

FLUIDITY CONTROL OF CEMENTITIOUS COMPOSITIONS

This invention relates to fluidity control of cementitious compositions, to admixtures for achieving such control and to cementitious compositions comprising such admixtures.

5 Water-reducing compositions are widely used in cementitious compositions such as concrete to reduce the water content (and thereby increase strength) while maintaining fluidity or "slump" (so that the compositions can flow easily, for example, around complicated formwork). Typical water-reducing agents are the so-called "superplasticisers", for example, β -naphthalene sulphonate-formaldehyde ("BNS") condensates and various polycarboxylate-based materials. One of the problems which
10 water-reducing agents, especially the aforementioned polycarboxylates, can introduce is the entrainment into the cementitious composition of excessive volumes of air. While the presence of some air is harmless and even beneficial, excessive air entrainment leads to reduced strength. Air entrainment can of course be reduced by reducing the concentration of water-reducing agent used, but the desired slump
15 control is then diminished. It has been proposed to use known defoaming agents to counteract excessive aeration, but this has also often proved unsatisfactory, one reason being that a mixture of water-reducing agent and defoaming agent, a commercially desirable package, is usually unstable.

20 It has now been found that it is possible to make an admixture which confers high slump on cementitious compositions, but without excessive aeration. There is therefore provided, according to the present invention, a fluidity-controlling admixture for cementitious compositions, comprising at least one cement-dispersing agent and at least one defoaming agent, characterised in that

(a) the cement-dispersing agent is an aqueous solution of polymer; and

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(b) the defoaming agent is oxyalkylene-based and is either dissolved in the polymer solution or is stably dispersed therein in particles of no more than 20 μ M diameter.

When the defoaming agent is soluble in the aqueous polymer solution, the admixture according to the invention is prepared simply by dissolving the defoaming agent in the solution. When the defoaming agent is not soluble in the solution, it is dispersed such that the disperse particles are no greater than 20 μ M in diameter. It is to be understood here that the use of the word "particle" encompasses not only solid particulate matter (in which case the diameter referred to is the largest dimension of the particle) but also droplets of dispersed liquid, whether of inherently liquid matter or of dissolved solid material.

The particles are stably dispersed in the solution. By "stably dispersed" is meant that when prepared and allowed to stand, a dispersion will remain a dispersion for at least 24 hours. The reason for this is not fully understood, but it is noticeable that a dispersion which does not comply with this requirement does not give such good results in a cementitious composition, even when it is used when it is still a dispersion, for example, immediately upon preparation or shortly thereafter.

Dispersion of an insoluble defoaming agent is achievable in two ways. The first way is simple dispersion of the defoaming agent in the solution so that a dispersion of the appropriate particle size is given. The second way is the dispersion of the defoaming agent in the presence of polymerisable monomer and polymerisation of the monomer to give the polymer. It has been found that dispersions prepared in this second manner give especially good results and are preferred. A further practical advantage is that the achievement of the desired small particle size is more easily achievable. Details of preferred monomer compositions are given hereinunder.

The polymer for use in this invention may be any polymer which is water-soluble and which is a water-reducing agent or a cement-dispersing agent. However, it has been found that certain polymers give especially good results. Thus, in a preferred admixture, the polymer comprises a main component which is selected from at least



one of

(A) a copolymer obtained by polymerising a monomer mixture which comprises an unsaturated carboxylic acid monomer;

(B) the neutralised salt of (A); and

5 (C) the polymer obtained by crosslinking (A) and/or (B) by means of a crosslinking agent.

In a preferred embodiment, the monomer mixture comprises from 5-98% by weight of an alkylene glycol mono(meth)acrylic acid ester monomer (a) of the formula I



wherein R^1 and R^2 are independently hydrogen or methyl, R^3 is an alkylene group of from 2-4 carbon atoms, R^4 is hydrogen or an alkyl group of 1 to 22 carbon atoms, and m represents an integer of 1 to 100, and 2 to 95% by weight of a (meth)acrylic acid
15 base monomer (b) of the formula (II)



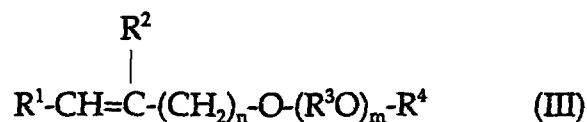
wherein R^1 and R^2 have the abovementioned significances, and M^1 is hydrogen,
20 monovalent metal, divalent metal, ammonium group or an organic amine group, and 0 to 50% by weight of a monomer (c) capable of being copolymerized with these monomers provided that the sum of (a), (b) and (c) shall be 100% by weight.

In a further embodiment of the invention, said monomer mixture comprises from 5-98% by weight of an alkoxyalkylene glycol mono(meth)allyl ether base monomer
25 (d) of the formula (III);

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wherein R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , R^4 and m are as hereinabove defined and n is 0 or 1, and 2 to 95%
 5 by weight of a (meth)acrylic acid base monomer (b) of the formula (IV)



wherein X and Y are independently selected from hydrogen, methyl and $-\text{COOM}^3$,
 10 or X or Y together with $-\text{COOM}^2$ form an anhydride ring, Z is selected from
 $-\text{CH}_2\text{COOM}^3$, hydrogen or methyl and M^2 and M^3 are independently selected from
 the significances of M^1 given hereinabove, an alkyl group of 1-20 carbon atoms, an
 alkylene glycol of 2-4 carbon atoms and a polyalkylene glycol of from 2-100 mols of
 a glycol adduct, provided that at least one of M^2 , M^3 is selected from hydrogen,
 15 monovalent metal, divalent metal, ammonium group and an organic amine group;
 and from 0-50% by weight of monomer (f) capable of copolymerisation with (d) and
 (e), (d)+(e)+(f) being 100% by weight.

In a further preferred embodiment, said monomer mixture comprises from 5-98% by
 weight of at least one α -olefinic monomer (g) having from 2-12 carbon atoms, from
 20 2-95% by weight of an ethylenically unsaturated dicarboxylic acid anhydride base
 monomer (h) and from 0-50% by weight of monomer (i) copolymerisable with (g) and
 (h), (g)+(h)+(i) being 100% by weight.

Polycarboxylic acid base is a general name of a cement-dispersing agent which
 contains as a main component a copolymer (A) obtained by polymerising a monomer
 25 mixture containing an unsaturated carboxylic acid base monomer as an essential
 component and/or a copolymer (B) obtained by further neutralizing the copolymer
 (A) with an alkaline substance and/or a cross-linked copolymer (C) obtained by post
 cross-linking the copolymer (A) by using a cross-linking agent. The unsaturated



carboxylic acid monomer may include unsaturated monocarboxylic acid such as (meth)acrylic acid and monovalent metal salt, divalent metal salt, ammonium salt and an organic amine salt thereof; an unsaturated dicarboxylic acid such as maleic acid, fumaric acid, citraconic acid, itaconic acid, etc. and monovalent metal salt, divalent metal salt, ammonium salt, an organic amine salt, anhydride thereof or a monoester of these acids with an aliphatic alcohol having 1 to 20 carbon atoms or a glycol having 2 to 4 carbon atoms or a polyalkylene glycol having 2 to 100 addition mol number. One or more of these can be used.

Further preferable monomer mixtures comprise a mixture containing 5 to 98%, preferably 50 to 97%, by weight of an alkylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate (a) designated by the abovementioned general formula (I), 2 to 95% by weight, preferably 3 to 50% by weight of a (meth)acrylate base monomer (b) designated by the abovementioned formula (II) and 0 to 50% by weight, preferably 0 to 30% by weight of monomer (c) capable of being copolymerized with these monomers, provided that the sum of (a), (b) and (c) is 100% by weight; a mixture containing 5 to 98% by weight, preferably 50 to 97% by weight of an (alkoxy)polyalkylene glycol mono(meth)allyl ether base monomer (d) designated by the abovementioned general formula (III), 2 to 95% by weight, preferably 3 to 50% by weight of an unsaturated carboxylic acid base monomer (e) designated by the above mentioned general formula (IV), and 0 to 50% by weight, preferably 0 to 30% by weight of monomer (f) capable of being copolymerized with these monomers, provided that the sum of (d), (e), and (f) is 100% by weight; and a mixture of 5 to 98% by weight, preferably 10 to 70% by weight of an α -olefinic monomer (g) having 2 to 12 carbon atoms, 2 to 95% by weight, preferably 30 to 90% by weight of an ethylenically unsaturated dicarboxylic acid anhydride base monomer (h), and 0 to 50% by weight, preferably 0 to 30% by weight of monomer (i) capable of being copolymerized with these monomers, provided that the sum of (g), (h) and (i) is 100% by weight.

Examples of monomer (a) include hydroxyethyl (meth)acrylate, hydroxypropyl (meth)acrylate, polyethylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate, polypropylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate, polybutylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate, polyethylene glycol



polypropylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate, polyethylene glycol polybutylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate, polypropylene glycol polybutylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate, polyethylene glycol polypropylene glycol polybutylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate, methoxy polyethylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate, methoxy polypropylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate, methoxy polybutylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate, methoxy polybutylene glycol mono(meth)-acrylate, methoxy polyethylene glycol polypropylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate, methoxy polyethylene glycol polybutylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate, methoxy polypropylene glycol polybutylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate, methoxy propylene glycol polypropylene glycol polybutylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate, ethoxypolyethylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate, ethoxypolypropylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate, ethoxypolybutylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate, ethoxypolyethylene glycol polypropylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate, ethoxypolyethylene glycol polybutylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate, ethoxypolypropylene glycol polybutylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate and ethoxypolyethylene glycol polypropylene glycol polybutylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate. More than one such monomer may be used.

Suitable examples of monomer (b) include acrylic and methacrylic acids and their monovalent metal salts, divalent metal salts, ammonium salts and organic amine salts. More than one such monomer may be used.

The monomer (c) is a monomer capable of copolymerization with the monomers (a) and (b). Examples of monomer (c) include esters of aliphatic alcohols of 1 to 20 carbons with (meth)acrylic acid unsaturated dicarboxylic acids of maleic acid, fumaric acid, citraconic acid, etc., or monoesters or diesters of these acids with aliphatic alcohols of 1 to 20 carbons or glycols of 2 to 4 carbons, or polyalkylene glycols of added mol number 2 to 100 of these glycols, unsaturated amides such as (meth)acrylamide and (meth)acryl alkylamide, vinyl esters such as vinyl acetate and vinyl propionate, aromatic vinyls such as styrene, unsaturated sulfonates such as vinyl sulfonates, (meth)allylsulfonic acid, sulfoethyl(meth)acrylate, 2-(meth)-acrylamido-2-methylpropane sulfonic acid and styrene sulfonate, and their monovalent metal salts, divalent metal salts, ammonium salts and organic amine salts.

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ether, ethoxypolybutylene glycol monocrotyl ether, ethoxypolybutylene glycol monocrotyl ether, ethoxypolyethylene glycol polypropylene glycol monocrotyl ether, ethoxypolyethylene glycol polybutylene glycol monocrotyl ether, ethoxypolypropylene glycol polybutylene glycol monocrotyl ether, ethoxypolypropylene glycol polybutylene glycol monocrotyl ether, and ethoxypolyethylene glycol polypropylene glycol polybutylene glycol monocrotyl ether. More than one of these monomers may be used.

Examples of the monomer (e) include an unsaturated monocarboxylic acid and monovalent metal salt, divalent metal salt, ammonium salt and an organic amine salt thereof, e.g. acrylic acid and methacrylic acid; an unsaturated dicarboxylic acid and monovalent metal salt, divalent metal salt, ammonium salt, an organic amine salt and anhydride thereof, e.g., maleic acid, fumaric acid, citraconic acid and itaconic acid; or a monoester of these acids with an aliphatic alcohol having 1 to 20 carbon atoms or glycol having 2 to 4 carbon atoms or a polyalkylene glycol having 2 to 100 mols of these glycols. More than one of these monomers may be used.

Examples of the monomer (f) include ester of an aliphatic alcohol having 1 to 20 carbon atoms and acrylic acid, and a diester of an unsaturated dicarboxylic acid such as maleic acid, fumaric acid and citraconic acid acids with an aliphatic alcohol having 1 to 20 carbon atoms or glycol having 2 to 4 carbon atoms or a polyalkylene glycol having 2 to 4 carbon atoms or a polyalkylene glycol having 1 to 100 mols of these glycols; an unsaturated amide such as (meth)acrylamide and (meth)acryl alkylamide, a vinyl ester such as vinyl acetate and vinyl propionate; an aromatic vinyl such as styrene; an unsaturated sulfonic acid such as vinyl sulfonic acid, (meth)allyl sulfonic acid, sulfoethyl (meth)acrylate, 2-(meth)acrylamide-2-methylpropane sulfonic acid and styrene sulfonic acid and monovalent metal salt, divalent metal salt, ammonium salt and an organic amine salt thereof. More than one of these monomers may be used.

The monomer (g) may be an unsaturated hydrocarbon having 2 to 12 carbon atoms, and examples of the monomer (g) include ethylene, propylene, 1-butene, 2-butene, isobutylene, n-pentene, isoprene, 2-methyl-1-butene, n-hexane, 2-methyl-1-pentene,

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3-methyl-1-pentene, 4-methyl-1-pentene, 2-ethyl-1-butene, diisobutylene, 1,3-butadiene, 1,3-pentadiene, 1,3-hexadiene, 1,3-octadiene, 2-methyl-4-dimethyl-1-pentene, 2-methyl-4-dimethyl-2-pentene. Isobutylene also means return BB containing isobutylene. Preferably α -olefin having 2 to 8 carbon atoms, especially α -olefin having 4 to 5 carbon atoms is used. More than one kind of these monomers may be used.

Examples of the monomer (h) include maleic anhydride, itaconic anhydride, citraconic anhydride and mesaconic anhydride. Maleic anhydride is the preferred monomer because of its reactivity, quality and lower cost. More than one such monomer may be used.

Examples of the monomer (i) include (meth)acrylic acid and monovalent metal salt, divalent metal salt, ammonium salt, and an organic amine salt thereof; an ester of an aliphatic alcohol having 1 to 20 carbon atoms with (meth)acrylic acid; an unsaturated dicarboxylic acid such as maleic acid, fumaric acid and citraconic acid, and mono- or diester of these acids with an aliphatic alcohol having 1 to 20 carbon atoms or glycol having 2 to 4 carbon atoms or a polyalkylene glycol having 2 to 100 mols of these glycols; unsaturated amide such as (meth)acrylamide and (meth)acryl alkylamide; a vinyl ester such as vinyl acetate and vinyl propionate; and aromatic vinyl such as styrene; an unsaturated sulfonic acid such as vinyl sulfonic acid, (meth)allyl sulfonic acid, sulfoethyl (meth)acrylate, 2-(meth)acrylamide-2-methylpropane sulfonic acid and styrene sulfonic acid and monovalent metal salt, divalent metal salt, ammonium salt, and an organic amine salt thereof. More than one such monomer may be used.

Examples of suitable defoaming agents include polyoxyalkylenes such as (poly)oxyethylene (poly)oxypropylene (poly)oxyalkylene alkyl ethers such as diethylene glycol heptyl ether, polyoxyethylene oleyl ether, polyoxypropylene butyl ether, polyoxyethylene polyoxypropylene-2-ethyl hexyl ether, and oxyethylene oxypropylene adducts of high alcohols of 12 to 14 carbons; polyoxyalkylene (alkyl)aryl ethers such as polyoxypropylene phenyl ether and polyoxyethylene nonylphenyl ether; acetylene ethers of alkylene oxide additional polymerized with acetylene alcohols such as 2,4,7,9-tetramethyl-5-decyn-4,7-diol, 2,5-dimethyl-3-hexyn-

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acetylene alcohols such as 2,4,7,9-tetramethyl-5-decyn-4,7-diol, 2,5-dimethyl-3-hexyn-2,5-diol, 3-methyl-1-butyn-3-ol; (poly)oxyalkylene aliphatic acid esters such as diethylene glycol oleic acid ester and ethylene glycol distearic acid ester; (poly)oxyalkylene sorbitan aliphatic acid esters such as polyoxyethylene sorbitan monolauric acid ester, and polyoxyethylene sorbitan trioleic acid ester; (poly)oxyalkylene alkyl (aryl)ether sulfuric acid esters such as polyoxypropylene methyl ester sodium sulfate and polyoxyethylene dodecyl phenol ether sodium sulfate; (poly)oxyalkylene alkyl phosphates such as (poly)oxyethylene stearyl phosphates; and (poly)oxyalkylene alkylamines such as polyoxyethylene laurylamine.

More than one kind of these may be used.

The copolymer (A) is obtained by polymerization of a monomer mixture containing an unsaturated carboxylic acid base monomer as hereinabove described. As previously mentioned, this is preferably carried out in the presence of the defoaming agent. The proportion of the unsaturated carboxylic acid base monomer in the mixture is from 2 to 95% by weight; it is essential that this range be adhered to, otherwise the advantages of the present invention are not given. The proportion is preferably from 50 to 95% by weight, and more preferably from 3-50% in the cases of (a),(b),(c) and (c),(d),(e), and from 30-90% in the case of (g),(h),(i).

To manufacture the copolymer (A), the abovementioned monomer mixture is copolymerized in, when required, the presence of the abovementioned defoaming agent using a polymerization initiator. The quantity of defoaming agent to be used is in the range of 0.01 to 10 weight percent of the monomer mixture, preferably 0.05 to 5 weight percent. When less than 0.01 weight percent of defoaming agent is used, adjustment of entrained air content of the cement mixture is difficult and a cement mixture of stable strength cannot be obtained. When the quantity of defoaming agent used exceeds 10 weight percent, the performance of the admixture obtained is reduced and a cement mixture of good fluidity cannot be obtained.

The copolymer (A) may be synthesised by known methods such as solution polymerization or bulk polymerization.

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polymerization or bulk polymerization.

Solution polymerization may be done by a batch or a continuous process. Solvents which may be used include water, alcohols such as methyl alcohol, ethyl alcohol and isopropyl alcohol, aromatic or aliphatic hydrocarbons such as benzene, toluene, xylene, cyclohexane, and n-hexane and ketone compounds such as acetone and methyl ethyl ketone. For solubility of both the monomers and the resultant copolymer (A), it is desirable to use at least 1 solvent selected from the group consisting of water and lower alcohols of 1 to 4 carbon atoms. Methyl, ethyl and isopropyl alcohols are especially effective alcohols.

- 10 When the polymerization is carried out in an aqueous liquid, water-soluble polymerization initiators such as ammonium persulfate, sodium persulfate, hydrogen peroxide and azoamidine compounds such as azobis-2-methyl propionamide hydrochloric acid salt may be used. Accelerators such as sodium hydrogen sulfite may be used in combination with these initiators. Further, in polymerization with
- 15 a lower alcohol, an aromatic hydrocarbon, an aliphatic hydrocarbon, an ester compound or a ketone compound as the solvent, peroxides such as benzoyl peroxide and lauroyl peroxide; hydroperoxides such as cumene hydroperoxide; and azo compounds such as 2,2'-azo-bis-isobutyronitrile may be used as polymerization initiators. In this case, it is possible to use accelerators such as amine compounds in
- 20 combination. Further, in the event of using a water-lower alcohol solvent mixture, one of the various polymerization initiators or combinations of polymerization initiator and accelerator may be selected as suited and used. The polymerization temperature may be selected as required according to the solvent and polymerization initiator, but normally, the polymerization is carried out in the range of 0° to 120°C.
- 25 Bulk polymerization is carried out using peroxides such as benzoyl peroxide and lauroyl peroxide, hydroperoxides such as cumene hydroperoxide and aliphatic azo compounds such as 2,2'-azo-bis-isobutyronitrile as polymerization initiators and in a temperatures range of 50 to 200°C.

