

Preparing Activity: USACE

UNIFIED FACILITIES GUIDE SPECIFICATIONS

References are in agreement with UMRL dated October 2013

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11/10

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CONCRETE CURING 11/10

NOTE: This guide specification covers the requirements for cast-in-place concrete curing.

Adhere to [UFC 1-300-02](#) Unified Facilities Guide Specifications (UFGS) Format Standard when editing this guide specification or preparing new project specification sections. Edit this guide specification for project specific requirements by adding, deleting, or revising text. For bracketed items, choose applicable items(s) or insert appropriate information.

Remove information and requirements not required in respective project, whether or not brackets are present.

Comments, suggestions and recommended changes for this guide specification are welcome and should be submitted as a [Criteria Change Request \(CCR\)](#).

PART 1 GENERAL

NOTE: This specification covers concrete work primarily for buildings, but may also be used for other applications such as wharves, docks, drainage structures, warehouse type slabs, and driveways. The following guide specifications are relative to this section and will be included to the extent applicable in projects where this section is used:

Section 03 11 13.00 10 CONCRETE FORMING
Section 03 20 00.00 10 CONCRETE REINFORCING
Section 03 15 00.00 10 CONCRETE ACCESSORIES
Section 03 31 01.00 10 STRUCTURAL CONCRETE FOR CIVIL WORKS
Section 07 92 00 JOINT SEALANTS

Specifications on concrete for bridge construction should be in a separate section and should be

essentially in agreement with concrete construction requirements in the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, "Standard Specifications for Highway Bridges". Requirements for deck slabs, curbs, gutters, and sidewalks forming an integral part of the bridge should be included in the section concerning concrete for bridge construction.

1.1 REFERENCES

NOTE: This paragraph is used to list the publications cited in the text of the guide specification. The publications are referred to in the text by basic designation only and listed in this paragraph by organization, designation, date, and title.

Use the Reference Wizard's Check Reference feature when you add a RID outside of the Section's Reference Article to automatically place the reference in the Reference Article. Also use the Reference Wizard's Check Reference feature to update the issue dates.

References not used in the text will automatically be deleted from this section of the project specification when you choose to reconcile references in the publish print process.

The publications listed below form a part of this specification to the extent referenced. The publications are referred to within the text by the basic designation only.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION OFFICIALS
(AASHTO)

AASHTO M 182 (2005; R 2009) Standard Specification for Burlap Cloth Made from Jute or Kenaf and Cotton Mats

ASTM INTERNATIONAL (ASTM)

ASTM C171 (2007) Standard Specification for Sheet Materials for Curing Concrete

ASTM C309 (2011) Standard Specification for Liquid Membrane-Forming Compounds for Curing Concrete

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS (USACE)

COE CRD-C 400 (1963) Requirements for Water for Use in Mixing or Curing Concrete

1.2 SUBMITTALS

NOTE: Review submittal description (SD) definitions in Section 01 33 00 SUBMITTAL PROCEDURES and edit the following list to reflect only the submittals required for the project.

The Guide Specification technical editors have designated those items that require Government approval, due to their complexity or criticality, with a "G." Generally, other submittal items can be reviewed by the Contractor's Quality Control System. Only add a "G" to an item, if the submittal is sufficiently important or complex in context of the project.

For submittals requiring Government approval on Army projects, a code of up to three characters within the submittal tags may be used following the "G" designation to indicate the approving authority. Codes for Army projects using the Resident Management System (RMS) are: "AE" for Architect-Engineer; "DO" for District Office (Engineering Division or other organization in the District Office); "AO" for Area Office; "RO" for Resident Office; and "PO" for Project Office. Codes following the "G" typically are not used for Navy, Air Force, and NASA projects.

Choose the first bracketed item for Navy, Air Force and NASA projects, or choose the second bracketed item for Army projects.

Government approval is required for submittals with a "G" designation; submittals not having a "G" designation are for [Contractor Quality Control approval.] [information only. When used, a designation following the "G" designation identifies the office that will review the submittal for the Government.] Submit the following in accordance with Section 01 33 00 SUBMITTAL PROCEDURES:

SD-06 Test Reports

Testing and Inspection for CQC[; G][; G, [____]]

1.3 DELIVERY, STORAGE, AND HANDLING

Materials shall be stored in such a manner as to avoid contamination and deterioration. Materials shall be capable of being accurately identified after bundles or containers are opened.

