Questions and Answers
from Tech Tuesday Webinar on
Not Your grandfather's Concrete
December 16, 2025

Q1 - Matt, great presentation. One thought you might add is that a paving mix that worked in the spring will likely need to be adjusted for a summer placement. (Agency, MI)

ANSWER: Agreed, yes absolutely.

Q2 - While slump alone might not be important, consistency might be important. Perhaps, that can be made up with consistent unit weight and air, or some other measure of consistency. (Agency, ID)

ANSWER: Indeed – slump is a good indicator of consistency; I agree slump is still a great measurement of consistency.

Q3 - Great presentations Peter and Matt! Matt, what is the accuracy of the aggregate moisture probe? (Contractor, FL)

ANSWER: With the optical moisture probes during the verification were usually within 0.1% to 0.3%.

Q4 - We've always used 1.5" NMAS for concrete paving but we are starting to specify the Tarantula curve and it allows for no 1.5" aggregate retained. Are we at Oregon DOT an outlier using 1.5" NMAS for paving? (Agency, OR)

ANSWER: No, you are not an outlier what I usually do when we have a client that wants to use 1.5" stone. I move the 0% retained over to the 2" and this allows for some 1.5" stone in the mix at a reasonable proportion. When I do this, I make sure to follow the fine and coarse sand requirements with the tarantula curve.

Q4 - Matt: Name 5x "Finishing Aids" that you have actually seen work (not cause scaling) on mixes in the 3" – 6" slump range. (Agency, KS)

ANSWER:
Fritz-Pak Control Finish is what we mostly used when I was a contractor. Day1 finishing aid is another popular one. Both of these I would test on your local materials before you decide to use them.

Now as far as not scaling at a 3”-6” slump my first question is water is the actual water cement ratio of these mixes (not what the ticket says but the actual) Also what does the admixture packages look like for these mixes if they are using a IL cement with an average does of a type A water reducer I would question the actual water/cement ratio. If you figure out your actual water cement ratio at the point of placement is .50 to .80 or higher, no matter what they use on the surface I would expect some scaling.