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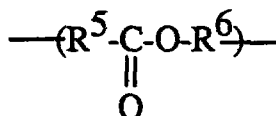


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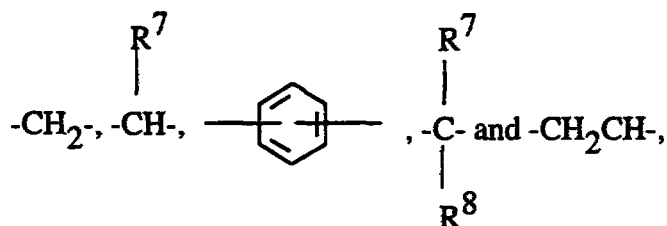
The copolymer (A) obtained in this manner can be used as prepared as the main ingredient of a fluidity-controlling admixture according to the invention. The copolymer (B) obtained by further neutralizing copolymer (A) with an alkaline substance as necessary may also be thus used, as may a crosslinked copolymer (C).

- 5 Alkaline substances particularly suitable for neutralisation include hydroxides of monovalent metals and divalent metals, inorganic salts of sulfates and carbonates ammonia and organic amines.

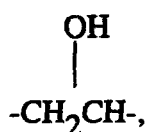
Further, although the cross-linking agent may be selected from any suitable crosslinked agent capable of reactions with a functional group such as carboxyl
 .0 group, hydroxyl group, amino group, sulfonic acid group, etc. contained in the copolymer (A), a cross-linking agent which has at least one divalent group designated by the following general formula (V)



wherein R^5 and R^6 are independently selected from the group consisting of



wherein R^6 is



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R^5 may be unnecessary, and R^7 and R^8 are independently alkyl group of 1 to 5 carbon atoms, as a structural unit and/or can be formed is preferable. Examples of these cross-linking agents include polyvalent glycidyl compounds such as ethylene glycol diglycidyl ether, polyethylene glycol diglycidyl ether, glycerol polyglycidyl ether, diglycerol diglycidyl ether, polyglycerol polyglycidyl ether, sorbitol polyglycidyl ether, pentaerythritol polyglycidyl ether, propylene glycol diglycidyl ether, polypropylene glycol diglycidyl ether, resorcin diglycidyl ether, 1,6-hexanediol diglycidyl ether, adipic acid diglycidyl ester, *s*-phthalic acid diglycidyl ester, etc.

It is desirable that the weight average molecular weight (hereinafter " M_w ") of copolymer (A) (either as such or as the raw material of copolymer (C)) and copolymer (B) lie in the range of 500 to 500,000. When the monomer mixture comprises monomers (a), (b) and (c), M_w lies preferably in the range of 5,000-500,000, when the mixture comprises monomers (d), (e) and (f) or monomers (g), (h) and (i), it lies preferably in the range 500-100,000. If M_w is less than 500, the water-reducing capability and slump loss prevention capability of the cement dispersing agent are reduced. When M_w exceeds 500,000, the water-reducing capability of the cement dispersing agent is reduced.

The copolymer (A) and/or the copolymer (B) and/or the crosslinked copolymer (C) may be used as a cement dispersing agent in an admixture according to the invention in the form of an aqueous solution or an aqueous emulsion and the air-entraining property in a cementitious mixture such as concrete may be adjusted arbitrarily by suitably adjusting the variety and/or dosage of the defoaming agent used. Further, with (A) and/or (B) and/or (C) as main ingredient, it is permissible to use the admixture according to the invention in combination with another known admixtures. Examples of such cement admixtures include conventional cement dispersing agents, air-entraining agents, cement wetting agents, expansion agents, waterproofing agents, retarding agents, quick-setting agents, water-soluble polymeric substances, thickeners, coagulants, drying shrinkage reducing agents, strength increasing agents and hardening accelerators.



The admixture of the invention may be used with hydraulic cements such as portland cement, high alumina cement and various blended cements or hydraulic materials other than cement, such as gypsum.

5 The admixture of this invention gives excellent performance even when relatively small quantities compared with conventional dispersing agents are used. For example, when used in mortars or concretes containing hydraulic cement, quantities used are typically from 0.01 to 1.0%, preferably from 0.02 to 0.5% by weight of cement. Various desirable effects such as increase in slump, reduction in unit water content, increase in strength and improvement in durability are brought about by such
0 addition. With less than 0.01% addition, the performance is inadequate, whereas, when a large quantity in excess of 1.0% is used, the results are no better and costs more. It has the additional advantage of long shelf stability.

15 The invention therefore also provides a process of modifying the fluidity of a cementitious composition, comprising the incorporation into the composition of an admixture as hereinabove described. The use of an admixture as hereinabove described to modify the fluidity of a cementitious composition is also provided.

The invention is further described with reference to the following examples. In the examples, unless otherwise stated, "percent" and "part" shall indicate "weight percent" and "part by weight" respectively.

20 **Example 1 for manufacturing Admixture No. 1**

1695 parts of water is introduced in a glass reaction vessel equipped with a thermometer, a stirrer, a dropping funnel, a nitrogen introduction tube, and a reflux condenser, and the interior of the reaction vessel is purged with nitrogen while stirring and heating to 95°C is carried out under a nitrogen atmosphere. An aqueous
25 solution of monomer comprising 750 parts of methoxy polyethylene glycol monomethacrylate (average mol addition number of ethylene oxide, 10), 250 parts of

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methacrylic acid, 7 parts of "Pluronic" (trade mark) L-64 (polyoxyethylene-polyoxypropylene adduct manufactured by Asahi Denka Kogyo KK) as oxyalkylene base defoaming agent, and 1500 parts of water, and 672 parts of a 5% ammonium persulfate aqueous solution is then drip-fed for 4 hours, and after completion of dropping, 168 parts of 5% ammonium persulfate is further drip-fed for 1 hour. The temperature is then maintained at 95°C for 1 hour to complete the polymerization reaction. An admixture of the present invention comprising an aqueous solution of a copolymer of Mw 35,000 is obtained.

Examples 2 to 5 for Manufacturing Admixtures Nos. (2) to (5).

Admixtures (2) to (5) of the present invention comprising the copolymer (A) manufactured by operations similar to those in Example 1 are summarized in Tables 1 and 2.

Example 6 for manufacturing Admixture No. 6.

349.6 parts of water, 1648 parts of polyethylene glycol monoallyl ether (average mol addition number of ethylene oxide, 5) and 23.2 parts of oxyethylene oxypropylene adduct to C₁₂-C₁₄ alcohols as oxyalkylene base defoaming agent in a glass reaction vessel equipped with a thermometer, a stirrer, a dropping funnel, a nitrogen introduction tube and a reflux condenser, and the interior of the reaction vessel is purged with nitrogen while stirring, and heating was carried out to 95°C under a nitrogen atmosphere. A monomer/polymerization initiator mixture aqueous solution comprising 687 parts of maleic acid, 1030 parts of water and 57.2 parts of 5% ammonium persulfate aqueous solution is then drip-fed for 2 hours, and after completion of dropping, 527 parts of 5% ammonium persulfate aqueous solution is dropped for 1 hour. The temperature is then maintained at 95°C to complete the polymerization reaction. The result is an admixture (6) of the present invention comprising an aqueous solution of a copolymer of average molecular weight of 6,000.

Example 7 for manufacturing Admixture (7)

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Admixture (7) of the present invention is obtained by drip-feeding 185 parts of 50% NaOH aqueous solution into the admixture (1) obtained in Example 1, this bringing it to pH 8.

Examples 8 to 21 for manufacturing Admixtures Nos. (8)-(21).

- 5 Admixtures (8) to (21) comprising the copolymer (B) of the present invention obtained in a similar method to Example 7 are summarized in Tables 3 and 4.

Examples 22 for manufacturing Admixture No. (22)

- 10 5000 parts of 20% admixture aqueous solution (solids content: 1000 parts) obtained in Example 1 is introduced into a glass reaction vessel equipped with a thermometer, a stirrer, a nitrogen introduction tube and a reflux condenser, and heating to 95°C is carried out. 35 parts of o-phthalic acid diglycidyl ester is then added. The temperature is maintained at 95°C for 3 hours to complete the cross-linking reaction and the result is admixture (22) comprising a cross-linked copolymer aqueous solution.

Examples 23 to 25 for manufacturing Admixtures No. (23) to (25).

- 15 Admixtures Nos. (23) to (25) of the present invention comprising the cross-linked copolymer (C) of the present invention manufactured by a similar method to Example 22 are summarized in Table 5.

Example 26 for manufacturing Admixture No. (26)

- 20 420 Parts of 1-hexane, 490 parts of maleic anhydride, 9.1 parts of oxyethylene oxypropylene adduct of C₁₂-C₁₄ alcohols, 27 parts of azobisisobutyronitrile and 2730 parts of toluene are introduced in a glass reaction vessel equipped with a thermometer, a stirrer, a dropping funnel, a nitrogen introduction tube and a reflux condenser, and the interior is purged with nitrogen under stirring. After reacting at 80°C for 7 hours under nitrogen atmosphere, and precipitated while polymer was

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collected and dried. 2500 Parts of 10% aqueous sodium hydroxide solution is added into 644 parts of the copolymer thus obtained and heated at 90°C under stirring to obtain an admixture (26) of the present invention comprising a copolymer of average molecular weight of 6100.

5 Examples 27 to 28 for manufacturing Admixtures Nos. (27) to (28)

Admixtures (27) to (28) of the present invention comprising the copolymer (B) of the present invention manufactured by a similar method to Example 26 are summarized in Table 6.

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Table 1

Example	Admixture No.	Reaction composition : numerals in brackets are parts by weight			
		charged solvent	unsaturated carboxylic acid base monomer	other monomer	other monomer
1	(1)	water [1695.0]	MAA [250.0]	MPEGMMA (n=10) [750.0]	
2	(2)	water [1695.0]	AA [200.0]	PEGMA (n=25) [800.0]	
3	(3)	water [1315.0]	MAA [250.0]	MPEGMMA (n=25) [740.0]	methyl methacrylate
4	(4)	water [1695.0]	MAA [300.0]	PEGMME (n=25) [700.0]	
5	(5)	water [1800.0]	TEGMM [369.6]	PEGMAE (n=25) [630.4]	
6	(6)	water [349.6]	MA [687.0]	PEGMAE (n=25) [1648.0]	

MAA : methacrylic acid
 AA : acrylic acid
 TEGMM : tetraethylene glycol monomaleate
 MA : maleic acid
 MPEGMMA : methoxy polyethylene glycol monomethacrylate
 PEGMA : polyethylene glycol monoacrylate
 PEGMME : polyethylene glycol monomethallyl ether
 PEGMAE : polyethylene glycol monoallyl ether

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Table 2

Example	Reaction composition : numerals in brackets are parts by weight		reaction temperature (°C)	molecular weight
	defoaming agent (II)	polymerization initiator		
1	Pluronic L-64 a) [7.0]	ammonium persulfate [20.0]	95	35000
2	polyethylene glycol polypropylene glycol nonyl phenyl ether [5.0]	azobis-2-methyl propionimidine hydrochloride [20.0]	80	38000
3	oxyethylene oxypropylene adduct of C12 - C14 alcohols [1.0]	ammonium persulfate [40.0]	95	23000
4	Surfynol 440 b) [7.0]	ammonium persulfate [20.0]	95	30000
5	polyethylene glycol polypropylene glycol nonyl phenyl ether [5.0]	ammonium persulfate [15.0]	95	10000
6	oxyethylene oxypropylene adduct of C12 - C14 alcohols [23.2]	ammonium persulfate [85.8]	95	6000

- a) polyoxyethylene polyoxypropylene adduct (Asahi Denka K.K.)
 b) acetylene alcohol polyoxyethylene adduct (Nisshin Kagaku Kogyo K.K.)
 c) Monomer mixture is added in 40 % aqueous solution and polymerization initiator is added in 5 % aqueous solution.

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Table 3

Example	Admixture No.	Reaction composition : numerals in brackets are parts by weight			
		charged solvent	unsaturated carboxylic acid base monomer	other monomer	other monomer
7	(7)	water [1695.0]	MAA [250.0]	MPEGMMA (n=10) [750.0]	
8	(8)	water [2838.0]	MAA [239.0]	MPEGMMA (n=25) [1200.0]	
9	(9)	water [2838.0]	MAA [239.0]	MPEGMMA (n=25) [1200.0]	
10	(10)	water [2931.0]	MAA [239.0]	MPEGMMA (n=50) [1200.0]	
11	(11)	water [3158.0]	MAA [239.0]	MPEGMMA (n=50) [1200.0]	
12	(12)	water [3077.0]	MAA [177.0]	MPEGMMA (n=50) [1262.0]	
13	(13)	water [2972.0]	MAA [239.0]	MPEGMMA (n=75) [1200.0]	
14	(14)	water [3334.0]	SA [288.0]	MPEGMMA (n=50) [1151.0]	
15	(15)	water [2195.0]	MAA [239.0]	PEGMMA (n=5) [1200.0]	
16	(16)	water [2823.0]	MAA [239.0]	MPEGMMA (n=50) [1080.0]	sodium sulfo-ethacrylate [120.0]
17	(17)	water [2924.0]	MAA [215.0]	MPEGMMA (n=50) [1200.0]	methyl acrylate [24.0]
18	(18)	water [1695.0]	MAA [250.0]	MPEGMMA (n=10) [750.0]	
19	(19)	water [1695.0]	MAA [300.0]	PEGMAE (n=25) [700.0]	
20	(20)	water [1695.0]	MAA [300.0]	PEGMAE (n=25) [700.0]	
21	(21)	water [349.6]	MA [687.0]	PEGMAE (n=5) [1648.0]	

MAA : methacrylic acid
 SA : sodium acrylate
 MA : maleic acid
 MPEGMMA : methoxy polyethylene glycol monomethacrylate
 PEGMMA : polyethylene glycol monomethacrylate
 PEGMAE : polyethylene glycol monoallyl ether

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Table 4

Example	Reaction composition : numerals in brackets are parts by weight		reaction temperature (°C)	alkaline substance	pH	molecular weight
	defoaming agent (II)	polymerization initiator				
7	Pluronic L-64 a) [7.0]	APS [20.0]	95	50% NaOH	8.0	36000
8	Pluronic L-64 a) [7.0]	APS [38.0]	95	50% NaOH	8.0	40000
9	Pluronic L-64 a) [1.4]	APS [38.0]	95	50% NaOH	8.0	39000
10	oxyethylene oxypropylene adduct of C ₁₂ - C ₁₄ alcohols [14.0]	APS [33.0]	95	50% NaOH	8.1	37000
11	polyoxyethylene polyoxypropylene nonyl phenyl ether [7.0]	APS [22.0]	95	50% NaOH	8.5	113000
12	surfynol 440 b) [7.0]	APS [26.1]	95	50% NaOH	7.7	53000
13	polyoxyethylene polyoxypropylene oleate [7.0]	APS [31.3]	95	50% NaOH	7.6	34000
14	polyoxyethylene polyoxypropylene sorbitan monolaurate [21.0]	APS [12.5]	95	50% NaOH	8.0	16000
15	polyoxypropylene dodecyl benzene sulfonate [21.0]	APS [69.5]	95	50% NaOH	8.0	78000
16	polyoxyethylene stearate [21.0]	APS [38.0]	95	50% NaOH	7.9	19000
17	polyoxyethylene laurylamine [21.0]	APS [33.0]	95	50% NaOH	8.1	32000
18	Pluronic L-64 a) [7.0]	APS [20.0]	95	30% Ca(OH) ₂	7.5	35000
19	surfynol 440 b) [7.0]	APS [20.0]	95	50% NaOH	7.1	30000
20	surfynol 440 b) [7.0]	APS [20.0]	95	TEA	7.1	30000
21	oxyethylene oxypropylene adduct of C ₁₂ - C ₁₄ alcohols [23.2]	APS [85.8]	95	50% NaOH	7.8	6000

- a) polyoxyethylene polyoxypropylene adduct (Asahi Denka K.K.)
 b) acetylene alcohol polyoxyethylene adduct (Nisshin Kagaku Kogyo K.K.)
 c) Monomer mixture is added in 40 % aqueous solution and polymerization initiator is added in 5 % aqueous solution.

APS : ammonium persulfate
 TEA : triethanolamine

Table 5

Example	Admixture No.	Reaction composition : numerals in brackets are parts by weight		Reaction temperature (°C)	Molecular weight after cross-linking
		copolymer (A)	cross-linking agent		
22	(22)	Admixture No. (Nw; 35000)	o-phthalic acid diglycidyl ester	95	220000
23	(23)	Admixture No. (1) [Nw;35000]	polyethylene glycol diglycidyl ether (n=9)	95	300000
24	(24)	Admixture No. (4) [Nw;38000]	1,6-hexanediol diglycidyl ether	95	200000
25	(25)	Admixture No. (6) [Nw;6000]	adipic acid diglycidyl ester	95	150000

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Table 6

Example	Cement dispersing agent	Reaction composition : numerals in brackets are parts by weight			
		charged solvent	unsaturated carboxylic acid base monomer	other monomer	other monomer
26	(26)	toluene [2730]	maleic anhydride [490]	1-hexene [420]	
27	(27)	methyl ethyl ketone [2571]	maleic anhydride [686]	isobutylene [364]	styrene [52]
28	(28)	toluene [2745]	maleic anhydride [147]	methoxy-polyethylene glycol allyl ether [768]	
Example	Reaction composition : numerals in brackets are parts by weight			reaction temperature (°C)	molecular weight
	defoaming agent (II)		polymerization initiator		
26	oxyethylene oxypropylene adduct of C ₁₂ - C ₁₄ alcohols [9.1]		AIBN [27.0]	80	5200
27	polyoxyethylene laurylamine [5.5]		AIBN [10.0]	80	6000
28	polyoxyethylene polyoxypropylene adduct [6.4]		butyl peroxide [10.0]	90	9000

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Control 1 for manufacturing Comparison Admixture (1)

1695 Parts of water is introduced into a glass reaction vessel equipped with a thermometer, a stirrer, a dropping funnel, a nitrogen introduction tube, and a reflux condenser, and the interior of the reaction vessel is purged with nitrogen while stirring, and the mixture is heated to 95°C under a nitrogen atmosphere. A monomer aqueous solution comprising 800 parts of methoxy polyethylene glycol monomethacrylate (average mol addition number of ethylene oxide, 10) 200 parts of methacrylic acid, and 1500 parts of water, and 672 parts of a 5% ammonium persulfate aqueous solution are respectively drip-fed for 4 hours, and after completion of feeding, 168 parts of 5% ammonium persulfate is added over a period of 1 hour. The temperature is maintained for 1 hour at 95°C to complete a polymerization reaction. A comparison admixture (1) comprising an aqueous solution of a copolymer of average molecular weight of 35,000 is obtained.

Control 2 for manufacturing Comparison Admixture No. (2)

1695 parts of water is introduced into a glass reaction vessel equipped with a thermometer, a stirrer, a dropping funnel, a nitrogen introduction tube, and a reflux condenser, and the interior of the reaction vessel is purged with nitrogen while stirring, and the mixture is heated to 95°C under a nitrogen atmosphere. A monomer aqueous solution comprising 800 parts of methoxy polyethylene glycol monomethacrylate (average mol addition number of ethylene oxide, 10), 200 parts of methacrylic acid, 0.005 parts of "Pluronic" L-64 (polyoxyethylene-polyoxypropylene adduct) as oxyalkylene base defoaming agent, and 1500 parts of water, and 672 parts of a 5% ammonium persulfate aqueous solution are respectively dip-fed for 4 hours, and after completion of feeding, 168 parts of 5% ammonium persulfate is added over a period at 1 hour. The temperature is maintained at 95°C for 1 hour to complete a polymerization reaction. A comparison admixture (2) comprising an aqueous solution of a copolymer of M_w 35,000 is obtained.

Control 3 for manufacturing Admixture No. (3)

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To 100 parts of comparison admixture No. (1) obtained in Control 1, 0.1 part of polyoxyethylene polyoxypropylene nonyl phenyl ether as a polyoxyalkylene base defoaming agent is added to obtain a comparison cement dispersing agent (3).