PART 2 PRODUCTS

2.1 CURING MATERIALS

2.1.1 Impervious-Sheet

Impervious-sheet materials shall conform to ASTM C171, type optional,

except, that polyethylene sheet shall not be used.

2.1.2 Membrane-Forming Compound

Membrane-Forming curing compound shall conform to **ASTM C309**, Type 1-D or 2, except that only a styrene acrylate or chlorinated rubber compound meeting Class B requirements shall be used for surfaces that are to be painted or are to receive bituminous roofing, or waterproofing, or floors that are to receive adhesive applications of resilient flooring. The curing compound selected shall be compatible with any subsequent paint, roofing, waterproofing, or flooring specified. Nonpigmented compound shall contain a fugitive dye, and shall have the reflective requirements in **ASTM C309** waived.

2.1.3 Burlap and Cotton Mat

Burlap and cotton mat used for curing shall conform to **AASHTO M 182**.

2.2 WATER

Water for curing shall be fresh, clean, potable, and free of injurious amounts of oil, acid, salt, or alkali, except that non-potable water may be used if it meets the requirements of **COE CRD-C 400**.

PART 3 EXECUTION

3.1 FINISHING UNFORMED SURFACES

3.1.1 Heavy Duty Floors

3.1.1.1 Curing and Protection

Maintain concrete in a moist condition at temperatures above **10 and below 30 degrees C 50 and below 90 degrees F** and protected against rapid temperature change, mechanical injury, and injury from rain or flowing water, for a curing period of not less than 10 days. Concrete shall be protected from a temperature change greater than **3 degrees C 5 degrees F** per hour and from rapid drying for the first 24 hours following the removal of temperature protection. Begin curing activities as soon as free water has disappeared from the concrete surface after placing and finishing. Curing shall be moist curing accomplished by the following method. Surfaces shall be covered with a double layer of burlap, wetted before placing, and overlapped at least **150 mm 6 inches**. Keep burlap continually wet, in intimate contact with the surface and covered with a polyethylene sheeting at least **0.1 mm 4 mils** thick. All traffic shall be kept from the floor during the curing period and heavy traffic shall be kept off till 28-day age.

3.1.2 Two-Course Floor Construction

NOTE: Where it is anticipated that the surface of a floor slab may be damaged during construction operations, a two-course floor may be specified with the second course applied late in the contract. If the drawings do not indicate areas to receive two-course floor construction, they must be specified here. Delete this subparagraph when two-course floor is not required. Edit bracketed

items.

Maintain concrete in a moist condition at temperatures above 10 and below 30 degrees F 50 and below 90 degrees F, protected against rapid temperature change, mechanical injury, and injury from rain or water, for a curing period of not less than 10 days. Concrete shall be protected from a temperature change greater than 3 degrees C 5 degrees F per hour and from rapid drying for the first 24 hours following the removal of temperature protection. Start curing activities immediately as soon as free water has disappeared from the surface of the concrete after placing and finishing. Curing shall be moist curing accomplished by the following method. Surfaces shall be covered with a double layer of burlap, wetted before placing, and overlapped at least 150 mm 6 inches. Keep burlap continually wet, in intimate contact with the surface, and covered with a polyethylene sheeting at least 0.1 mm 4 mils thick. All traffic shall be kept from the topping during the curing period.

3.2 CURING AND PROTECTION

3.2.1 General

NOTE: Do not allow membrane curing compound on surfaces where appearance is critical or that are maintained at curing temperature with free steam. Moist curing should almost always be permitted.

Concrete shall be cured by an approved method for the period of time given below:

Type III portland cement	3 days
Portland cement when accelerator is used to achieve high early strength, except when fly-ash or GGBF slag is used	3 days
Type I portland cement	7 days
[Type IS] [Type IP] cement	7 days
Portland cement blended with silica fume	7 days
Type II portland cement	14 days
Portland cement blended with 25 percent or less fly-ash or GGBF slag	14 days
Portland cement blended with more than 25 percent fly-ash or GGBF slag	21 days

