions in drying shrinkage.

## ASTM C157 Shrinkage Test Procedure (including Recommended Modifications)

ASTM C157, “Standard Test Method for Length Change of Hardened Hydraulic-Cement Mortar and Concrete” is the most common and applicable procedure for determining length change of hardened hydraulic-cement concrete. This test procedure is rather detailed, therefore it is advisable that local laboratories clearly demonstrate shrinkage testing proficiency prior to the initiation of an ECLIPSE<sup>®</sup> shrinkage test program. Several specific ASTM C157 equipment requirements are depicted below (refer to applicable ASTM standard for further detail):

- 76 mm x 76 mm x 286 mm (3 in. x 3 in. x 11.25 in.) steel molds with 254 mm (10 in.) nominal gage lengths if all aggregate passes a 25 mm (1 in.) sieve. If the aggregate passes a 51 mm (2 in.) sieve, 102 mm x 102 mm x 286 mm (4 in. x 4 in. x 11.25 in.) steel molds are used (refer to ASTM C490 and ASTM C157)
- Length comparator and reference bar (refer to ASTM C490)
- Drying room with the capacity to maintain temperatures of  $23.0 \pm 1.7^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $73.4 \pm 3^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) and relative humidity of  $50 \pm 4\%$ . Horizontal drying room racks must allow for non restricted air circulation around shrinkage specimens (refer to ASTM C157)
- Storage tank for lime saturated water curing (refer to ASTM C511)

## Concrete Sampling

Lab concrete shall be sampled in accordance with ASTM C192, while field concrete shall be sampled in accordance with ASTM C172. Plastic concrete tests including slump, air, unit weight and temperature shall be conducted and recorded for each concrete sample. Compressive strength testing shall be conducted at a minimum of 2 ages (including 28 days) and set time testing is also recommended.

## Shrinkage Specimen Fabrication

Concrete shall be placed in shrinkage molds in two approximately equal layers and consolidated by rodding, unless the slump is less than 76 mm (3 in.), at which time vibration shall be used. The concrete shall be carefully hand worked around each gage stud, followed by striking off with a straight edge. The steel plates holding the gage studs at the end of each mold should be loosened after consolidation.

## Curing from 0 Hours to $23 \pm \frac{1}{2}$ Hours

ASTM C157 requires moist cabinet or moist room curing per ASTM C511 during the initial period. However, if the specimen top surfaces are covered with plastic or wet burlap, it should be acceptable to cure specimens in ambient conditions, since all of the specimen surface area will be covered, thereby not allowing moisture to migrate out. ASTM C157 test deviations should be noted in report.

## Initial Shrinkage Reading

At time  $23 \pm \frac{1}{2}$  hour, specimens are carefully demolded and placed in lime saturated water maintained at  $23.0 \pm 1.7^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $73.4 \pm 3^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) for minimum 30 minutes. At time  $24 \pm \frac{1}{2}$  hour, initial comparator readings (called 1 day reading) are taken on wiped down specimens, which are then placed back in the lime saturated water tank.

## Lime Saturated Water Curing – 1 day up to maximum 28 days

ASTM C157 states “After the initial comparator reading, store the specimens in lime saturated water at  $23.0 \pm 1.7^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $73.4 \pm 3^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) until they have reached an age of 28 days, including the period in the molds, unless another condition or duration of curing is specified”. THIS STATEMENT IMPLIES 28 DAY WET CURING IS NOT REQUIRED BY ASTM. GCP Applied Technologies recommends an additional 6 days of lime saturated water curing, which brings the specimen age to 7 days.

Note: ASTM C494, “Standard Specification for Chemical Admixtures for Concrete,” Section 17.1.4 Length Change states “Test specimens shall be tested in accordance with Test Method C157 except that the moist curing period, including the period in the molds, shall be 14 days”. This statement reaffirms that a 28 day moist cure is not absolutely required.

## Air Curing/Shrinkage Readings

At 7 days, a second comparator reading is taken (called 7 day reading) and the specimens are placed on the drying room racks. This is the start of air curing, which should continue to minimum 56 days, but ideally to 365 days. Subsequent shrinkage readings are taken at an array of ages, often including, but not limited to 14, 21, 28, 35, 56, 90, 180 and 365 days.