Control 4 for manufacturing Comparison Admixture No. (4)

5 349.6 parts of water and 1648 parts of polyethylene glycol monoallyl ether (average
mol addition number of ethylene oxide, 5) are introduced into a glass reaction vessel
equipped with a thermometer, a stirrer, a dropping funnel, a nitrogen introduction
tube and a reflux condenser, and the interior of the reaction vessel is purged with
10 nitrogen while stirring, and the mixture is heated to 95°C under a nitrogen
atmosphere. A monomer/polymerization initiator mixture aqueous solution
comprising 687 parts of maleic acid, 1030 parts of water and 57.2 parts of ammonium
persulfate is dip-fed for 2 hours. After completion of feeding, 527 parts of 5%
ammonium persulfate aqueous solution is added over a period of 1 hour. The
15 temperature is maintained at 95°C for 1 further hour to complete the polymerization
reaction. A comparison admixture (4) comprising an aqueous solution of a copolymer
of Mw 6,000 is obtained.

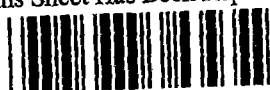
Control 5 for manufacturing Admixture No. (5)

A comparison admixture (5) is obtained by mixing 0.1 part of
oxyethyleneoxypropylene adduct of C₁₂-C₁₄ alcohol as a polyalkylene base of
20 defoaming agent to the comparison admixture No. (4) obtained in Control 4.

(Test of storage stability)

The 28 varieties of cement dispersing agent of the invention shown in Tables 1 to 6
are left standing at 50°C and the storage stability is investigated by visually observing
degrees of compatibility. Further, for purposes of comparison, tests are also made of
25 the comparison cement dispersing agent (3) obtained in Control 3 and comparison
cement dispersing agent (5) obtained in Control 5. The particle size of the defoaming

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agent is determined by using a laser diffraction type particle distribution meter (microtruck FRA). The results of these tests are given in Tables 7 and 8.

Further, evaluation of compatibilities are as follows:

- 5 O: Uniformly compatible or stable dispersion
 Δ: Not compatible or unstable dispersion
 X: Separated into two layers

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Table 7

Example	Admixture used	Number of days elapsed			particl size (μm)
		immedi-ately	50°C, after 1 day	50°C, after 1 month	
1	(1)	○	○	○	1.3
2	(2)	○	○	○	1.7
3	(3)	○	○	○	1.3
4	(4)	○	○	○	1.4
5	(5)	○	○	○	7.1
6	(6)	○	○	○	5.7
7	(7)	○	○	○	1.8
8	(8)	○	○	○	1.2
9	(9)	○	○	○	1.2
10	(10)	○	○	○	1.5
11	(11)	○	○	○	1.3
12	(12)	○	○	○	1.5
13	(13)	○	○	○	1.2
14	(14)	○	○	○	1.4
15	(15)	○	○	○	1.4
16	(16)	○	○	○	1.5
17	(17)	○	○	○	1.2
18	(18)	○	○	○	1.3
19	(19)	○	○	○	1.4
20	(20)	○	○	○	1.4
21	(21)	○	○	○	5.7
22	(22)	○	○	○	1.3
23	(23)	○	○	○	1.3
24	(24)	○	○	○	1.4
25	(25)	○	○	○	5.7
26	(26)	○	○	○	-
27	(27)	○	○	○	-
28	(28)	○	○	○	-

"-" in particle size determination : particle size is not more than 0.1 μm or cannot be determined because of molten state

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Table 8

Control	Admixture used	Number of days elapsed			partiol size (μ m)
		immedi- ately	50°C, after 1 day	50°C, after 1 month	
3	comparative Admixture No. (3)	Δ	x	x	2.2
5	comparative Admixture No. (5)	Δ	x	x	5.2

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The cement used was ordinary portland cement (blend of equal amounts of 3 brands, specific gravity: 3.16), the fine aggregate was a blend of Oi River System pit sand and Kisarazu mountain sand (specific gravity 2.62, FM 2.71) and coarse aggregate was Ohme, Tokyo graywacke crushed stone (specific gravity 2.64, MS 20mm).

- 5 The 28 varieties of the admixture according to the invention listed in Tables 1-6 and for comparison the comparison admixtures (1) to (5) and naphthalene sulfonate-formalin condensate (BNS) and melamine sulfonate-formalin condensate (MSF) are tested. As the comparative admixtures (1), (2) and (4) possess air-entraining properties, adjustments of entrained air contents using air-entraining agents are not
- 0 made, while for the other admixtures of the invention (1)-(17) and the comparison admixtures (3) and (5) and for BNS and MSF, a commercial air-entraining agent ("Pozzolith" (trade mark) No. 303A manufactured by NMB Ltd.) is used in the dosages listed in Tables 9 and 10 to make adjustments of entrained air contents as suited
- 15 The mix proportions for plain concrete without admixture according to the invention are unit cement content 320kg/m^3 , unit water content 203kg/m^3 (water/cement ratio 0.634) and sand-aggregate ratio 49%, while the proportions for concrete using with the admixture are unit cement content 320kg/m^3 , unit water content 166kg/m^3 (water-cement ratio 0.519), and sand-aggregate ratio 47%
- 20 Concretes are manufactured under the conditions mentioned above, time-dependent changes in slump values and air content are measured and slump losses and air-entraining properties are evaluated. The time of setting and 28 day age compressive strength of concrete are also measured.
- 25 Measuring slump, air content, compressive strength and time of setting and the method of collecting compressive strength specimens are all adaptations of Japan Industrial Standards (JIS A 1101, 1108, 1128, 1132, 6204)

The results are given in Tables 9-14

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The results are given in Tables 9-14

Table 9

Example	Admixture used	Amount of cement dispersing agent a)	Amount of air entraining agent b)
1	(1)	0.15	0.012
2	(2)	0.15	0.010
3	(3)	0.15	0.005
4	(4)	0.15	0.012
5	(5)	0.17	0.011
6	(6)	0.17	0.015
7	(7)	0.15	0.012
8	(8)	0.15	0.010
9	(9)	0.15	0.003
10	(10)	0.15	0.015
11	(11)	0.15	0.008
12	(12)	0.15	0.010
13	(13)	0.15	0.018
14	(14)	0.15	0.020
15	(15)	0.15	0.010
16	(16)	0.15	0.008
17	(17)	0.15	0.016
18	(18)	0.15	0.012
19	(19)	0.15	0.010
20	(20)	0.15	0.010
21	(21)	0.17	0.015
22	(22)	0.18	0.012
23	(23)	0.18	0.012
24	(24)	0.18	0.010
25	(25)	0.18	0.015
26	(26)	0.17	0.016
27	(27)	0.15	0.015
28	(28)	0.12	0.012

Remarks:

- a) Percent by weight of solid content to cement
b) Percent by weight to cement

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Table 10

Control	Admixture used	Amount of cement dispersing agent a)	Amount of air entraining agent b)
A	plain concrete	-	-
B	ENS	0.50	0.008
C	MSF	0.60	0.002
1	comparative Admixture No. (1)	0.15	-
2	comparative Admixture No. (2)	0.15	-
3	comparative Admixture No. (3)	0.15	0.011
4	comparative Admixture No. (4)	0.15	-
5	comparative Admixture No. (5)	0.15	0.013

Remarks: a) Percent by weight of solid content to cement
b) Percent by weight to cement

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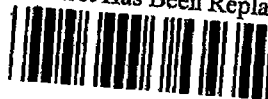


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Table 11

Example	Slump (cm) / air content (vol%)			
	immediately after mixing	After 30 min.	After 60 min.	After 90 min.
1	19.0 / 4.1	19.0 / 3.9	17.5 / 3.7	17.5 / 4.0
2	18.5 / 3.9	17.0 / 3.7	16.5 / 3.3	17.0 / 3.5
3	17.5 / 4.0	18.5 / 3.7	18.0 / 3.8	17.0 / 3.8
4	19.0 / 4.0	17.0 / 3.8	16.5 / 3.8	17.0 / 3.5
5	17.5 / 4.2	18.0 / 4.3	17.5 / 4.0	17.0 / 3.8
6	18.5 / 4.2	17.5 / 4.1	17.5 / 3.9	18.0 / 3.7
7	18.5 / 3.7	18.0 / 3.6	17.0 / 3.5	17.5 / 3.7
8	18.0 / 4.0	18.0 / 4.0	18.5 / 3.8	17.5 / 4.1
9	18.5 / 3.9	18.0 / 4.1	18.0 / 3.8	17.0 / 3.8
10	19.0 / 4.5	18.0 / 4.0	17.0 / 4.3	18.5 / 4.2
11	18.5 / 3.8	17.0 / 4.0	18.0 / 3.8	19.5 / 3.7
12	19.0 / 4.0	17.0 / 4.0	18.5 / 4.2	17.0 / 3.7
13	18.0 / 4.5	17.0 / 4.0	17.5 / 4.1	17.5 / 4.4
14	19.0 / 4.0	19.0 / 4.0	17.5 / 3.8	17.5 / 3.7
15	18.0 / 4.0	17.0 / 4.3	18.5 / 3.8	17.0 / 3.7
16	18.5 / 4.1	19.0 / 4.0	17.5 / 3.8	17.5 / 3.7
17	18.0 / 4.0	18.0 / 4.0	17.5 / 3.7	17.5 / 3.8
18	18.5 / 3.9	15.5 / 3.6	17.5 / 3.9	17.5 / 3.7

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Table 12

Example	Slump (cm) / air content (vol%)			
	immediately after mixing	After 30 min.	After 60 min.	After 90 min.
19	18.5 / 3.9	18.0 / 4.0	18.0 / 4.0	17.5 / 3.8
20	18.0 / 4.1	17.0 / 3.8	17.0 / 3.9	17.5 / 3.6
21	19.0 / 3.8	17.0 / 3.4	17.0 / 3.7	17.0 / 3.5
22	17.0 / 3.4	20.5 / 3.7	19.5 / 3.6	19.0 / 3.5
23	17.0 / 3.6	20.0 / 3.5	19.5 / 3.6	18.0 / 3.6
24	17.0 / 3.9	20.0 / 3.9	19.0 / 4.0	18.5 / 3.7
25	17.0 / 4.0	21.0 / 4.1	19.0 / 3.7	17.5 / 3.9
26	19.5 / 4.1	19.0 / 3.7	18.0 / 3.0	17.5 / 3.3
27	18.0 / 4.3	18.0 / 4.1	17.0 / 4.2	17.0 / 3.9
28	18.5 / 3.7	18.0 / 3.8	18.5 / 3.5	17.5 / 3.5
Control				
A	19.0 / 2.0	17.5 / 2.0	15.5 / 1.8	12.5 / 1.7
B	18.0 / 4.4	10.5 / 4.1	6.5 / 3.8	4.0 / 3.3
C	18.5 / 4.2	9.5 / 4.0	6.5 / 3.9	4.0 / 3.1
1	19.0 / 4.4	19.0 / 4.2	18.0 / 4.4	17.0 / 4.6
2	18.5 / 4.2	18.0 / 4.3	15.5 / 4.3	17.5 / 4.6
3	18.0 / 3.9	18.5 / 3.9	17.0 / 4.3	16.5 / 4.6
4	18.5 / 4.6	17.5 / 4.5	17.5 / 4.5	17.0 / 4.7
5	19.0 / 3.7	17.0 / 4.0	18.6 / 4.5	18.5 / 5.1

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Table 13

Example	Setting time (hr-min)		28-Day Comp. Strength (kgf/cm ²)
	Init.	Final	
1	6-20	8-30	480
2	6-20	8-10	472
3	6-30	8-30	467
4	6-20	8-40	461
5	6-30	8-20	458
6	6-10	8-40	462
7	6-10	8-40	477
8	6-20	8-30	470
9	6-00	8-40	488
10	6-30	8-40	494
11	5-50	8-10	453
12	6-00	8-50	475
13	6-20	9-00	455
14	6-30	8-50	459
15	6-40	9-10	486
16	6-00	8-30	477
17	6-10	8-20	463
18	6-20	9-00	473

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Table 14

Example	Setting time (hr-min)		28-Day Comp. Strength (kgf/cm ²)
	Init.	Final	
19	6-30	8-10	474
20	6-20	8-20	459
21	6-20	8-10	462
22	6-50	9-10	468
23	6-40	9-00	473
24	6-50	8-50	461
25	6-50	9-20	456
26	6-30	8-30	479
27	6-10	8-20	459
28	6-20	8-40	462
Control			
A	5-40	7-50	329
B	5-30	7-30	407
C	5-30	7-40	410
1	6-20	8-20	422
2	6-20	8-40	431
3	6-30	8-30	419
4	6-00	8-30	417
5	6-10	8-20	425

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From Tables 9 to 10, it may be seen that the shelf life of an admixture according to the invention is considerably improved over the case of the blend of defoaming agent with a copolymer.

5 Tables 9 to 14 show that the comparison admixtures (1) and (4) obtained by polymerization without using a defoaming agent and the comparison admixture (2) obtained by using 0.005% of the defoaming agent produces an air content of 4.5-5%, so that dosage must be limited. Moreover, 28-day compressive strength is reduced. With admixtures according to the invention, air-entraining tendencies are reduced and adjustment can be made to any air content with an air-entraining agent. Further,
10 other physical properties are equal to or better than comparison concretes, and it may particularly be noted that 28 day compressive strengths are greatly increased.

Moreover, comparison admixtures (3) and (5) with added defoaming agents added to comparison cement dispersing agent (1) show increases in entrained air content with elapse of time, whereas the air-entraining properties of admixtures according to
15 the invention are stable with elapse of time and slump loss prevention is also superior compared with plain concrete, BNS and MSF.

The admixtures according to the invention ameliorate and even eliminate the problem of the excessive air-entraining properties of conventional polycarboxylic acid base high range air-entraining, water-reducing agents. They exhibit excellent shelf life and
20 are capable of entraining suitable amounts of air. Thus, the use of an admixture according to the invention confers the possibility of preparing cementitious mixtures such as concrete of good fluidity with a high rate of water reduction, which on hardening, will provide a hardened concrete object of high compressive strength.

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Claims:

1. A fluidity-controlling admixture for cementitious compositions, comprising at least one cement-dispersing agent and at least one defoaming agent, characterised in that

(a) the cement-dispersing agent is an aqueous solution of polymer; and

5 (b) the defoaming agent is oxyalkylene-based and is either dissolved in the polymer solution or is stably dispersed therein in particles of no more than 20µM diameter.

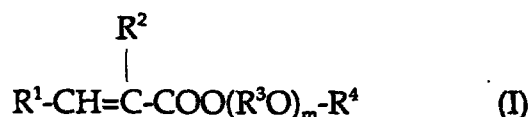
2. An admixture according to claim 1, wherein the polymer comprises a main component which is selected from at least one of

10 (A) a copolymer obtained by polymerising a monomer mixture which comprises an unsaturated carboxylic acid monomer;

(B) the neutralised salt of (A); and

(C) the polymer obtained by crosslinking (A) and/or (B) by means of a crosslinking agent.

15 3. An admixture according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the polymer is formed from a monomer mixture which comprises from 5-98% by weight of an alkylene glycol mono(meth)acrylic acid ester monomer (a) of the formula I



20 wherein R¹ and R² are independently hydrogen or methyl, R³ is an alkylene group of from 2-4 carbon atoms, R⁴ is hydrogen or an alkyl group of 1 to 22 carbon atoms, and m represents an integer of 1 to 100, and 2 to 95% by weight of a

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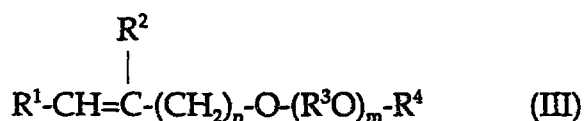


(meth)acrylic acid base monomer (b) of the formula (II)



wherein R^1 and R^2 have the abovementioned significances, and M^1 is hydrogen, monovalent metal, divalent metal, ammonium group or an organic amine group, and 0 to 50% by weight of a monomer (c) capable of being copolymerized with these monomers, provided that the sum of (a), (b) and (c) shall be 100% by weight.

4. An admixture according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the polymer is prepared from a monomer mixture which comprises from 5-98% by weight of a n alkoxy polyalkylene glycol mono(meth)allyl ether base monomer (d) of the formula (III);



wherein R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , R^4 and m are as hereinabove defined and n is 0 or 1, and 2 to 95% by weight of a (meth)acrylic acid base monomer (b) of the formula (IV)



wherein X and Y are independently selected from hydrogen, methyl and $-\text{COOM}^3$, or X or Y together with $-\text{COOM}^2$ form an anhydride ring, Z is selected from $-\text{CH}_2\text{COOM}^3$, hydrogen or methyl and M^2 and M^3 are independently selected from the significances of M^1 given hereinabove, an alkyl group of 1-20 carbon atoms, an alkylene glycol of 2-4 carbon atoms and a polyalkylene glycol of from 2-100 mols of a glycol adduct, provided that at least one of M^2 , M^3 is selected from hydrogen, monovalent metal, divalent metal, ammonium group and an organic amine group;





and from 0-50% by weight of monomer (f) capable of copolymerisation with (d) and (e), (d)+(e)+(f) being 100% by weight.

5. An admixture according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the polymer is prepared from a monomer mixture which comprises from 5-98% by weight of at least one α -olefinic monomer (g) having from 2-12 carbon atoms, from 2-95% by weight of an ethylenically unsaturated dicarboxylic acid anhydride base monomer (h) and from 0-50% by weight of monomer (i) copolymerisable with (g) and (h), (g)+(h)+(i) being 100% by weight.
6. A process of producing an admixture according to any one of claims 2 to 5, comprising the polymerisation of a monomer mixture which comprises at least one unsaturated carboxylic acid base monomer in the presence of an oxyalkylene-based defoaming agent.
7. A process of modifying the fluidity of a cementitious composition, comprising the incorporation into the composition of an admixture according to any one of claims 1-5.
8. Use of an admixture according to any one of claims 2 to 5 to modify the fluidity of a cementitious composition.

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ABSTRACT

5 An admixture for modifying the fluidity of a cementitious mixture comprises a cement-dispersing agent which is an aqueous solution of polymer, in which solution an oxyalkylene-based defoaming agent is dissolved or dispersed in particles of no greater than 20 μ M diameter. The polymer is preferably a polymer which comprises units derived from unsaturated carboxylic acid monomer and the polymer is preferably prepared in the presence of the defoaming agent. Particular addition copolymers give particularly good results. The admixture permits good control of the fluidity of cementitious compositions and has extended shelf life.

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Table 1

Example	Admixture No	Reaction composition : numerals in brackets are parts by weight			
		charged solvent	unsaturated carboxylic acid base monomer	other monomer	other monomer
1	(1)	water [1695.0]	MAA [250.0]	MPEGMMA (n=10) [750.0]	
2	(2)	water [1695.0]	AA [200.0]	PEGMA (n=25) [800.0]	
3	(3)	water [1315.0]	MAA [250.0]	MPEGMMA (n=25) [740.0]	methyl methacrylate
4	(4)	water [1695.0]	MAA [300.0]	PEGMME (n=25) [700.0]	
5	(5)	water [1800.0]	TEGMM [369.6]	PEGMAE (n=25) [630.4]	
6	(6)	water [349.6]	MA [687.0]	PEGMAE (n=25) [1648.0]	

MAA : methacrylic acid
 AA : acrylic acid
 TEGMM : tetraethylene glycol monomaleate
 MA : maleic acid
 MPEGMMA : methoxy polyethylene glycol monomethacrylate
 PEGMA : polyethylene glycol monoacrylate
 PEGMME : polyethylene glycol monomethallyl ether
 PEGMAE : polyethylene glycol monoallyl ether

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Table 2

Example	Reaction composition : numerals in brackets are parts by weight		reaction temperature (°C)	molecular weight
	defoaming agent (II)	polymerization initiator		
1	Pluronic L-64 a) [7.0]	ammonium persulfate [20.0]	95	35000
2	polyethylene glycol polypropylene glycol nonyl phenyl ether [5.0]	azobis-2-methyl propionimide hydrochloride [20.0]	80	38000
3	oxyethylene oxypropylene adduct of C ₁₂ - C ₁₄ alcohols [1.0]	ammonium persulfate [40.0]	95	23000
4	Surfynol 440 b) [7.0]	ammonium persulfate [20.0]	95	30000
5	polyethylene glycol polypropylene glycol nonyl phenyl ether [5.0]	ammonium persulfate [15.0]	95	10000
6	oxyethylene oxypropylene adduct of C ₁₂ - C ₁₄ alcohols [23.2]	ammonium persulfate [85.8]	95	6000

- a) polyoxyethylene polyoxypropylene adduct (Asahi Denka K.K.)
b) acetylene alcohol polyoxyethylene adduct (Nisshin Kagaku Kogyo K.K.)
c) Monomer mixture is added in 40% aqueous solution and polymerization initiator is added in 5% aqueous solution.