Immediately after placement, protect concrete from premature drying, extremes in temperatures, rapid temperature change and mechanical injury for the duration of the curing period. Concrete shall be protected from the damaging effects of rain for 12 hours and from flowing water for 14 days [7 days with Type III cement]. No fire or excessive heat including welding shall be permitted near or in direct contact with concrete or concrete embedments at any time. Maintain air and forms in contact with

concrete at a temperature above 10 degrees C 50 degrees F for the first 3 days and at a temperature above 0 degrees C 32 degrees F for the remainder of the specified curing period. Exhaust fumes from combustion heating units shall be vented to the outside of the enclosure, and heaters and ducts shall be placed and directed so as not to cause areas of overheating and drying of concrete surfaces or to create fire hazards. Materials and equipment needed for adequate curing and protection shall be available and at the site prior to placing concrete. No fire or excessive heat, including welding, shall be permitted near or in direct contact with the concrete at any time. Except as otherwise permitted by paragraph Membrane Forming Curing Compounds in PART 2, moist curing shall be provided for any areas to receive floor hardener, any paint or other applied coating, or to which other concrete is to be bonded. Concrete containing silica fume shall be initially cured by fog misting during finishing, followed immediately by continuous moist curing. Except for plastic coated burlap, impervious sheeting alone shall not be used for curing.

3.2.2 Moist Curing

Maintain concrete, to be moist-cured, continuously wet for the entire curing period, commencing immediately after finishing. If water or curing materials used stain or discolor concrete surfaces which are to be permanently exposed, the concrete surfaces shall be cleaned as approved. When wooden forms are left in place during curing, they shall be kept wet at all times. If steel forms are used in hot weather, nonsupporting vertical forms shall be carefully broken loose from the concrete, soon after the concrete hardens, and curing water continuously applied into the void so as to continuously saturate the entire concrete surface. If the forms are removed before the end of the curing period, curing shall be carried out as on unformed surfaces, using suitable materials. Horizontal surfaces shall be cured by ponding, by continuous sprinkling, by continuously saturated burlap or cotton mats, or by continuously saturated plastic coated burlap. Burlap and mats shall be clean and free from any contamination and shall be completely saturated before being placed on the concrete. Provide an approved work system to ensure that moist curing is continuous 24 hours per day. Horizontal construction joints may be allowed to dry for 12 hours immediately prior to the placing of the following lift. Silica fume concrete, if used, shall be moist-cured. Curing of silica fume concrete shall start immediately after placement.

3.2.3 Membrane Forming Curing Compounds

3.2.3.1 Application Restrictions

[Use membrane forming curing compounds only on surfaces in the following areas, [_____]. Concrete in the following areas may be cured with a [pigmented curing compound in lieu of moist curing.] [nonpigmented curing compound containing a fugitive dye in lieu of moist curing]; [_____]. Membrane curing shall not be used on surfaces that are to receive any subsequent treatment depending on adhesion or bonding to the concrete, including surfaces to which a smooth finish is to be applied or other concrete to be bonded.][Concrete may be cured with an approved membrane-forming curing compound in lieu of moist curing except that membrane curing will not be permitted on any surface to which a grout-cleaned finish is to be applied or other concrete is to be bonded, on any surface containing protruding steel reinforcement, on an abrasive aggregate finish.] However, a styrene acrylate or chlorinated rubber compound meeting ASTM C309, Class B requirements, may be used for surfaces which are to be painted or are to receive bituminous roofing or

waterproofing, or floors that are to receive adhesive applications of resilient flooring. The curing compound selected shall be compatible with any subsequent paint, roofing, waterproofing or flooring specified. Membrane curing compound shall not be used on surfaces that are maintained at curing temperatures with free steam.

3.2.3.2 Pigmented Curing Compound

A pigmented curing compound meeting the requirements of the above paragraph may be used on surfaces that will not be exposed to view when the project is completed.

3.2.3.3 Nonpigmented Curing Compound

A nonpigmented curing compound containing a fugitive dye may be used on surfaces that will be exposed to view when the project is completed. Concrete cured with nonpigmented curing compound must be shaded from the sun for the first 3 days when the ambient temperature is 32 degrees C 90 degrees F or higher.