## Length Change Calculations

The pertinent value calculated from shrinkage test results is ΔL. ΔL is the length change in percent (%) of a specimen relative to the specimens initial (1 day) reading.

Length change (%) is calculated via

$$\Delta L = \frac{\text{CRD} - (1 \text{ day}) \text{CRD} \times 100}{G}$$

- ΔL = length change of specimen at a particular age, %
- CRD = difference between the comparator reading of the specimen and the reference bar at any age
- G = gage length, 254 mm (10 in.)

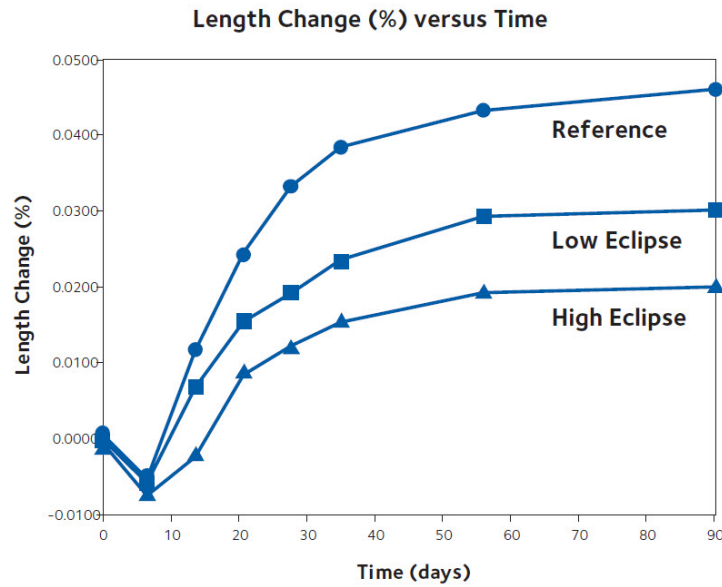
In this bulletin, **negative** ΔL values represent beam expansion, which is likely to occur during wet curing, with **positive** ΔL values representing beam shrinkage occurring during air curing.

## ASTM C157 Data – Difference in Specimen Length versus Reference Bar (CRD) and Total Length Change versus 1 Day (ΔL-measured in %)

	REFERENCE		LOW ECLIPSE®		HIGH ECLIPSE®	
	CRD (AVG. 3 BARS)	ΔL (%)	CRD (AVG. 3 BARS)	ΔL (%)	CRD (AVG. 3 BARS)	ΔL (%)
1 day	0.1735	--	0.1808	--	0.1843	--
7 day	0.1741	-0.006	0.1813	-0.005	0.1850	-0.007
14 day	0.1723	0.012	0.1801	0.007	0.1845	-0.002
21 day	0.1710	0.025	0.1792	0.016	0.1834	0.009
28 day	0.1701	0.034	0.1788	0.020	0.1830	0.013
35 day	0.1696	0.039	0.1784	0.024	0.1827	0.016
56 day	0.1691	0.044	0.1778	0.030	0.1823	0.020
90 day	0.1688	0.047	0.1777	0.031	0.1822	0.021
365 day	0.1685	0.050	0.1776	0.032	0.1821	0.022

## Suggested Format for Reporting ASTM C157 Test Results

Average CRD and ΔL values for 3 shrinkage specimens is depicted in the table below. ΔL is easily calculated using the length change equation shown above and CRD data. The next step is to graphically plot ΔL or Length Change (%) on the Y axis versus Time (days) on the X axis. 365 day data is not depicted because it unnecessarily extends the length of the X axis, thereby compressing critical 0-90 day shrinkage data. Finally, ECLIPSE®concrete shrinkage data expressed as percent reduction compared to reference concrete is shown at right at 28, 90 and 365 days. This is the pertinent information engineers and specifiers will be requiring for confirmation of ECLIPSE®shrinkage performance.



## ECLIPSE<sup>®</sup> Concrete versus Reference Concrete Shrinkage Performance (expressed as % Shrinkage Reduction of Reference)

	28 DAY	90 DAY	365 DAY
Low dosage ECLIPSE <sup>®</sup>	41	34	36
High dosage ECLIPSE <sup>®</sup>	62	55	56

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