Table 3 (cont'd)

17	(17)	water [2924.0]	MAA [215.0]	MPEGMMA (n=50) [1200.0]	methyl acrylate [24.0]
18	(18)	water [1695.0]	MAA [250.0]	MPEGMMA (n=10) [750.0]	
19	(19)	water [1695.0]	MAA [300.0]	PEGMAE (n=25) [700.0]	
20	(20)	water [1695.0]	MAA [300.0]	PEGMAE (n=25) [700.0]	
21	(21)	water [349.6]	MA [687.0]	PEGMAE (n=5) [1648.0]	

MA : methacrylic acid

SA : sodium acrylate

MA : maleic acid

MPEGMMA : methoxy polyethylene glycol monomethacrylate

PEGMMA: polyethylene glycol monomethacrylate

PEGMAE : polyethylene glycol monoallyl ether


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Table 4

Example	Reaction composition : numerals in brackets are parts by weight		reaction temperature (°C)	alkaline substance	pH	molecular weight
	defoaming agent (II)	polymerization initiator				
7	Pluronic L-64 a) [7.0]	APS [20.0]	95	50% NaOH	8.0	36000
8	Pluronic L-64 a) [7.0]	APS [38.0]	95	50% NaOH	8.0	40000
9	Pluronic L-64 a) [1.4]	APS [38.0]	95	50% NaOH	8.0	39000
10	oxyethylene oxypropylene adduct of C ₁₂ -C ₁₄ alcohols [14.0]	APS [33.0]	95	50% NaOH	8.1	37000
11	polyoxyethylene polyoxy-propylene nonyl phenyl ether [7.0]	APS [22.0]	95	50% NaOH	8.5	113000
12	Surfynol 440 b) [7.0]	APS [26.1]	95	50% NaOH	7.7	53000
13	polyoxyethylene polyoxypropylene oleate [7.0]	APS [31.3]	95	50% NaOH	7.6	34000
14	polyoxyethylene polyoxypropylene sorbitan monolaurate [21.0]	APS [12.5]	95	50% NaOH	8.0	16000
15	polyoxypropylene dodecyl benzene sulfonate [21.0]	APS [69.5]	95	50% NaOH	8.0	78000
16	polyoxyethylene stearate [21.0]	APS [38.0]	95	50% NaOH	7.9	19000
17	polyoxyethylene laurylamine [21.0]	APS [33.0]	95	50% NaOH	8.1	32000
18	Pluronic L-64 a) [7.0]	APS [20.0]	95	30% Ca(OH) ₂	7.5	35000
19	Surfynol 440 b) [7.0]	APS [20.0]	95	50% NaOH	7.1	30000
20	Surfynol 440 b) [7.0]	APS [20.0]	95	TEA	7.1	30000



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Table 7

Example	Admixture used	Number of days elapsed			particle size (μm)
		immediately	50°C, after 1 day	50°C, after 1 month	
1	(1)	○	○	○	1.3
2	(2)	○	○	○	1.7
3	(3)	○	○	○	1.3
4	(4)	○	○	○	1.4
5	(5)	○	○	○	7.1
6	(6)	○	○	○	5.7
7	(7)	○	○	○	1.8
8	(8)	○	○	○	1.2
9	(9)	○	○	○	1.2
10	(10)	○	○	○	1.5
11	(11)	○	○	○	1.3
12	(12)	○	○	○	1.5
13	(13)	○	○	○	1.2
14	(14)	○	○	○	1.4
15	(15)	○	○	○	1.4
16	(16)	○	○	○	1.5
17	(17)	○	○	○	1.2

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124-0244

Table 7 (cont'd)

18	(18)	○	○	○	1.3
19	(19)	○	○	○	1.4
20	(20)	○	○	○	1.4
21	(21)	○	○	○	5.7
22	(22)	○	○	○	1.3
23	(23)	○	○	○	1.3
24	(24)	○	○	○	1.4
25	(25)	○	○	○	5.7
26	(26)	○	○	○	-
27	(27)	○	○	○	-
28	(28)	○	○	○	-

"-" particle size determination : particle size is not more than 0.1 μm or cannot be determined because of molten state

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Table 8

Control	Admixture used	Number of days elapsed			particle size (μm)
		immediately	50°C, after 1 day	50°C after 1 month	
3	comparative Admixture No. (3)	Δ	X	X	2.2
5	comparative Admixture No. (5)	Δ	X	X	5.2



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Table 9

Example	Admixture used	Amount of cement dispersing agent a)	Amount of air entraining agent b)
1	(1)	0.15	0.012
2	(2)	0.15	0.010
3	(3)	0.15	0.005
4	(4)	0.15	0.012
5	(5)	0.17	0.011
6	(6)	0.17	0.015
7	(7)	0.15	0.012
8	(8)	0.15	0.010
9	(9)	0.15	0.003
10	(10)	0.15	0.015
11	(11)	0.15	0.008
12	(12)	0.15	0.010
13	(13)	0.15	0.018
14	(14)	0.15	0.020
15	(15)	0.15	0.010
16	(16)	0.15	0.008
17	(17)	0.15	0.016
18	(18)	0.15	0.012
19	(19)	0.15	0.010
20	(20)	0.15	0.010
21	(21)	0.17	0.015
22	(22)	0.18	0.012
23	(23)	0.18	0.012
24	(24)	0.18	0.010
25	(25)	0.18	0.015
26	(26)	0.17	0.016
27	(27)	0.15	0.015
28	(28)	0.12	0.012

Remarks: a) Percent by weight of solid content on cement
b) Percent by weight on cement

Table 10

Control	Admixture used	Amount of cement dispersing agent a)	Amount of air entraining agent b)
A	plain concrete	-	-
B	BNS	0.50	0.008
C	MSF	0.60	0.002
1	comparative Admixture No. (1)	0.15	-
2	comparative Admixture No. (2)	0.15	-
3	comparative Admixture No. (3)	0.15	0.011
4	comparative Admixture No. (4)	0.15	-
5	comparative Admixture No. (5)	0.15	0.013

Remarks: a) Percent by weight of solid content on cement
b) Percent by weight on cement

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Table 11

Example	Slump (cm) / air content (vol %)			
	immediately after mixing	After 30 min.	After 60 min.	After 90 min.
1	19.0 / 4.1	19.0 / 3.9	17.5 / 3.7	17.5 / 4.0
2	18.5 / 3.9	17.0 / 3.7	16.5 / 3.3	17.0 / 3.5
3	17.5 / 4.0	18.5 / 3.7	18.0 / 3.8	17.0 / 3.8
4	19.0 / 4.0	17.0 / 3.8	16.5 / 3.8	17.0 / 3.5
5	17.5 / 4.2	18.0 / 4.3	17.5 / 4.0	17.0 / 3.8
6	18.5 / 4.2	17.5 / 4.1	17.5 / 3.9	18.0 / 3.7
7	18.5 / 3.7	18.0 / 3.6	17.0 / 3.5	17.5 / 3.7
8	18.0 / 4.0	18.0 / 4.0	18.5 / 3.8	17.5 / 4.1
9	18.5 / 3.9	18.0 / 4.1	18.0 / 3.8	17.0 / 3.8
10	19.0 / 4.5	18.0 / 4.0	17.0 / 4.3	18.5 / 4.2
11	18.5 / 3.8	17.0 / 4.0	18.0 / 3.8	19.5 / 3.7
12	19.0 / 4.0	17.0 / 4.0	18.5 / 4.2	17.0 / 3.7
13	18.0 / 4.5	17.0 / 4.0	17.5 / 4.1	17.5 / 4.4
14	19.0 / 4.0	19.0 / 4.0	17.5 / 3.8	17.5 / 3.7
15	18.0 / 4.0	17.0 / 4.3	18.5 / 3.8	17.0 / 3.7
16	18.5 / 4.1	19.0 / 4.0	17.5 / 3.8	17.5 / 3.7
17	18.0 / 4.0	18.0 / 4.0	17.5 / 3.7	17.5 / 3.8
18	18.5 / 3.9	15.5 / 3.6	17.5 / 3.9	17.5 / 3.7

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Table 13

Example	Setting time (hr-min)		28-Day Comp. Strength (kgf/cm ²)
	Init.	Final	
1	6-20	8-30	480
2	6-20	8-10	472
3	6-30	8-30	467
4	6-20	8-40	461
5	6-30	8-20	458
6	6-10	8-40	462
7	6-10	8-40	477
8	6-20	8-30	470
9	6-00	8-40	488
10	6-30	8-40	494
11	5-50	8-10	453
12	6-00	8-50	475
13	6-20	9-00	455
14	6-30	8-50	459
15	6-40	9-10	486
16	6-00	8-30	477
17	6-10	8-20	463
18	6-20	9-00	473

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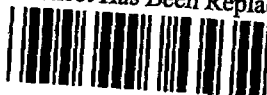


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Table 14

Example	Setting time (hr-min)		28-Day Comp. strength (kgf/cm ²)
	Init.	Final	
19	6-30	8-10	474
20	6-20	8-20	459
21	6-20	8-10	462
22	6-50	9-10	468
23	6-40	9-00	473
24	6-50	8-50	461
25	6-50	9-20	456
26	6-30	8-30	479
27	6-10	8-20	459
28	6-20	8-40	462
Control			
A	5-40	7-50	329
B	5-30	7-30	407
C	5-30	7-40	410
1	6-20	8-20	422
2	6-20	8-40	431
3	6-30	8-30	419
4	6-00	8-30	417
5	6-10	8-20	425

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FLUIDITY CONTROL OF CEMENTITIOUS COMPOSITIONS

This invention relates to fluidity control of cementitious compositions, to admixtures for achieving such control and to cementitious compositions comprising such admixtures.

Water-reducing compositions are widely used in cementitious compositions such as concrete to reduce the water content (and thereby increase strength) while maintaining fluidity or "slump" (so that the compositions can flow easily, for example, around complicated formwork). Typical water-reducing agents are the so-called "superplasticisers", for example, β -naphthalene sulphonate-formaldehyde ("BNS") condensates and various polycarboxylate-based materials. One of the problems which water-reducing agents, especially the aforementioned polycarboxylates, can introduce is the entrainment into the cementitious composition of excessive volumes of air. While the presence of some air is harmless and even beneficial, excessive air entrainment leads to reduced strength. Air entrainment can of course be reduced by reducing the concentration of water-reducing agent used, but the desired slump control is then diminished. It has been proposed to use known defoaming agents to counteract excessive aeration, but this has also often proved unsatisfactory, one reason being that a mixture of water-reducing agent and defoaming agent, a commercially desirable package, is usually unstable.

It has now been found that it is possible to make an admixture which confers high slump on cementitious compositions, but without excessive aeration. There is therefore provided, according to the present invention, a fluidity-controlling admixture for cementitious compositions, comprising at least one cement-dispersing agent and at least one defoaming agent, characterised in that

(a) the cement-dispersing agent is an aqueous solution of polymer; and

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30 NOV 1996

(b) the defoaming agent is oxyalkylene-based and is either dissolved in the polymer solution or is stably dispersed therein in particles of no more than 20 μ M diameter.

When the defoaming agent is soluble in the aqueous polymer solution, the admixture according to the invention is prepared simply by dissolving the defoaming agent in the solution. When the defoaming agent is not soluble in the solution, it is dispersed such that the disperse particles are no greater than 20 μ M in diameter. It is to be understood here that the use of the word "particle" encompasses not only solid particulate matter (in which case the diameter referred to is the largest dimension of the particle) but also droplets of dispersed liquid, whether of inherently liquid matter or of dissolved solid material.

The particles are stably dispersed in the solution. By "stably dispersed" is meant that, when prepared and allowed to stand, a dispersion will remain a dispersion for at least 24 hours. The reason for this is not fully understood, but it is noticeable that a dispersion which does not comply with this requirement does not give such good results in a cementitious composition, even when it is used when it is still a dispersion, for example, immediately upon preparation or shortly thereafter.

Dispersion of an insoluble defoaming agent is achievable in two ways. The first way is simple dispersion of the defoaming agent in the solution so that a dispersion of the appropriate particle size is given. The second way is the dispersion of the defoaming agent in the presence of polymerisable monomer and polymerisation of the monomer to give the polymer. It has been found that dispersions prepared in this second manner give especially good results and are preferred. A further practical advantage is that the achievement of the desired small particle size is more easily achievable. Details of preferred monomer compositions are given hereinafter.

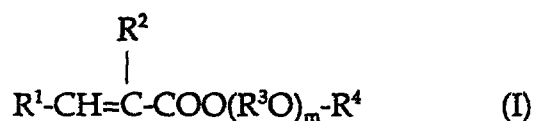
The polymer for use in this invention may be any polymer which is water-soluble and which is a water-reducing agent or a cement-dispersing agent. However, it has been found that certain polymers give especially good results. Thus, in a preferred admixture, the polymer comprises a main component which is selected from at least

30 NOV 1996

one of

- (A) a copolymer obtained by polymerising a monomer mixture which comprises an unsaturated carboxylic acid monomer;
- (B) the neutralised salt of (A); and
- (C) the polymer obtained by crosslinking (A) and/or (B) by means of a crosslinking agent.

In a preferred embodiment, the monomer mixture comprises from 5-98% by weight of an alkylene glycol mono(meth)acrylic acid ester monomer (a) of the formula I



wherein R^1 and R^2 are independently hydrogen or methyl, R^3 is an alkylene group of from 2-4 carbon atoms, R^4 is hydrogen or an alkyl group of 1 to 22 carbon atoms, and m represents an integer of 1 to 100, and 2 to 95% by weight of a (meth)acrylic acid base monomer (b) of the formula (II)



wherein R^1 and R^2 have the abovementioned significances, and M^1 is hydrogen, monovalent metal, divalent metal, ammonium group or an organic amine group, and 0 to 50% by weight of a monomer (c) capable of being copolymerized with these monomers provided that the sum of (a), (b) and (c) shall be 100% by weight.

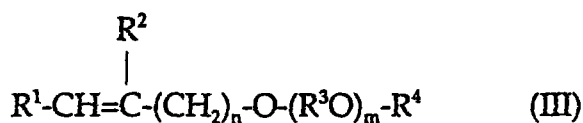
In a further embodiment of the invention, said monomer mixture comprises from 5-98% by weight of an alkoxypolyalkylene glycol mono(meth)allyl ether base monomer (d) of the formula (III);

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30 NOV 1996



wherein R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , R^4 and m are as hereinabove defined and n is 0 or 1, and 2 to 95% by weight of a (meth)acrylic acid base monomer (b) of the formula (IV)



wherein X and Y are independently selected from hydrogen, methyl and $-\text{COOM}^3$, or X or Y together with $-\text{COOM}^2$ form an anhydride ring, Z is selected from $-\text{CH}_2\text{COOM}^3$, hydrogen or methyl and M^2 and M^3 are independently selected from the significances of M^1 given hereinabove, an alkyl group of 1-20 carbon atoms, an alkylene glycol of 2-4 carbon atoms and a polyalkylene glycol of from 2-100 mols of a glycol adduct, provided that at least one of M^2 , M^3 is selected from hydrogen, monovalent metal, divalent metal, ammonium group and an organic amine group; and from 0-50% by weight of monomer (f) capable of copolymerisation with (d) and (e), (d)+(e)+(f) being 100% by weight.

In a further preferred embodiment, said monomer mixture comprises from 5-98% by weight of at least one α -olefinic monomer (g) having from 2-12 carbon atoms, from 2-95% by weight of an ethylenically unsaturated dicarboxylic acid anhydride base monomer (h) and from 0-50% by weight of monomer (i) copolymerisable with (g) and (h), (g)+(h)+(i) being 100% by weight.

Polycarboxylic acid base is a general name of a cement-dispersing agent which contains as a main component a copolymer (A) obtained by polymerising a monomer mixture containing an unsaturated carboxylic acid base monomer as an essential component and/or a copolymer (B) obtained by further neutralizing the copolymer (A) with an alkaline substance and/or a cross-linked copolymer (C) obtained by post cross-linking the copolymer (A) by using a cross-linking agent. The unsaturated



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30 NOV 1996

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carboxylic acid monomer may include unsaturated monoca (meth)acrylic acid and monovalent metal salt, divalent metal salt, an organic amine salt thereof; an unsaturated dicarboxylic acid, fumaric acid, citraconic acid, itaconic acid, etc. and monovalent metal salt, ammonium salt, an organic amine salt, anhydride of these acids with an aliphatic alcohol having 1 to 20 carbon atoms having 2 to 4 carbon atoms or a polyalkylene glycol having 2 to 20 number. One or more of these can be used.

Further preferable monomer mixtures comprise a mixture of preferably 50 to 97%, by weight of an alkylene glycol monomer designated by the abovementioned general formula (I), 2 to 95% by weight of a (meth)acrylate base monomer (b) designated by the abovementioned formula (II) and 0 to 50% by weight, preferably 3 to 50% by weight of a (meth)acrylate base monomer (c) capable of being copolymerized with these monomers, the sum of (a), (b) and (c) is 100% by weight; a mixture containing 50 to 97% by weight of an (alkoxy)polyether mono(meth)allyl ether base monomer (d) designated by the above formula (III), 2 to 95% by weight, preferably 3 to 50% by weight of a carboxylic acid base monomer (e) designated by the above formula (IV), and 0 to 50% by weight, preferably 0 to 30% by weight of a monomer (f) capable of being copolymerized with these monomers, the sum of (d), (e) and (f) is 100% by weight; and a mixture of 5 to 98% by weight, preferably 30 to 90% by weight of an ethylenically unsaturated anhydride base monomer (h), and 0 to 50% by weight, preferably 0 to 50% by weight of monomer (i) capable of being copolymerized with these monomers, the sum of (g), (h) and (i) is 100% by weight.

Examples of monomer (a) include hydroxyethyl (meth)acrylate, (meth)acrylate, polyethylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate, polypropylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate, polybutylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate, po

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polypropylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate, polyethylene glycol polybutylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate, polypropylene glycol polybutylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate, polyethylene glycol polypropylene glycol polybutylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate, methoxy polyethylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate, methoxy polypropylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate, methoxy polybutylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate, methoxy polybutylene glycol mono(meth)-acrylate, methoxy polyethylene glycol polypropylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate, methoxy polyethylene glycol polybutylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate, methoxy polypropylene glycol polybutylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate, methoxy propylene glycol polypropylene glycol polybutylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate, ethoxypolyethylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate, ethoxypolypropylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate, ethoxypolybutylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate, ethoxypolyethylene glycol polypropylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate, ethoxypolyethylene glycol polybutylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate, ethoxypolypropylene glycol polybutylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate and ethoxypolyethylene glycol polypropylene glycol polybutylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate. More than one such monomer may be used.

Suitable examples of monomer (b) include acrylic and methacrylic acids and their monovalent metal salts, divalent metal salts, ammonium salts and organic amine salts. More than one such monomer may be used.

The monomer (c) is a monomer capable of copolymerization with the monomers (a) and (b). Examples of monomer (c) include esters of aliphatic alcohols of 1 to 20 carbons with (meth)acrylic acid unsaturated dicarboxylic acids of maleic acid, fumaric acid, citraconic acid, etc., or monoesters or diesters of these acids with aliphatic alcohols of 1 to 20 carbons or glycols of 2 to 4 carbons, or polyalkylene glycols of added mol number 2 to 100 of these glycols, unsaturated amides such as (meth)acrylamide and (meth)acryl alkylamide, vinyl esters such as vinyl acetate and vinyl propionate, aromatic vinyls such as styrene, unsaturated sulfonates such as vinyl sulfonates, (meth)allylsulfonic acid, sulfoethyl(meth)acrylate, 2-(meth)-acrylamido-2-methylpropane sulfonic acid and styrene sulfonate, and their monovalent metal salts, divalent metal salts, ammonium salts and organic amine salts.