3.2.3.4 Application

Apply the curing compound to formed surfaces immediately after the forms are removed and prior to any patching or other surface treatment except the cleaning of loose sand, mortar, and debris from the surface. The surfaces shall be thoroughly moistened with water, and the curing compound applied as soon as free water disappears. The curing compound shall be applied to unformed surfaces as soon as free water has disappeared and bleeding has stopped. The curing compound shall be applied in a two-coat continuous operation by approved motorized power-spraying equipment operating at a minimum pressure of 500 kPa 75 psi, at a uniform coverage of not more than 10 square meters/L 400 square feet per gallon for each coat, and the second coat shall be applied perpendicular to the first coat. Concrete surfaces that have been subjected to rainfall within 3 hours after curing compound has been applied shall be resprayed by the method and at the coverage specified. All concrete surfaces on which the curing compound has been applied shall be adequately protected for the duration of the entire curing period from pedestrian and vehicular traffic and from any other cause that will disrupt the continuity of the curing membrane.

3.2.4 Impervious Sheeting (Evaporative Retardant)

**NOTE: Use impervious sheeting only for surfaces
that are horizontal or near horizontal. Do not use
on slab surfaces where appearance is critical.**

The following concrete surfaces may be cured using impervious sheets: [____]. However, except for plastic coated burlap, impervious sheeting alone shall not be used for curing. Use impervious-sheet curing only on horizontal or nearly horizontal surfaces. Surfaces shall be thoroughly wetted and be completely covered with the sheeting. Sheeting shall be at least 450 mm 18 inches wider than the concrete surface to be covered. Covering shall be laid with light-colored side up. Covering shall be lapped not less than 300 mm 12 inches and securely weighted down or shall be lapped not less than 100 mm 4 inches and taped to form a continuous cover with completely closed joints. The sheet shall be weighted to prevent displacement so that it remains in contact with the concrete during

the specified length of curing. Coverings shall be folded down over exposed edges of slabs and secured by approved means. Sheets shall be immediately repaired or replaced if tears or holes appear during the curing period.

3.2.5 Ponding or Immersion

Concrete shall be continually immersed throughout the curing period. Water shall not be more than 10 degrees C 20 degrees F less than the temperature of the concrete.

3.2.6 Cold Weather Curing and Protection

When the daily ambient low temperature is less than 0 degrees C 32 degrees F maintain the temperature of the concrete above 5 degrees C 40 degrees F for the first seven days after placing. During the period of protection removal, control the air temperature adjacent to the concrete surfaces so that concrete near the surface will not be subjected to a temperature differential of more than 13 degrees C 25 degrees F as determined by suitable temperature measuring devices furnished by the [Government] [Contractor], as required, and installed adjacent to the concrete surface and 50 mm 2 inches inside the surface of the concrete. Perform the installation of the thermometers as directed.

3.3 TESTING AND INSPECTION FOR CQC

NOTE: For non-critical small projects, less than 1200 cubic meters (1500 cu. yd.) of concrete, the designer may reduce, but not eliminate, the requirements of this paragraph, and edit it appropriately for the project specifications. Otherwise, retain complete.

Perform the inspection and tests described below and, based upon the results of these inspections and tests, take the action required. Submit certified copies of laboratory test reports, including curing compound proposed for use on this project.

3.3.1 Curing Inspection

- a. Moist Curing Inspections. At least once each shift, and not less than twice per day on both work and non-work days, an inspection shall be made of all areas subject to moist curing. The surface moisture condition shall be noted and recorded.
- b. Moist Curing Corrective Action. When a daily inspection report lists an area of inadequate curing, immediate corrective action shall be taken, and the required curing period for those areas shall be extended by 1 day.
- c. Membrane Curing Inspection. No curing compound shall be applied until the Contractor has verified that the compound is properly mixed and ready for spraying. At the end of each operation, estimate the quantity of compound used by measurement of the container and the area of concrete surface covered, compute the rate of coverage in square meters/L square feet/gallon, and note whether or not coverage is uniform.

- d. Membrane Curing Corrective Action. When the coverage rate of the curing compound is less than that specified or when the coverage is not uniform, the entire surface shall be sprayed again.
- e. Sheet Curing Inspection. At least once each shift and once per day on non-work days, an inspection shall be made of all areas being cured using impervious sheets. The condition of the covering and the tightness of the laps and tapes shall be noted and recorded.
- f. Sheet Curing Corrective Action. When a daily inspection report lists any tears, holes, or laps or joints that are not completely closed, the tears and holes shall promptly be repaired or the sheets replaced, the joints closed, and the required curing period for those areas shall be extended by 1 day.

-- End of Section --