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Examples of the monomer (d) include alkoxypolyalkylene glycol mono(meth)allyl ether, e.g., polyethylene glycol mono(meth)allyl ether, polypropylene glycol mono(meth)allyl ether, polyethylene glycol polypropylene glycol mono(meth)allyl ether, polyethylene glycol polybutylene glycol mono(meth)allyl ether, polypropylene glycol polybutylene glycol mono(meth)allyl ether, polyethylene glycol polypropylene glycol polybutylene glycol mono(meth)allyl ether, methoxypolyethylene glycol mono(meth)allyl ether, methoxypolypropylene glycol mono(meth)allyl ether, methoxypolybutylene glycol mono(meth)allyl ether, methoxypolyethylene glycol polypropylene glycol mono(meth)allyl ether, methoxypolyethylene glycol polybutylene glycol mono(meth)allyl ether, methoxypolyethylene glycol polypropylene glycol polybutylene glycol mono(meth)allyl ether, ethoxypolyethylene glycol mono(meth)allyl ether, ethoxypolypropylene glycol mono(meth)allyl ether, ethoxypolybutylene glycol mono(meth)allyl ether, ethoxypolyethylene glycol polypropylene glycol mono(meth)allyl ether, ethoxypolyethylene glycol polybutylene glycol mono(meth)allyl ether, ethoxypolypropylene glycol polybutylene glycol mono(meth)allyl ether, and ethoxypolyethylene glycol polypropylene glycol polybutylene glycol mono(meth)allyl ether, and an alkoxypolyalkylene glycol monocrotyl ether, polyethylene glycol monocrotyl ether, polypropylene glycol monocrotyl ether, polybutylene glycol monocrotyl ether, polyethylene glycol polypropylene glycol monocrotyl ether, polyethylene glycol polybutylene glycol monocrotyl ether, polypropylene glycol polybutylene glycol monocrotyl ether, polypropylene glycol polybutylene glycol monocrotyl ether, methoxypolyethylene glycol monocrotyl ether, methoxypolypropylene glycol monocrotyl ether, methoxybutylene glycol monocrotyl ether, methoxypolyethylene glycol polypropylene glycol monocrotyl ether, methoxypolyethylene glycol polybutylene glycol monocrotyl ether, methoxypolypropylene glycol polybutylene glycol monocrotyl ether, methoxypolyethylene glycol polypropylene glycol polybutylene glycol monocrotyl ether, ethoxypolyethylene glycol monocrotyl ether, ethoxypolypropylene glycol monocrotyl ether, ethoxypolypropylene glycol monocrotyl

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30 NOV 1996

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ether, ethoxypolybutylene glycol monocrotyl ether, ethoxypolybutylene glycol monocrotyl ether, ethoxypolyethylene glycol polypropylene glycol monocrotyl ether, ethoxypolyethylene glycol polybutylene glycol monocrotyl ether, ethoxypolypropylene glycol polybutylene glycol monocrotyl ether, ethoxypolypropylene glycol polybutylene glycol monocrotyl ether, and ethoxypolyethylene glycol polypropylene glycol polybutylene glycol monocrotyl ether. More than one of these monomers may be used.

Examples of the monomer (e) include an unsaturated monocarboxylic acid and monovalent metal salt, divalent metal salt, ammonium salt and an organic amine salt thereof, e.g. acrylic acid and methacrylic acid; an unsaturated dicarboxylic acid and monovalent metal salt, divalent metal salt, ammonium salt, an organic amine salt and anhydride thereof, e.g., maleic acid, fumaric acid, citraconic acid and itaconic acid; or a monoester of these acids with an aliphatic alcohol having 1 to 20 carbon atoms or glycol having 2 to 4 carbon atoms or a polyalkylene glycol having 2 to 100 mols of these glycols. More than one of these monomers may be used.

Examples of the monomer (f) include ester of an aliphatic alcohol having 1 to 20 carbon atoms and acrylic acid, and a diester of an unsaturated dicarboxylic acid such as maleic acid, fumaric acid and citraconic acid acids with an aliphatic alcohol having 1 to 20 carbon atoms or glycol having 2 to 4 carbon atoms or a polyalkylene glycol having 2 to 4 carbon atoms or a polyalkylene glycol having 1 to 100 mols of these glycols; an unsaturated amide such as (meth)acrylamide and (meth)acryl alkylamide, a vinyl ester such as vinyl acetate and vinyl propionate; an aromatic vinyl such as styrene; an unsaturated sulfonic acid such as vinyl sulfonic acid, (meth)allyl sulfonic acid, sulfoethyl (meth)acrylate, 2-(meth)acrylamide-2-methylpropane sulfonic acid and styrene sulfonic acid and monovalent metal salt, divalent metal salt, ammonium salt and an organic amine salt thereof. More than one of these monomers may be used.

The monomer (g) may be an unsaturated hydrocarbon having 2 to 12 carbon atoms, and examples of the monomer (g) include ethylene, propylene, 1-butene, 2-butene, isobutylene, n-pentene, isoprene, 2-methyl-1-butene, n-hexane, 2-methyl-1-pentene,

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30 NOV 1996

3-methyl-1-pentene, 4-methyl-1-pentene, 2-ethyl-1-butene, diisobutylene, 1,3-butadiene, 1,3-pentadiene, 1,3-hexadiene, 1,3-octadiene, 2-methyl-4-dimethyl-1-pentene, 2-methyl-4-dimethyl-2-pentene. Isobutylene also means return BB containing isobutylene. Preferably α -olefin having 2 to 8 carbon atoms, especially α -olefin having 4 to 5 carbon atoms is used. More than one kind of these monomers may be used.

Examples of the monomer (h) include maleic anhydride, itaconic anhydride, citraconic anhydride and mesaconic anhydride. Maleic anhydride is the preferred monomer because of its reactivity, quality and lower cost. More than one such monomer may be used.

Examples of the monomer (i) include (meth)acrylic acid and monovalent metal salt, divalent metal salt, ammonium salt, and an organic amine salt thereof; an ester of an aliphatic alcohol having 1 to 20 carbon atoms with (meth)acrylic acid; an unsaturated dicarboxylic acid such as maleic acid, fumaric acid and citraconic acid, and mono- or diester of these acids with an aliphatic alcohol having 1 to 20 carbon atoms or glycol having 2 to 4 carbon atoms or a polyalkylene glycol having 2 to 100 mols of these glycols; unsaturated amide such as (meth)acrylamide and (meth)acryl alkylamide; a vinyl ester such as vinyl acetate and vinyl propionate; and aromatic vinyl such as styrene; an unsaturated sulfonic acid such as vinyl sulfonic acid, (meth)allyl sulfonic acid, sulfoethyl (meth)acrylate, 2-(meth)acrylamide-2-methylpropane sulfonic acid and styrene sulfonic acid and monovalent metal salt, divalent metal salt, ammonium salt, and an organic amine salt thereof. More than one such monomer may be used.

Examples of suitable defoaming agents include polyoxyalkylenes such as (poly)oxyethylene (poly)oxypropylene (poly)oxyalkylene alkyl ethers such as diethylene glycol heptyl ether, polyoxyethylene oleyl ether, polyoxypropylene butyl ether, polyoxyethylene polyoxypropylene-2-ethyl hexyl ether, and oxyethylene oxypropylene adducts of high alcohols of 12 to 14 carbons; polyoxyalkylene (alkyl)aryl ethers such as polyoxypropylene phenyl ether and polyoxyethylene nonylphenyl ether; acetylene ethers of alkylene oxide additional polymerized with acetylene alcohols such as 2,4,7,9-tetramethyl-5-decyn-4,7-diol, 2,5-dimethyl-3-hexyn-

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30 NOV 1996

acetylene alcohols such as 2,4,7,9-tetramethyl-5-decyn-4,7-diol, 2,5-dimethyl-3-hexyn-2,5-diol, 3-methyl-1-butyne-3-ol; (poly)oxyalkylene aliphatic acid esters such as diethylene glycol oleic acid ester and ethylene glycol distearic acid ester; (poly)oxyalkylene sorbitan aliphatic acid esters such as polyoxyethylene sorbitan monolauric acid ester, and polyoxyethylene sorbitan trioleic acid ester; (poly)oxyalkylene alkyl (aryl)ether sulfuric acid esters such as polyoxypropylene methyl ester sodium sulfate and polyoxyethylene dodecyl phenol ether sodium sulfate; (poly)oxyalkylene alkyl phosphates such as (poly)oxyethylene stearyl phosphates; and (poly)oxyalkylene alkylamines such as polyoxyethylene laurylamine. More than one kind of these may be used.

The copolymer (A) is obtained by polymerization of a monomer mixture containing an unsaturated carboxylic acid base monomer as hereinabove described. As previously mentioned, this is preferably carried out in the presence of the defoaming agent. The proportion of the unsaturated carboxylic acid base monomer in the mixture is from 2 to 95% by weight; it is essential that this range be adhered to, otherwise the advantages of the present invention are not given. The proportion is preferably from 50 to 95% by weight, and more preferably from 3-50% in the cases of (a),(b),(c) and (c),(d),(e), and from 30-90% in the case of (g),(h),(i).

To manufacture the copolymer (A), the abovementioned monomer mixture is copolymerized in, when required, the presence of the abovementioned defoaming agent using a polymerization initiator. The quantity of defoaming agent to be used is in the range of 0.01 to 10 weight percent of the monomer mixture, preferably 0.05 to 5 weight percent. When less than 0.01 weight percent of defoaming agent is used, adjustment of entrained air content of the cement mixture is difficult and a cement mixture of stable strength cannot be obtained. When the quantity of defoaming agent used exceeds 10 weight percent, the performance of the admixture obtained is reduced and a cement mixture of good fluidity cannot be obtained.

The copolymer (A) may be synthesised by known methods such as solution polymerization or bulk polymerization.

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30 NOV 1996

polymerization or bulk polymerization.

Solution polymerization may be done by a batch or a continuous process. Solvents which may be used include water, alcohols such as methyl alcohol, ethyl alcohol and isopropyl alcohol, aromatic or aliphatic hydrocarbons such as benzene, toluene, xylene, cyclohexane, and n-hexane and ketone compounds such as acetone and methyl ethyl ketone. For solubility of both the monomers and the resultant copolymer (A), it is desirable to use at least 1 solvent selected from the group consisting of water and lower alcohols of 1 to 4 carbon atoms. Methyl, ethyl and isopropyl alcohols are especially effective alcohols.

When the polymerization is carried out in an aqueous liquid, water-soluble polymerization initiators such as ammonium persulfate, sodium persulfate, hydrogen peroxide and azoamidine compounds such as azobis-2-methyl propionamide hydrochloric acid salt may be used. Accelerators such as sodium hydrogen sulfite may be used in combination with these initiators. Further, in polymerization with a lower alcohol, an aromatic hydrocarbon, an aliphatic hydrocarbon, an ester compound or a ketone compound as the solvent, peroxides such as benzoyl peroxide and lauroyl peroxide; hydroperoxides such as cumene hydroperoxide; and azo compounds such as 2,2'-azo-bis-isobutyronitrile may be used as polymerization initiators. In this case, it is possible to use accelerators such as amine compounds in combination. Further, in the event of using a water-lower alcohol solvent mixture, one of the various polymerization initiators or combinations of polymerization initiator and accelerator may be selected as suited and used. The polymerization temperature may be selected as required according to the solvent and polymerization initiator, but normally, the polymerization is carried out in the range of 0° to 120°C.

Bulk polymerization is carried out using peroxides such as benzoyl peroxide and lauroyl peroxide, hydroperoxides such as cumene hydroperoxide and aliphatic azo compounds such as 2,2'-azo-bis-isobutyronitrile as polymerization initiators and in a temperatures range of 50 to 200°C.

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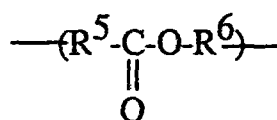
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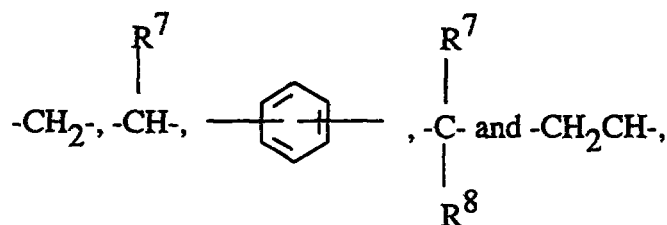
30 NOV 1996

The copolymer (A) obtained in this manner can be used as prepared as the main ingredient of a fluidity-controlling admixture according to the invention. The copolymer (B) obtained by further neutralizing copolymer (A) with an alkaline substance as necessary may also be thus used, as may a crosslinked copolymer (C). Alkaline substances particularly suitable for neutralisation include hydroxides of monovalent metals and divalent metals, inorganic salts of sulfates and carbonates ammonia and organic amines.

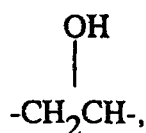
Further, although the cross-linking agent may be selected from any suitable crosslinked agent capable of reactions with a functional group such as carboxyl group, hydroxyl group, amino group, sulfonic acid group, etc. contained in the copolymer (A), a cross-linking agent which has at least one divalent group designated by the following general formula (V)



wherein R^5 and R^6 are independently selected from the group consisting of



wherein R^6 is



30 NOV 1996

R^5 may be unnecessary, and R^7 and R^8 are independently alkyl group of 1 to 5 carbon atoms, as a structural unit and/or can be formed is preferable. Examples of these cross-linking agents include polyvalent glycidyl compounds such as ethylene glycol diglycidyl ether, polyethylene glycol diglycidyl ether, glycerol polyglycidyl ether, diglycerol diglycidyl ether, polyglycerol polyglycidyl ether, sorbitol polyglycidyl ether, pentaerythritol polyglycidyl ether, propylene glycol diglycidyl ether, polypropylene glycol diglycidyl ether, resorcin diglycidyl ether, 1,6-hexanediol diglycidyl ether, adipic acid diglycidyl ester, s-phthalic acid diglycidyl ester, etc.

It is desirable that the weight average molecular weight (hereinafter " M_w ") of copolymer (A) (either as such or as the raw material of copolymer (C)) and copolymer (B) lie in the range of 500 to 500,000. When the monomer mixture comprises monomers (a), (b) and (c), M_w lies preferably in the range of 5,000-500,000, when the mixture comprises monomers (d), (e) and (f) or monomers (g), (h) and (i), it lies preferably in the range 500-100,000. If M_w is less than 500, the water-reducing capability and slump loss prevention capability of the cement dispersing agent are reduced. When M_w exceeds 500,000, the water-reducing capability of the cement dispersing agent is reduced.

The copolymer (A) and/or the copolymer (B) and/or the crosslinked copolymer (C) may be used as a cement dispersing agent in an admixture according to the invention in the form of an aqueous solution or an aqueous emulsion and the air-entraining property in a cementitious mixture such as concrete may be adjusted arbitrarily by suitably adjusting the variety and/or dosage of the defoaming agent used. Further, with (A) and/or (B) and/or (C) as main ingredient, it is permissible to use the admixture according to the invention in combination with another known admixtures. Examples of such cement admixtures include conventional cement dispersing agents, air-entraining agents, cement wetting agents, expansion agents, waterproofing agents, retarding agents, quick-setting agents, water-soluble polymeric substances, thickeners, coagulants, drying shrinkage reducing agents, strength increasing agents and hardening accelerators.

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30 NOV 1996

The admixture of the invention may be used with hydraulic cements such as portland cement, high alumina cement and various blended cements or hydraulic materials other than cement, such as gypsum.

The admixture of this invention gives excellent performance even when relatively small quantities compared with conventional dispersing agents are used. For example, when used in mortars or concretes containing hydraulic cement, quantities used are typically from 0.01 to 1.0%, preferably from 0.02 to 0.5% by weight of cement. Various desirable effects such as increase in slump, reduction in unit water content, increase in strength and improvement in durability are brought about by such addition. With less than 0.01% addition, the performance is inadequate, whereas, when a large quantity in excess of 1.0% is used, the results are no better and costs more. It has the additional advantage of long shelf stability.

The invention therefore also provides a process of modifying the fluidity of a cementitious composition, comprising the incorporation into the composition of an admixture as hereinabove described. The use of an admixture as hereinabove described to modify the fluidity of a cementitious composition is also provided.

The invention is further described with reference to the following examples. In the examples, unless otherwise stated, "percent" and "part" shall indicate "weight percent" and "part by weight" respectively.

Example 1 for manufacturing Admixture No. 1

1695 parts of water is introduced in a glass reaction vessel equipped with a thermometer, a stirrer, a dropping funnel, a nitrogen introduction tube, and a reflux condenser, and the interior of the reaction vessel is purged with nitrogen while stirring and heating to 95°C is carried out under a nitrogen atmosphere. An aqueous solution of monomer comprising 750 parts of methoxy polyethylene glycol monomethacrylate (average mol addition number of ethylene oxide, 10), 250 parts of

30 NOV 1996

methacrylic acid, 7 parts of "Pluronic" (trade mark) L-64 (polyoxyethylene-polyoxypropylene adduct manufactured by Asahi Denka Kogyo KK) as oxyalkylene base defoaming agent, and 1500 parts of water, and 672 parts of a 5% ammonium persulfate aqueous solution is then drip-fed for 4 hours, and after completion of dropping, 168 parts of 5% ammonium persulfate is further drip-fed for 1 hour. The temperature is then maintained at 95°C for 1 hour to complete the polymerization reaction. An admixture of the present invention comprising an aqueous solution of a copolymer of Mw 35,000 is obtained.

Examples 2 to 5 for Manufacturing Admixtures Nos. (2) to (5).

Admixtures (2) to (5) of the present invention comprising the copolymer (A) manufactured by operations similar to those in Example 1 are summarized in Tables 1 and 2.

Example 6 for manufacturing Admixture No. 6.

349.6 parts of water, 1648 parts of polyethylene glycol monoallyl ether (average mol addition number of ethylene oxide, 5) and 23.2 parts of oxyethylene oxypropylene adduct to C₁₂-C₁₄ alcohols as oxyalkylene base defoaming agent in a glass reaction vessel equipped with a thermometer, a stirrer, a dropping funnel, a nitrogen introduction tube and a reflux condenser, and the interior of the reaction vessel is purged with nitrogen while stirring, and heating was carried out to 95°C under a nitrogen atmosphere. A monomer/polymerization initiator mixture aqueous solution comprising 687 parts of maleic acid, 1030 parts of water and 57.2 parts of 5% ammonium persulfate aqueous solution is then drip-fed for 2 hours, and after completion of dropping, 527 parts of 5% ammonium persulfate aqueous solution is dropped for 1 hour. The temperature is then maintained at 95°C to complete the polymerization reaction. The result is an admixture (6) of the present invention comprising an aqueous solution of a copolymer of average molecular weight of 6,000.

Example 7 for manufacturing Admixture (7)

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30 NOV 1996

Admixture (7) of the present invention is obtained by drip-feeding 185 parts of 50% NaOH aqueous solution into the admixture (1) obtained in Example 1, this bringing it to pH 8.

Examples 8 to 21 for manufacturing Admixtures Nos. (8)-(21).

Admixtures (8) to (21) comprising the copolymer (B) of the present invention obtained in a similar method to Example 7 are summarized in Tables 3 and 4.

Examples 22 for manufacturing Admixture No. (22)

5000 parts of 20% admixture aqueous solution (solids content: 1000 parts) obtained in Example 1 is introduced into a glass reaction vessel equipped with a thermometer, a stirrer, a nitrogen introduction tube and a reflux condenser, and heating to 95°C is carried out. 35 parts of o-phthalic acid diglycidyl ester is then added. The temperature is maintained at 95°C for 3 hours to complete the cross-linking reaction and the result is admixture (22) comprising a cross-linked copolymer aqueous solution.

Examples 23 to 25 for manufacturing Admixtures No. (23) to (25).

Admixtures Nos. (23) to (25) of the present invention comprising the cross-linked copolymer (C) of the present invention manufactured by a similar method to Example 22 are summarized in Table 5.

Example 26 for manufacturing Admixture No. (26)

420 Parts of 1-hexane, 490 parts of maleic anhydride, 9.1 parts of oxyethylene oxypropylene adduct of C₁₂-C₁₄ alcohols, 27 parts of azobisisobutyronitrile and 2730 parts of toluene are introduced in a glass reaction vessel equipped with a thermometer, a stirrer, a dropping funnel, a nitrogen introduction tube and a reflux condenser, and the interior is purged with nitrogen under stirring. After reacting at 80°C for 7 hours under nitrogen atmosphere, and precipitated while polymer was

30 NOV 1996

collected and dried. 2500 Parts of 10% aqueous sodium hydroxide solution is added into 644 parts of the copolymer thus obtained and heated at 90°C under stirring to obtain an admixture (26) of the present invention comprising a copolymer of average molecular weight of 6100.

Examples 27 to 28 for manufacturing Admixtures Nos. (27) to (28)

Admixtures (27) to (28) of the present invention comprising the copolymer (B) of the present invention manufactured by a similar method to Example 26 are summarized in Table 6.

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Table 1

Example	Admixture No	Reaction composition : numerals in brackets are parts by weight			
		charged solvent	unsaturated carboxylic acid base monomer	other monomer	other monomer
1	(1)	water [1695.0]	MAA [250.0]	MPEGMMA (n=10) [750.0]	
2	(2)	water [1695.0]	AA [200.0]	PEGMA (n=25) [800.0]	
3	(3)	water [1315.0]	MAA [250.0]	MPEGMMA (n=25) [740.0]	methyl methacrylate
4	(4)	water [1695.0]	MAA [300.0]	PEGMME (n=25) [700.0]	
5	(5)	water [1800.0]	TEGMM [369.6]	PEGMAE (n=25) [630.4]	
6	(6)	water [349.6]	MA [687.0]	PEGMAE (n=25) [1648.0]	

18

MAA : methacrylic acid
 AA : acrylic acid
 TEGMM : tetraethylene glycol monomaleate
 MA : maleic acid
 MPEGMMA : methoxy polyethylene glycol monomethacrylate
 PEGMA : polyethylene glycol monoacrylate
 PEGMME : polyethylene glycol monomethyl ether
 PEGMAE : polyethylene glycol monoallyl ether

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30 NOV 1996

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Table 2

Example	Reaction composition : numerals in brackets are parts by weight		reaction temperature (°C)	molecular weight
	defoaming agent (II)	polymerization initiator		
1	Pluronic L-64 a) [7.0]	ammonium persulfate [20.0]	95	35000
2	polyethylene glycol polypropylene glycol nonyl phenyl ether [5.0]	azobis-2-methyl propiomidine hydrochloride [20.0]	80	38000
3	oxyethylene oxypropylene adduct of C ₁₂ - C ₁₄ alcohols [1.0]	ammonium persulfate [40.0]	95	23000
4	Surfynol 440 b) [7.0]	ammonium persulfate [20.0]	95	30000
5	polyethylene glycol polypropylene glycol nonyl phenyl ether [5.0]	ammonium persulfate [15.0]	95	10000
6	oxyethylene oxypropylene adduct of C ₁₂ - C ₁₄ alcohols [23.2]	ammonium persulfate [85.8]	95	6000

- a) polyoxyethylene polyoxypropylene adduct (Asahi Denka K.K.)
 b) acetylene alcohol polyoxyethylene adduct (Nisshin Kagaku Kogyo K.K.)
 c) Monomer mixture is added in 40% aqueous solution and polymerization initiator is added in 5% aqueous solution.



Table 3

Example	Admixture No.	Reaction composition : numerals in brackets are parts by weight			
		charged solvent	unsaturated carboxylic acid base monomer	other monomer	other monomer
7	(7)	water [1695.0]	MAA [250.0]	MPEGMMA (n=10) [750.0]	
8	(8)	water [2838.0]	MAA [239.0]	MPEGMMA (n=25) [1200.0]	
9	(9)	water [2838.0]	MAA [239.0]	MPEGMMA (n=25) [1200.0]	
10	(10)	water [2931.0]	MAA [239.0]	MPEGMMA (n=50) [1200.0]	
11	(11)	water [3158.0]	MAA [239.0]	MPEGMMA (n=50) [1200.0]	
12	(12)	water [3077.0]	MAA [177.0]	MPEGMMA (n=50) [1262.0]	
13	(13)	water [2972.0]	MAA [239.0]	MPEGMMA (n=75) [1200.0]	
14	(14)	water [3334.0]	SA [288.0]	MPEGMMA (n=50) [1151.0]	
15	(15)	water [2195.0]	MAA [239.0]	PEGMMA (n=5) [1200.0]	
16	(16)	water [2823.0]	MAA [239.0]	MPEGMMA (n=50) [1080.0]	sodium sulfoethacrylate [120.0]

Table 3 (cont'd)

17	(17)	water [2924.0]	MAA [215.0]	MPEGMMA (n=50) [1200.0]	methyl acrylate [24.0]
18	(18)	water [1695.0]	MAA [250.0]	MPEGMMA (n=10) [750.0]	
19	(19)	water [1695.0]	MAA [300.0]	PEGMAE (n=25) [700.0]	
20	(20)	water [1695.0]	MAA [300.0]	PEGMAE (n=25) [700.0]	
21	(21)	water [349.6]	MA [687.0]	PEGMAE (n=5) [1648.0]	

MA : methacrylic acid
 SA : sodium acrylate
 MA : maleic acid
 MPEGMMA : methoxy polyethylene glycol monomethacrylate
 PEGMMA : polyethylene glycol monomethacrylate
 PEGMAE : polyethylene glycol monoallyl ether

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30 NOV 1996

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Table 4

Example	Reaction composition : numerals in brackets are parts by weight		reaction temperature (°C)	alkaline substance	pH	molecular weight
	defoaming agent (II)	polymerization initiator				
7	Pluronic L-64 a) [7.0]	APS [20.0]	95	50% NaOH	8.0	36000
8	Pluronic L-64 a) [7.0]	APS [38.0]	95	50% NaOH	8.0	40000
9	Pluronic L-64 a) [1.4]	APS [38.0]	95	50% NaOH	8.0	39000
10	oxyethylene oxypropylene adduct of C ₁₂ -C ₁₄ alcohols [14.0]	APS [33.0]	95	50% NaOH	8.1	37000
11	polyoxyethylene polyoxypropylene nonyl phenyl ether [7.0]	APS [22.0]	95	50% NaOH	8.5	113000
12	Surfynol 440 b) [7.0]	APS [26.1]	95	50% NaOH	7.7	53000
13	polyoxyethylene polyoxypropylene oleate [7.0]	APS [31.3]	95	50% NaOH	7.6	34000
14	polyoxyethylene polyoxypropylene sorbitan monolaurate [21.0]	APS [12.5]	95	50% NaOH	8.0	16000
15	polyoxypropylene dodecyl benzene sulfonate [21.0]	APS [69.5]	95	50% NaOH	8.0	78000
16	polyoxyethylene stearate [21.0]	APS [38.0]	95	50% NaOH	7.9	19000
17	polyoxyethylene laurylamine [21.0]	APS [33.0]	95	50% NaOH	8.1	32000
18	Pluronic L-64 a) [7.0]	APS [20.0]	95	30% Ca(OH) ₂	7.5	35000
19	Surfynol 440 b) [7.0]	APS [20.0]	95	50% NaOH	7.1	30000
20	Surfynol 440 b) [7.0]	APS [20.0]	95	TEA	7.1	30000

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22

30 NOV 1996

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Table 4 (cont'd)

21	oxyethylene oxypropylene adduct of C ₁₂ -C ₁₄ alcohols [23.2]	APS [85.8]	95	50% NaOH	7.8	6000
----	--	------------	----	----------	-----	------

- a) polyoxyethylene polyoxypropylene adduct (Asahi Denka K.K.)
b) acetylene alcohol polyoxyethylene adduct (Nissin Kagaku Kogy K.K.)
c) Monomer mixture is added in 40% aqueous solution and polymerization initiator is added in 5 % aqueous solution.
APS : ammonium persulfate
TEA : triethanolamine

23



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30 NOV 1996

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Table 5

Example	Admixture No.	Reaction composition : numerals in brackets are parts by weight		Reaction temperature (°C)	Molecular weight after cross-linking
		copolymer (A)	cross-linking agent		
22	(22)	Admixture No. (Nw; 35000)	o-phthalic acid diglycidyl ester	95	220000
23	(23)	Admixture No. (1) [Nw; 35000]	polyethylene glycol diglycidyl ether (n=9)	95	300000
24	(24)	Admixture No. (4) [Nw; 38000]	1,6-hexanediol diglycidyl ether	95	200000
25	(25)	Admixture No. (6) [Nw; 6000]	adipic acid diglycidyl ester	95	150000

24



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30 NOV 1996

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Table 6

Example	Cement Dispersing agent	Reaction composition : numerals in brackets are parts by weight			
		charged solvent	unsaturated carboxylic acid base monomer	other monomer	other monomer
26	(26)	toluene [2730]	maleic anhydride [490]	1-hexene [420]	
27	(27)	methyl ethyl ketone [2571]	maleic anhydride [686]	isobutylene [364]	styrene [52]
28	(28)	toluene [2745]	maleic anhydride [147]	methoxy- polyethylene glycol allyl ether [768]	

Example	Reaction composition : numerals in brackets are parts by weight		reaction temperature (°C)	molecular weight
	defoaming agent (II)	polymerization initiator		
26	oxyethylene oxypropylene adduct of C ₁₂ - C ₁₄ alcohols [9.1]	AIBN [27.0]	80	5200
27	polyoxyethylene laurylamine [5.5]	AIBN [10.0]	80	6000
28	polyoxyethylene polyoxypropylene adduct [6.4]	butyl peroxide [10.0]	90	9000

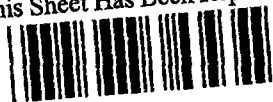
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30 NOV 1996

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30 NOV 1996

Control 1 for manufacturing Comparison Admixture (1)

1695 Parts of water is introduced into a glass reaction vessel equipped with a thermometer, a stirrer, a dropping funnel, a nitrogen introduction tube, and a reflux condenser, and the interior of the reaction vessel is purged with nitrogen while stirring, and the mixture is heated to 95°C under a nitrogen atmosphere. A monomer aqueous solution comprising 800 parts of methoxy polyethylene glycol monomethacrylate (average mol addition number of ethylene oxide, 10) 200 parts of methacrylic acid, and 1500 parts of water, and 672 parts of a 5% ammonium persulfate aqueous solution are respectively drip-fed for 4 hours, and after completion of feeding, 168 parts of 5% ammonium persulfate is added over a period of 1 hour. The temperature is maintained for 1 hour at 95°C to complete a polymerization reaction. A comparison admixture (1) comprising an aqueous solution of a copolymer of average molecular weight of 35,000 is obtained.

Control 2 for manufacturing Comparison Admixture No. (2)

1695 parts of water is introduced into a glass reaction vessel equipped with a thermometer, a stirrer, a dropping funnel, a nitrogen introduction tube, and a reflux condenser, and the interior of the reaction vessel is purged with nitrogen while stirring, and the mixture is heated to 95°C under a nitrogen atmosphere. A monomer aqueous solution comprising 800 parts of methoxy polyethylene glycol monomethacrylate (average mol addition number of ethylene oxide, 10), 200 parts of methacrylic acid, 0.005 parts of "Pluronic" L-64 (polyoxyethylene-polyoxypropylene adduct) as oxyalkylene base defoaming agent, and 1500 parts of water, and 672 parts of a 5% ammonium persulfate aqueous solution are respectively dip-fed for 4 hours, and after completion of feeding, 168 parts of 5% ammonium persulfate is added over a period at 1 hour. The temperature is maintained at 95°C for 1 hour to complete a polymerization reaction. A comparison admixture (2) comprising an aqueous solution of a copolymer of M_w 35,000 is obtained.

Control 3 for manufacturing Admixture No. (3)

To 100 parts of comparison admixture No. (1) obtained in Control 1, 0.1 part of

30 NOV 1996

polyoxyethylene polyoxypropylene nonyl phenyl ether as a polyoxyalkylene base defoaming agent is added to obtain a comparison cement dispersing agent (3).

Control 4 for manufacturing Comparison Admixture No. (4)

349.6 parts of water and 1648 parts of polyethylene glycol monoallyl ether (average mol addition number of ethylene oxide, 5) are introduced into a glass reaction vessel equipped with a thermometer, a stirrer, a dropping funnel, a nitrogen introduction tube and a reflux condenser, and the interior of the reaction vessel is purged with nitrogen while stirring, and the mixture is heated to 95°C under a nitrogen atmosphere. A monomer/polymerization initiator mixture aqueous solution comprising 687 parts of maleic acid, 1030 parts of water and 57.2 parts of ammonium persulfate is dip-fed for 2 hours. After completion of feeding, 527 parts of 5% ammonium persulfate aqueous solution is added over a period of 1 hour. The temperature is maintained at 95°C for 1 further hour to complete the polymerization reaction. A comparison admixture (4) comprising an aqueous solution of a copolymer of Mw 6,000 is obtained.

Control 5 for manufacturing Admixture No. (5)

A comparison admixture (5) is obtained by mixing 0.1 part of oxyethyleneoxypropylene adduct of C_{12} - C_{14} alcohol as a polyalkylene base of defoaming agent to the comparison admixture No. (4) obtained in Control 4.

(Test of storage stability)

The 28 varieties of cement dispersing agent of the invention shown in Tables 1 to 6 are left standing at 50°C and the storage stability is investigated by visually observing degrees of compatibility. Further, for purposes of comparison, tests are also made of the comparison cement dispersing agent (3) obtained in Control 3 and comparison cement dispersing agent (5) obtained in Control 5. The particle size of the defoaming agent is determined by using a laser diffraction type particle distribution meter (microtrunk FRA). The results of these tests are given in Tables 7 and 8.

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30 NOV 1996

28

Further, evaluation of compatibilities are as follows:

- O: Uniformly compatible or stable dispersion
- Δ : Not compatible or unstable dispersion
- X: Separated into two layers

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Table 7

Example	Admixture used	Number of days elapsed			particle size (μm)
		immediately	50°C, after 1 day	50°C, after 1 month	
1	(1)	○	○	○	1.3
2	(2)	○	○	○	1.7
3	(3)	○	○	○	1.3
4	(4)	○	○	○	1.4
5	(5)	○	○	○	7.1
6	(6)	○	○	○	5.7
7	(7)	○	○	○	1.8
8	(8)	○	○	○	1.2
9	(9)	○	○	○	1.2
10	(10)	○	○	○	1.5
11	(11)	○	○	○	1.3
12	(12)	○	○	○	1.5
13	(13)	○	○	○	1.2
14	(14)	○	○	○	1.4
15	(15)	○	○	○	1.4
16	(16)	○	○	○	1.5
17	(17)	○	○	○	1.2

29

30 NOV 1996

REPLACEMENT SHEET

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Table 7 (cont'd)

18	(18)	○	○	○	1.3
19	(19)	○	○	○	1.4
20	(20)	○	○	○	1.4
21	(21)	○	○	○	5.7
22	(22)	○	○	○	1.3
23	(23)	○	○	○	1.3
24	(24)	○	○	○	1.4
25	(25)	○	○	○	5.7
26	(26)	○	○	○	-
27	(27)	○	○	○	-
28	(28)	○	○	○	-

"-" particle size determination : particle size is not more than 0.1 μm or cannot be determined because of molten state

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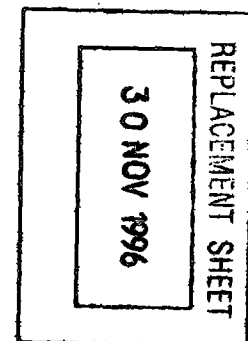
30 NOV 1996

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Table 8

Control	Admixture used	Number of days elapsed			particle size (μm)
		immediately	50°C, after 1 day	50°C after 1 month	
3	comparative Admixture No. (3)	Δ	X	X	2.2
5	comparative Admixture No. (5)	Δ	X	X	5.2

31



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30 NOV 1996

The cement used was ordinary portland cement (blend of equal amounts of 3 brands, specific gravity: 3.16), the fine aggregate was a blend of Oi River System pit sand and Kisarazu mountain sand (specific gravity 2.62, FM 2.71) and coarse aggregate was Ohme, Tokyo graywacke crushed stone (specific gravity 2.64, MS 20mm).

The 28 varieties of the admixture according to the invention listed in Tables 1-6 and for comparison the comparison admixtures (1) to (5) and naphthalene sulfonate-formalin condensate (BNS) and melamine sulfonate-formalin condensate (MSF) are tested. As the comparative admixtures (1), (2) and (4) possess air-entraining properties, adjustments of entrained air contents using air-entraining agents are not made, while for the other admixtures of the invention (1)-(17) and the comparison admixtures (3) and (5) and for BNS and MSF, a commercial air-entraining agent ("Pozzolith" (trade mark) No. 303A manufactured by NMB Ltd.) is used in the dosages listed in Tables 9 and 10 to make adjustments of entrained air contents as suited

The mix proportions for plain concrete without admixture according to the invention are unit cement content 320kg/m^3 , unit water content 203kg/m^3 (water/cement ratio 0.634) and sand-aggregate ratio 49%, while the proportions for concrete using with the admixture are unit cement content 320kg/m^3 , unit water content 166kg/m^3 (water-cement ratio 0.519), and sand-aggregate ratio 47%

Concretes are manufactured under the conditions mentioned above, time-dependent changes in slump values and air content are measured and slump losses and air-entraining properties are evaluated. The time of setting and 28 day age compressive strength of concrete are also measured.

Measuring slump, air content, compressive strength and time of setting and the method of collecting compressive strength specimens are all adaptations of Japan Industrial Standards (JIS A 1101, 1108, 1128, 1132, 6204)

The results are given in Tables 9-14

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33

Table 9

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30 NOV 1996

Example	Admixture used	Amount of cement dispersing agent a)	Amount of air entraining agent b)
1	(1)	0.15	0.012
2	(2)	0.15	0.010
3	(3)	0.15	0.005
4	(4)	0.15	0.012
5	(5)	0.17	0.011
6	(6)	0.17	0.015
7	(7)	0.15	0.012
8	(8)	0.15	0.010
9	(9)	0.15	0.003
10	(10)	0.15	0.015
11	(11)	0.15	0.008
12	(12)	0.15	0.010
13	(13)	0.15	0.018
14	(14)	0.15	0.020
15	(15)	0.15	0.010
16	(16)	0.15	0.008
17	(17)	0.15	0.016
18	(18)	0.15	0.012
19	(19)	0.15	0.010
20	(20)	0.15	0.010
21	(21)	0.17	0.015
22	(22)	0.18	0.012
23	(23)	0.18	0.012
24	(24)	0.18	0.010
25	(25)	0.18	0.015
26	(26)	0.17	0.016
27	(27)	0.15	0.015
28	(28)	0.12	0.012

Remarks: a) Percent by weight of solid content on cement
b) Percent by weight on cement

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30 NOV 1996

Table 10

Control	Admixture used	Amount of cement dispersing agent a)	Amount of air entraining agent b)
A	plain concrete	-	-
B	BNS	0.50	0.008
C	MSF	0.60	0.002
1	comparative Admixture No. (1)	0.15	-
2	comparative Admixture No. (2)	0.15	-
3	comparative Admixture No. (3)	0.15	0.011
4	comparative Admixture No. (4)	0.15	-
5	comparative Admixture No. (5)	0.15	0.013

Remarks: a) Percent by weight of solid content on cement
b) Percent by weight on cement

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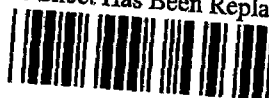
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30 NOV 1996

Table 11

Example	Slump (cm) / air content (vol %)			
	immediately after mixing	After 30 min.	After 60 min.	After 90 min.
1	19.0 / 4.1	19.0 / 3.9	17.5 / 3.7	17.5 / 4.0
2	18.5 / 3.9	17.0 / 3.7	16.5 / 3.3	17.0 / 3.5
3	17.5 / 4.0	18.5 / 3.7	18.0 / 3.8	17.0 / 3.8
4	19.0 / 4.0	17.0 / 3.8	16.5 / 3.8	17.0 / 3.5
5	17.5 / 4.2	18.0 / 4.3	17.5 / 4.0	17.0 / 3.8
6	18.5 / 4.2	17.5 / 4.1	17.5 / 3.9	18.0 / 3.7
7	18.5 / 3.7	18.0 / 3.6	17.0 / 3.5	17.5 / 3.7
8	18.0 / 4.0	18.0 / 4.0	18.5 / 3.8	17.5 / 4.1
9	18.5 / 3.9	18.0 / 4.1	18.0 / 3.8	17.0 / 3.8
10	19.0 / 4.5	18.0 / 4.0	17.0 / 4.3	18.5 / 4.2
11	18.5 / 3.8	17.0 / 4.0	18.0 / 3.8	19.5 / 3.7
12	19.0 / 4.0	17.0 / 4.0	18.5 / 4.2	17.0 / 3.7
13	18.0 / 4.5	17.0 / 4.0	17.5 / 4.1	17.5 / 4.4
14	19.0 / 4.0	19.0 / 4.0	17.5 / 3.8	17.5 / 3.7
15	18.0 / 4.0	17.0 / 4.3	18.5 / 3.8	17.0 / 3.7
16	18.5 / 4.1	19.0 / 4.0	17.5 / 3.8	17.5 / 3.7
17	18.0 / 4.0	18.0 / 4.0	17.5 / 3.7	17.5 / 3.8
18	18.5 / 3.9	15.5 / 3.6	17.5 / 3.9	17.5 / 3.7

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30 NOV 1996

Table 12

Example	Slump (cm) air content (vol %)			
	immediately after mixing	After 30 min.	After 60 min.	After 90 min.
19	18.5 / 3.9	18.0 / 4.0	18.0 / 4.0	17.5 / 3.8
20	18.0 / 4.1	17.0 / 3.8	17.0 / 3.9	17.5 / 3.6
21	19.0 / 3.8	17.0 / 3.4	17.0 / 3.7	17.0 / 3.5
22	17.0 / 3.4	20.5 / 3.7	19.5 / 3.6	19.0 / 3.5
23	17.0 / 3.6	20.0 / 3.5	19.5 / 3.6	18.0 / 3.6
24	17.0 / 3.9	20.0 / 3.9	19.0 / 4.0	18.5 / 3.7
25	17.0 / 4.0	21.0 / 4.1	19.0 / 3.7	17.5 / 3.9
26	19.5 / 4.1	19.0 / 3.7	18.0 / 3.0	17.5 / 3.3
27	18.0 / 4.3	18.0 / 4.1	17.0 / 4.2	17.0 / 3.9
28	18.5 / 3.7	18.0 / 3.8	18.5 / 3.5	17.5 / 3.5
Control				
A	19.0 / 2.0	17.5 / 2.0	15.5 / 1.8	12.5 / 1.7
B	18.0 / 4.4	10.5 / 4.1	6.5 / 3.8	4.0 / 3.3
C	18.5 / 4.2	9.5 / 4.0	6.5 / 3.9	4.0 / 3.1
1	19.0 / 4.4	19.0 / 4.2	18.0 / 4.4	17.0 / 4.6
2	18.5 / 4.2	18.0 / 4.3	15.5 / 4.3	17.5 / 4.6
3	18.0 / 3.9	18.5 / 3.9	17.0 / 4.3	16.5 / 4.6
4	18.5 / 4.6	17.5 / 4.5	17.5 / 4.5	17.0 / 4.7
5	19.0 / 3.7	17.0 / 4.0	18.6 / 4.5	18.5 / 5.1

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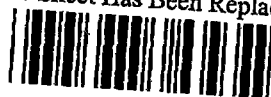
30 NOV 1996

37

Table 13

Example	Setting time (hr-min)		28-Day Comp. Strength (kgf/cm ²)
	Init.	Final	
1	6-20	8-30	480
2	6-20	8-10	472
3	6-30	8-30	467
4	6-20	8-40	461
5	6-30	8-20	458
6	6-10	8-40	462
7	6-10	8-40	477
8	6-20	8-30	470
9	6-00	8-40	488
10	6-30	8-40	494
11	5-50	8-10	453
12	6-00	8-50	475
13	6-20	9-00	455
14	6-30	8-50	459
15	6-40	9-10	486
16	6-00	8-30	477
17	6-10	8-20	463
18	6-20	9-00	473

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30 NOV 1996

Table 14

Example	Setting time (hr-min)		28-Day Comp. strength (kgf/cm ²)
	Init.	Final	
19	6-30	8-10	474
20	6-20	8-20	459
21	6-20	8-10	462
22	6-50	9-10	468
23	6-40	9-00	473
24	6-50	8-50	461
25	6-50	9-20	456
26	6-30	8-30	479
27	6-10	8-20	459
28	6-20	8-40	462
Control			
A	5-40	7-50	329
B	5-30	7-30	407
C	5-30	7-40	410
1	6-20	8-20	422
2	6-20	8-40	431
3	6-30	8-30	419
4	6-00	8-30	417
5	6-10	8-20	425

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30 NOV 1996

From Tables 9 to 10, it may be seen that the shelf life of an admixture according to the invention is considerably improved over the case of the blend of defoaming agent with a copolymer.

Tables 9 to 14 show that the comparison admixtures (1) and (4) obtained by polymerization without using a defoaming agent and the comparison admixture (2) obtained by using 0.005% of the defoaming agent produces an air content of 4.5-5%, so that dosage must be limited. Moreover, 28-day compressive strength is reduced. With admixtures according to the invention, air-entraining tendencies are reduced and adjustment can be made to any air content with an air-entraining agent. Further, other physical properties are equal to or better than comparison concretes, and it may particularly be noted that 28 day compressive strengths are greatly increased.

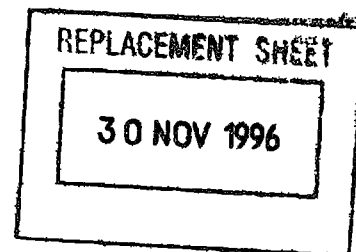
Moreover, comparison admixtures (3) and (5) with added defoaming agents added to comparison cement dispersing agent (1) show increases in entrained air content with elapse of time, whereas the air-entraining properties of admixtures according to the invention are stable with elapse of time and slump loss prevention is also superior compared with plain concrete, BNS and MSF.

The admixtures according to the invention ameliorate and even eliminate the problem of the excessive air-entraining properties of conventional polycarboxylic acid base high range air-entraining, water-reducing agents. They exhibit excellent shelf life and are capable of entraining suitable amounts of air. Thus, the use of an admixture according to the invention confers the possibility of preparing cementitious mixtures such as concrete of good fluidity with a high rate of water reduction, which on hardening, will provide a hardened concrete object of high compressive strength.

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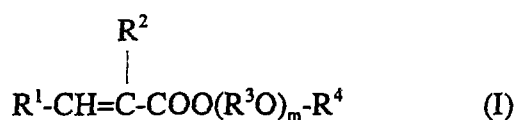


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Claims:

1. A fluidity-controlling admixture for cementitious compositions, comprising at least one cement-dispersing agent and at least one defoaming agent, characterised in that
 - (a) the cement-dispersing agent is an aqueous solution of polymer; and
 - (b) the defoaming agent is oxyalkylene-based and is either dissolved in the polymer solution or is stably dispersed therein in particles of no more than 20µM diameter.
2. An admixture according to claim 1, wherein the polymer comprises a main component which is selected from at least one of
 - (A) a copolymer obtained by polymerising a monomer mixture which comprises an unsaturated carboxylic acid monomer;
 - (B) the neutralised salt of (A); and
 - (C) the polymer obtained by crosslinking (A) and/or (B) by means of a crosslinking agent.
3. An admixture according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the polymer is formed from a monomer mixture which comprises from 5-98% by weight of an alkylene glycol mono(meth)acrylic acid ester monomer (a) of the formula I



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wherein R¹ and R² are independently hydrogen or methyl, R³ is an alkylene group of from 2-4 carbon atoms, R⁴ is hydrogen or an alkyl group of 1 to 22 carbon atoms, and m represents an integer of 1 to 100, and 2 to 95% by weight of a (meth)acrylic acid base

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30 NOV 1996

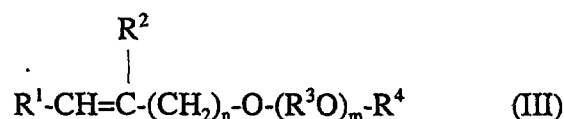
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monomer (b) of the formula (II)

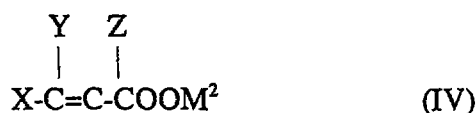


wherein R^1 and R^2 have the abovementioned significances, and M^1 is hydrogen, monovalent metal, divalent metal, ammonium group or an organic amine group, and 0 to 50% by weight of a monomer (c) capable of being copolymerized with these monomers, provided that the sum of (a), (b) and (c) shall be 100% by weight.

4. An admixture according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the polymer is prepared from a monomer mixture which comprises from 5-98% by weight of an alkoxypolyalkylene glycol mono(meth)allyl ether base monomer (d) of the formula (III);



wherein R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , R^4 and m are as hereinabove defined and n is 0 or 1, and 2 to 95% by weight of a (meth)acrylic acid base monomer (b) of the formula (IV)



wherein X and Y are independently selected from hydrogen, methyl and -COOM^3 , or X or Y together with -COOM^2 form an anhydride ring, Z is selected from

$\text{-CH}_2\text{COOM}^3$, hydrogen or methyl and M^2 and M^3 are independently selected from the significances of M^1 given hereinabove, an alkyl group of 1-20 carbon atoms, an alkylene glycol of 2-4 carbon atoms and a polyalkylene glycol of from 2-100 mols of a glycol adduct, provided that at least one of M^2 , M^3 is selected from hydrogen, monovalent metal, divalent metal, ammonium group and an organic amine group; and from 0-50% by weight of monomer (f) capable of copolymerisation with (d) and (e), (d)+(e)+(f) being 100% by

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weight.

5. An admixture according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the polymer is prepared from a monomer mixture which comprises from 5-98% by weight of at least one α -olefinic monomer (g) having from 2-12 carbon atoms, from 2-95% by weight of an ethylenically unsaturated dicarboxylic acid anhydride base monomer (h) and from 0-50% by weight of monomer (i) copolymerisable with (g) and (h), (g)+(h)+(i) being 100% by weight.
6. A process of producing an admixture according to any one of claims 2 to 5, comprising the polymerisation of a monomer mixture which comprises at least one unsaturated carboxylic acid base monomer in the presence of an oxyalkylene-based defoaming agent.
7. A process of modifying the fluidity of a cementitious composition, comprising the incorporation into the composition of an admixture according to any one of claims 1-5.
8. Use of an admixture according to any one of claims 2 to 5 to modify the fluidity of a cementitious composition.

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ABSTRACT

FLUIDITY CONTROL OF CEMENTITIOUS COMPOSITIONS

An admixture for modifying the fluidity of a cementitious mixture comprises a cement-dispersing agent which is an aqueous solution of polymer, in which solution an oxyalkylene-based defoaming agent is dissolved or dispersed in particles of no greater than 20 μ m diameter. The polymer is preferably a polymer which comprises units derived from unsaturated carboxylic acid monomer and the polymer is preferably prepared in the presence of the defoaming agent. Particular addition copolymers give particularly good results. The admixture permits good control of the fluidity of cementitious compositions and has extended shelf life.

11 JUL 1997

FLUIDITY CONTROL OF CEMENTITIOUS COMPOSITIONS

5 This invention relates to fluidity control of cementitious compositions, to admixtures for achieving such control and to cementitious compositions comprising such admixtures.

10 Water-reducing compositions are widely used in cementitious compositions such as concrete to reduce the water content (and thereby increase strength) while maintaining fluidity or "slump" (so that the compositions can flow easily, for example, around complicated formwork). Typical water-reducing agents are the so-called "superplasticisers", for example, β -naphthalene sulphonate-formaldehyde ("BNS") condensates and various polycarboxylate-based materials. One of the problems which water-reducing agents, especially the aforementioned polycarboxylates, can introduce is the entrainment into the cementitious composition of excessive volumes of air. While the presence of some air is harmless and even beneficial, excessive air entrainment leads to reduced strength. Air entrainment can of course be reduced by reducing the concentration of water-reducing agent used, but the desired slump control is then diminished. It has been proposed to use known defoaming agents to counteract excessive aeration, but this has also often proved unsatisfactory, one reason being that a mixture of water-reducing agent and defoaming agent, a commercially desirable package, is usually unstable.

20 It has now been found that it is possible to make an admixture which confers high slump on cementitious compositions, but without excessive aeration. There is therefore provided, according to the present invention, a fluidity-controlling admixture for cementitious compositions, comprising at least one cement-dispersing agent and at least one defoaming agent, characterised in that

25 (a) the cement-dispersing agent is an aqueous solution of polymer; and

(b) the defoaming agent is oxyalkylene-based and is either dissolved in the polymer solution or is stably dispersed therein in particles of no more than $20\mu\text{M}$ diameter;

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11 JUL 1997

the aqueous solution of polymer being prepared by the polymerisation of monomer in the presence of the defoaming agent and the defoaming agent being present to the extent of from 0.01 - 10.0% by weight of the monomer mixture.

- 5 The invention additionally provides a process of preparing a fluidity control admixture for use in concrete, comprising the polymerisation of a monomer mixture in the presence of an oxyalkylene-based defoaming agent.

10 Where the defoaming agent is present in the form of particles, the particles are stably dispersed in the solution. By "stably dispersed" is meant that, when prepared and allowed to stand, a dispersion will remain a dispersion for at least 24 hours. The reason for this is not fully understood, but it is noticeable that a dispersion which does not comply with this requirement does not give such good results in a cementitious composition, even when it is used when it is still a dispersion, for example, immediately upon preparation or shortly thereafter.

15 The defoaming agent is dissolved or dispersed in the presence of polymerisable monomer and the monomer polymerised to give the polymer. It has been found that dispersions prepared in this manner are appreciably better than those obtained by simply dissolving or dispersing a defoaming agent in an already-existing polymer solution. A further practical advantage of this method with
20 respect to the dispersion of particles is that the achievement of the desired small particle size is more easily achievable. Details of preferred monomer compositions are given hereinafter.

The polymer for use in this invention may be any polymer which is water-soluble and which is a water-reducing agent or a cement-dispersing agent. However, it has been found that certain
25 polymers give especially good results. Thus, in a preferred admixture, the polymer comprises a main component which is selected from at least one of

(A) a copolymer obtained by polymerising a monomer mixture which comprises

30 (B) the neutralised salt of (A); and

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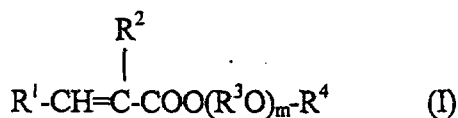


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11 JUL 1997

(C) the polymer obtained by crosslinking (A) and/or (B) by means of a

In a preferred embodiment, the monomer mixture comprises from 5-98% by weight of an alkylene glycol mono(meth)acrylic acid ester monomer (a) of the formula I

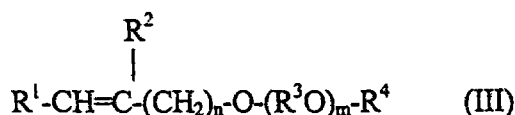


wherein R^1 and R^2 are independently hydrogen or methyl, R^3 is an alkylene group of from 2-4 carbon atoms, R^4 is hydrogen or an alkyl group of 1 to 22 carbon atoms, and m represents an integer of 1 to 100, and 2 to 95% by weight of a (meth)acrylic acid base monomer (b) of the formula (II)



wherein R^1 and R^2 have the abovementioned significances, and M^1 is hydrogen, monovalent metal, divalent metal, ammonium group or an organic amine group, and 0 to 50% by weight of a monomer (c) capable of being copolymerized with these monomers provided that the sum of (a), (b) and (c) shall be 100% by weight.

In a further embodiment of the invention, said monomer mixture comprises from 5-98% by weight of an alkoxypolyalkylene glycol mono(meth)allyl ether base monomer (d) of the formula (III);



wherein R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , R^4 and m are as hereinabove defined and n is 0 or 1, and 2 to 95% by weight of a (meth)acrylic acid base monomer (b) of the formula (IV)



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11 JUL 1997

wherein X and Y are independently selected from hydrogen, methyl and $-\text{COOM}^3$, or X or Y together with $-\text{COOM}^2$ form an anhydride ring, Z is selected from $-\text{CH}_2\text{COOM}^3$, hydrogen or methyl and M^2 and M^3 are independently selected from the significances of M^1 given hereinabove, an alkyl group of 1-20 carbon atoms, an alkylene glycol of 2-4 carbon atoms and a polyalkylene glycol of from 2-100 mols of a glycol adduct, provided that at least one of M^2 , M^3 is selected from hydrogen, monovalent metal, divalent metal, ammonium group and an organic amine group; and from 0-50% by weight of monomer (f) capable of copolymerisation with (d) and (e), (d)+(e)+(f) being 100% by weight.

In a further preferred embodiment, said monomer mixture comprises from 5-98% by weight of at least one α -olefinic monomer (g) having from 2-12 carbon atoms, from 2-95% by weight of an ethylenically unsaturated dicarboxylic acid anhydride base monomer (h) and from 0-50% by weight of monomer (i) copolymerisable with (g) and (h), (g)+(h)+(i) being 100% by weight.

Polycarboxylic acid base is a general name of a cement-dispersing agent which contains as a main component a copolymer (A) obtained by polymerising a monomer mixture containing an unsaturated carboxylic acid base monomer as an essential component and/or a copolymer (B) obtained by further neutralizing the copolymer (A) with an alkaline substance and/or a cross-linked copolymer (C) obtained by post cross-linking the copolymer (A) by using a cross-linking agent. The unsaturated carboxylic acid monomer may include unsaturated monocarboxylic acid such as (meth)acrylic acid and monovalent metal salt, divalent metal salt, ammonium salt and an organic amine salt thereof; an unsaturated dicarboxylic acid such as maleic acid, fumaric acid, citraconic acid, itaconic acid, etc. and monovalent metal salt, divalent metal salt, ammonium salt, an organic amine salt, anhydride thereof or a monoester of these acids with an aliphatic alcohol having 1 to 20 carbon atoms or a glycol having 2 to 4 carbon atoms or a polyalkylene glycol having 2 to 100 addition mol number. One or more of these can be used.

Further preferable monomer mixtures comprise a mixture containing 5 to 98%, preferably 50 to 97%, by weight of an alkylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate (a) designated by the abovementioned general formula (I), 2 to 95% by weight, preferably 3 to 50% by weight of a (meth)acrylate base monomer (b) designated by the abovementioned formula (II) and 0 to 50% by weight, preferably 0

11 JUL 1997

to 30% by weight of monomer (c) capable of being copolymerized with these monomers, provided that the sum of (a), (b) and (c) is 100% by weight; a mixture containing 5 to 98% by weight, preferably 50 to 97% by weight of an (alkoxy)polyalkylene glycol mono(meth)allyl ether base monomer (d) designated by the abovementioned general formula (III), 2 to 95% by weight, preferably 3 to 50% by weight of an unsaturated carboxylic acid base monomer (e) designated by the above mentioned general formula (IV), and 0 to 50% by weight, preferably 0 to 30% by weight of monomer (f) capable of being copolymerized with these monomers, provided that the sum of (d), (e), and (f) is 100% by weight; and a mixture of 5 to 98% by weight, preferably 10 to 70% by weight of an α -olefinic monomer (g) having 2 to 12 carbon atoms, 2 to 95% by weight, preferably 30 to 90% by weight of an ethylenically unsaturated dicarboxylic acid anhydride base monomer (h), and 0 to 50% by weight, preferably 0 to 30% by weight of monomer (i) capable of being copolymerized with these monomers, provided that the sum of (g), (h) and (i) is 100% by weight.

Examples of monomer (a) include hydroxyethyl (meth)acrylate, hydroxypropyl (meth)acrylate, polyethylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate, polypropylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate, polybutylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate, polyethylene glycol polypropylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate, polyethylene glycol polybutylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate, polypropylene glycol polybutylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate, polyethylene glycol polypropylene glycol polybutylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate, methoxy polyethylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate, methoxy polypropylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate, methoxy polybutylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate, methoxy polybutylene glycol mono(meth)-acrylate, methoxy polyethylene glycol polypropylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate, methoxy polyethylene glycol polybutylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate, methoxy polypropylene glycol polybutylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate, methoxy propylene glycol polypropylene glycol polybutylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate, ethoxypolyethylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate, ethoxypolypropylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate, ethoxypolybutylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate, ethoxypolyethylene glycol polypropylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate, ethoxypolyethylene glycol polybutylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate, ethoxypolypropylene glycol polybutylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate and ethoxypolyethylene glycol polypropylene glycol polybutylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate. More than one such monomer may be used.

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11 JUL 1997

Suitable examples of monomer (b) include acrylic and methacrylic acids and their monovalent metal salts, divalent metal salts, ammonium salts and organic amine salts. More than one such monomer may be used.

- 5 The monomer (c) is a monomer capable of copolymerization with the monomers (a) and (b). Examples of monomer (c) include esters of aliphatic alcohols of 1 to 20 carbons with (meth)acrylic acid unsaturated dicarboxylic acids of maleic acid, fumaric acid, citraconic acid, etc., or monoesters or diesters of these acids with aliphatic alcohols of 1 to 20 carbons or glycols of 2 to 4 carbons, or polyalkylene glycols of added mol number 2 to 100 of these glycols, unsaturated amides such as
- 10 (meth)acrylamide and (meth)acryl alkylamide, vinyl esters such as vinyl acetate and vinyl propionate, aromatic vinyls such as styrene, unsaturated sulfonates such as vinyl sulfonates, (meth)allylsulfonic acid, sulfoethyl(meth)acrylate, 2-(meth)- acrylamido-2-methylpropane sulfonic acid and styrene sulfonate, and their monovalent metal salts, divalent metal salts, ammonium salts and organic amine salts. More than one such monomer may be used.

15

- Examples of the monomer (d) include alkoxypolyalkylene glycol mono(meth)allyl ether, e.g., polyethylene glycol mono(meth)allyl ether, polypropylene glycol mono(meth)allyl ether, polyethylene glycol polypropylene glycol mono(meth)allyl ether, polyethylene glycol polybutylene glycol mono(meth)allyl ether, polypropylene glycol polybutylene glycol mono(meth)allyl ether,
- 20 polyethylene glycol polypropylene glycol polybutylene glycol mono(meth)allyl ether, methoxypolyethylene glycol mono(meth)allyl ether, methoxypolypropylene glycol mono(meth)allyl ether, methoxypolybutylene glycol mono(meth)allyl ether, methoxypolyethylene glycol polypropylene glycol mono(meth)allyl ether, methoxypolyethylene glycol polybutylene glycol mono(meth)allyl ether, methoxypolyethylene glycol polypropylene glycol polybutylene glycol
- 25 mono(meth)allyl ether, ethoxypolyethylene glycol mono(meth)allyl ether, ethoxypolypropylene glycol mono(meth)allyl ether, ethoxypolybutylene glycol mono(meth)allyl ether, ethoxypolyethylene glycol polypropylene glycol mono(meth)allyl ether, ethoxypolyethylene glycol polybutylene glycol mono(meth)allyl ether, ethoxypolypropylene glycol polybutylene glycol mono(meth)allyl ether, and ethoxypolyethylene glycol polypropylene
- 30 glycol polybutylene glycol mono(meth)allyl ether, and an alkoxypolyalkylene glycol monocrotyl ether, polyethylene glycol monocrotyl ether, polyethylene glycol monocrotyl ether, polypropylene glycol monocrotyl ether, polybutylene glycol monocrotyl ether, polyethylene glycol polypropylene

11 JUL 1997

glycol monocrotyl ether, polyethylene glycol polybutylene glycol monocrotyl ether, polypropylene glycol polybutylene glycol monocrotyl ether, polyethylene glycol polypropylene glycol polybutylene glycol monocrotyl ether, methoxypolyethylene glycol monocrotyl ether, methoxypolypropylene glycol monocrotyl ether, methoxybutylene glycol monocrotyl ether, methoxypolyethylene glycol polypropylene glycol monocrotyl ether, methoxypolyethylene glycol polybutylene glycol monocrotyl ether, methoxypolypropylene glycol polybutylene glycol monocrotyl ether, ethoxypolyethylene glycol monocrotyl ether, ethoxypolypropylene glycol monocrotyl ether, ethoxypolypropylene glycol monocrotyl ether, ethoxypolybutylene glycol monocrotyl ether, ethoxypolybutylene glycol monocrotyl ether, ethoxypolyethylene glycol polypropylene glycol monocrotyl ether, ethoxypolyethylene glycol polybutylene glycol monocrotyl ether, ethoxypolypropylene glycol polybutylene glycol monocrotyl ether, and ethoxypolyethylene glycol polypropylene glycol polybutylene glycol monocrotyl ether. More than one of these monomers may be used.

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Examples of the monomer (e) include an unsaturated monocarboxylic acid and monovalent metal salt, divalent metal salt, ammonium salt and an organic amine salt thereof, e.g. acrylic acid and methacrylic acid; an unsaturated dicarboxylic acid and monovalent metal salt, divalent metal salt, ammonium salt, an organic amine salt and anhydride thereof, e.g., maleic acid, fumaric acid, citraconic acid and itaconic acid; or a monoester of these acids with an aliphatic alcohol having 1 to 20 carbon atoms or glycol having 2 to 4 carbon atoms or a polyalkylene glycol having 2 to 100 mols of these glycols. More than one of these monomers may be used.

20

Examples of the monomer (f) include ester of an aliphatic alcohol having 1 to 20 carbon atoms and acrylic acid, and a diester of an unsaturated dicarboxylic acid such as maleic acid, fumaric acid and citraconic acid acids with an aliphatic alcohol having 1 to 20 carbon atoms or glycol having 2 to 4 carbon atoms or a polyalkylene glycol having 2 to 4 carbon atoms or a polyalkylene glycol having 1 to 100 mols of these glycols; an unsaturated amide such as (meth)acrylamide and (meth)acrylalkylamide, a vinyl ester such as vinyl acetate and vinyl propionate; an aromatic vinyl such as styrene; an unsaturated sulfonic acid such as vinyl sulfonic acid, (meth)allyl sulfonic acid, sulfoethyl (meth)acrylate, 2-(meth)acrylamide-2-methylpropane sulfonic acid and styrene sulfonic acid and

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11 JUL 1997

monovalent metal salt, divalent metal salt, ammonium salt and an organic amine salt thereof. More than one of these monomers may be used.

5 The monomer (g) may be an unsaturated hydrocarbon having 2 to 12 carbon atoms, and examples of the monomer (g) include ethylene, propylene, 1-butene, 2-butene, isobutylene, n-pentene, isoprene, 2-methyl-1-butene, n-hexane, 2-methyl-1-pentene, 3-methyl-1-pentene, 4-methyl-1-pentene, 2-ethyl-1-butene, diisobutylene, 1,3-butadiene, 1,3-pentadiene, 1,3-hexadiene, 1,3-octadiene, 2-methyl-4-dimethyl-1-pentene, 2-methyl-4-dimethyl-2-pentene. Isobutylene also means spent BB containing isobutylene. Preferably α -olefin having 2 to 8 carbon atoms, especially α -olefin
10 having 4 to 5 carbon atoms is used. More than one kind of these monomers may be used.

Examples of the monomer (h) include maleic anhydride, itaconic anhydride, citraconic anhydride and mesaconic anhydride. Maleic anhydride is the preferred monomer because of its reactivity, quality and lower cost. More than one such monomer may be used.

15

Examples of the monomer (i) include (meth)acrylic acid and monovalent metal salt, divalent metal salt, ammonium salt, and an organic amine salt thereof; an ester of an aliphatic alcohol having 1 to 20 carbon atoms with (meth)acrylic acid; an unsaturated dicarboxylic acid such as maleic acid, fumaric acid and citraconic acid, and mono- or diester of these acids with an aliphatic alcohol having
20 1 to 20 carbon atoms or glycol having 2 to 4 carbon atoms or a polyalkylene glycol having 2 to 100 mols of these glycols; unsaturated amide such as (meth)acrylamide and (meth)acryl alkylamide; a vinyl ester such as vinyl acetate and vinyl propionate; an aromatic vinyl such as styrene; an unsaturated sulfonic acid such as vinyl sulfonic acid, (meth)allyl sulfonic acid, sulfoethyl (meth)acrylate, 2-(meth)acrylamide-2-methylpropane sulfonic acid and styrene sulfonic acid and
25 monovalent metal salt, divalent metal salt, ammonium salt, and an organic amine salt thereof. More than one such monomer may be used.

30 Examples of suitable defoaming agents include polyoxyalkylenes such as (poly)oxyethylene (poly)oxypropylene (poly)oxyalkylene alkyl ethers such as diethylene glycol heptyl ether, polyoxyethylene oleyl ether, polyoxypropylene butyl ether, polyoxyethylene polyoxypropylene-2-ethyl hexyl ether, and oxyethylene oxypropylene adducts of high alcohols of 12 to 14 carbons; polyoxyalkylene (alkyl)aryl ethers such as polyoxypropylene phenyl ether and polyoxyethylene



11 JUL 1997

nonylphenyl ether; acetylene ethers of alkylene oxide additional polymerized with acetylene alcohols such as 2,4,7,9-tetramethyl-5-decyn-4,7-diol, 2,5-dimethyl-3-hexyn-2,5-diol, 3-methyl-1-butyn-3-ol; (poly)oxyalkylene aliphatic acid esters such as diethylene glycol oleic acid ester and ethylene glycol distearic acid ester; (poly)oxyalkylene sorbitan aliphatic acid esters such as polyoxyethylene sorbitan monolauric acid ester, and polyoxyethylene sorbitan trioleic acid ester; (poly)oxyalkylene alkyl (aryl)ether sulfuric acid esters such as polyoxypropylene methyl ester sodium sulfate and polyoxyethylene dodecyl phenol ether sodium sulfate; (poly)oxyalkylene alkyl phosphates such as (poly)oxyethylene stearyl phosphates; and (poly)oxyalkylene alkylamines such as polyoxyethylene laurylamine. More than one kind of these may be used.

The copolymer (A) is obtained by polymerization of a monomer mixture containing an unsaturated carboxylic acid base monomer as hereinabove described. As previously mentioned, this is preferably carried out in the presence of the defoaming agent. The proportion of the unsaturated carboxylic acid base monomer in the mixture is from 2 to 95% by weight; it is essential that this range be adhered to, otherwise the advantages of the present invention are not given. The proportion is preferably from 50 to 95% by weight. Preferably the proportion is from 3-50% in the cases of (a),(b),(c) and (c),(d),(e), and from 30-90% in the case of (g),(h),(i).

To manufacture the copolymer (A), the abovementioned monomer mixture is copolymerized in the presence of the abovementioned defoaming agent using a polymerization initiator. The quantity of defoaming agent to be used is in the range of 0.01 to 10 weight percent of the monomer mixture, preferably 0.05 to 5 weight percent. When less than 0.01 weight percent of defoaming agent is used, adjustment of entrained air content of the cement mixture is difficult and a cement mixture of stable strength cannot be obtained. When the quantity of defoaming agent used exceeds 10 weight percent, the performance of the admixture obtained is reduced and a cement mixture of good fluidity cannot be obtained.

The copolymer (A) may be synthesised by known methods such as solution polymerization or bulk polymerization.

Solution polymerization may be done by a batch or a continuous process. Solvents which may be used include water, alcohols such as methyl alcohol, ethyl alcohol and isopropyl alcohol, aromatic

11 JUL 1997

or aliphatic hydrocarbons such as benzene, toluene, xylene, cyclohexane, and n-hexane and ketone compounds such as acetone and methyl ethyl ketone. For solubility of both the monomers and the resultant copolymer (A), it is desirable to use at least 1 solvent selected from the group consisting of water and lower alcohols of 1 to 4 carbon atoms. Methyl, ethyl and isopropyl alcohols are especially effective alcohols.

When the polymerization is carried out in an aqueous liquid, water-soluble polymerization initiators such as ammonium persulfate, sodium persulfate, hydrogen peroxide and azoamidine compounds such as azobis-2-methyl propionamide hydrochloric acid salt may be used. Accelerators such as sodium hydrogen sulfite may be used in combination with these initiators. Further, in polymerization with a lower alcohol, an aromatic hydrocarbon, an aliphatic hydrocarbon, an ester compound or a ketone compound as the solvent, peroxides such as benzoyl peroxide and lauroyl peroxide; hydroperoxides such as cumene hydroperoxide; and azo compounds such as 2,2'-azo-bis-isobutyronitrile may be used as polymerization initiators. In this case, it is possible to use accelerators such as amine compounds in combination. Further, in the event of using a water-lower alcohol solvent mixture, one of the various polymerization initiators or combinations of polymerization initiator and accelerator may be selected as suited and used. The polymerization temperature may be selected as required according to the solvent and polymerization initiator, but normally, the polymerization is carried out in the range of 0° to 120°C.

Bulk polymerization is carried out using peroxides such as benzoyl peroxide and lauroyl peroxide, hydroperoxides such as cumene hydroperoxide and aliphatic azo compounds such as 2,2'-azo-bis-isobutyronitrile as polymerization initiators and in a temperatures range of 50 to 200°C.

The copolymer (A) obtained in this manner can be used as prepared as the main ingredient of a fluidity-controlling admixture according to the invention. The copolymer (B) obtained by further neutralizing copolymer (A) with an alkaline substance as necessary may also be thus used, as may a crosslinked copolymer (C). Alkaline substances particularly suitable for neutralisation include hydroxides of monovalent metals and divalent metals, inorganic salts of sulfates and carbonates ammonia and organic amines.

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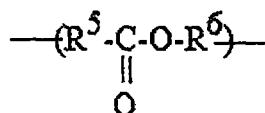
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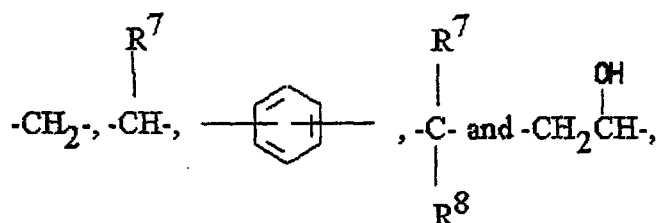
Further, although the cross-linking agent may be selected from any suitable crosslinked agent capable of reactions with a functional group such as carboxyl group, hydroxyl group, amino group, sulfonic acid group, etc. contained in the copolymer (A), a cross-linking agent which has at least one divalent group designated by the following general formula (V)

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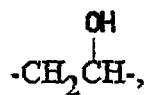


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wherein R^5 and R^6 are independently selected from the group consisting of



wherein, when R^6 is



R^5 may be unnecessary, and R^7 and R^8 are independently alkyl group of 1 to 5 carbon atoms, as a structural unit and/or can be formed is preferable. Examples of these cross-linking agents include polyvalent glycidyl compounds such as ethylene glycol diglycidyl ether, polyethylene glycol diglycidyl ether, glycerol polyglycidyl ether, diglycerol diglycidyl ether, polyglycerol polyglycidyl ether, sorbitol polyglycidyl ether, pentaerythritol polyglycidyl ether, propylene glycol diglycidyl ether, polypropylene glycol diglycidyl ether, resorcin diglycidyl ether, 1,6-hexanediol diglycidyl ether, adipic acid diglycidyl ester, s-phthalic acid diglycidyl ester, etc.

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11 JUL 1997

It is desirable that the weight average molecular weight (hereinafter " M_w ") of copolymer (A) (either as such or as the raw material of copolymer (C)) and copolymer (B) lie in the range of 500 to 500,000. When the monomer mixture comprises monomers (a), (b) and (c), M_w lies preferably in the range of 5,000-500,000, when the mixture comprises monomers (d), (e) and (f) or monomers (g), (h) and (i), it lies preferably in the range 500-100,000. If M_w is less than 500, the water-reducing capability and slump loss prevention capability of the cement dispersing agent are reduced. When M_w exceeds 500,000, the water-reducing capability of the cement dispersing agent is reduced.

The copolymer (A) and/or the copolymer (B) and/or the crosslinked copolymer (C) is used as a cement dispersing agent in an admixture according to the invention in the form of an aqueous solution and the air-entraining property in a cementitious mixture such as concrete may be adjusted arbitrarily by suitably adjusting the variety and/or dosage of the defoaming agent used. Further, with (A) and/or (B) and/or (C) as main ingredient, it is permissible to use the admixture according to the invention in combination with another known admixtures. Examples of such cement admixtures include conventional cement dispersing agents, air-entraining agents, cement wetting agents, expansion agents, waterproofing agents, retarding agents, quick-setting agents, water-soluble polymeric substances, thickeners, coagulants, drying shrinkage reducing agents, strength increasing agents and hardening accelerators.

The admixture of the invention may be used with hydraulic cements such as portland cement, high alumina cement and various blended cements or hydraulic materials other than cement, such as gypsum.

The admixture of this invention gives excellent performance even when relatively small quantities compared with conventional dispersing agents are used. For example, when used in mortars or concretes containing hydraulic cement, quantities used are typically from 0.01 to 1.0%, preferably from 0.02 to 0.5% by weight of cement. Various desirable effects such as increase in slump, reduction in unit water content, increase in strength and improvement in durability are brought about by such addition. With less than 0.01% addition, the performance is inadequate, whereas, when a large quantity in excess of 1.0% is used, the results are no better and costs more. It has the additional advantage of long shelf stability.

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11 JUL 1997

The invention therefore also provides a process of modifying the fluidity of a cementitious composition, comprising the incorporation into the composition of an admixture as hereinabove described. The use of an admixture as hereinabove described to modify the fluidity of a cementitious composition is also provided.

5

The invention is further described with reference to the following examples. In the examples, unless otherwise stated, "percent" and "part" shall indicate "weight percent" and "part by weight" respectively.

10

Example 1 for manufacturing Admixture No. 1

1695 parts of water is introduced in a glass reaction vessel equipped with a thermometer, a stirrer, a dropping funnel, a nitrogen introduction tube, and a reflux condenser, and the interior of the reaction vessel is purged with nitrogen while stirring and heating to 95°C is carried out under a nitrogen atmosphere. An aqueous solution of monomer comprising 750 parts of methoxy polyethylene glycol monomethacrylate (average mol addition number of ethylene oxide, 10), 250 parts of methacrylic acid, 7 parts of "Pluronic" (trade mark) L-64 (polyoxyethylene-polyoxypropylene adduct manufactured by Asahi Denka Kogyo KK) as oxyalkylene base defoaming agent, and 1500 parts of water, and 672 parts of a 5% ammonium persulfate aqueous solution is then drip-fed for 4 hours, and after completion of dropping, 168 parts of 5% ammonium persulfate is further drip-fed for 1 hour. The temperature is then maintained at 95°C for 1 hour to complete the polymerization reaction. An admixture of the present invention comprising an aqueous solution of a copolymer of M_w 35,000 is obtained.

25

Examples 2 to 5 for Manufacturing Admixtures Nos. (2) to (5).

Admixtures (2) to (5) of the present invention comprising the copolymer (A) manufactured by operations similar to those in Example 1 are summarized in Tables 1 and 2.

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Example 6 for manufacturing Admixture No. 6.

349.6 parts of water, 1648 parts of polyethylene glycol monoallyl ether (average mol addition number of ethylene oxide, 5) and 23.2 parts of oxyethylene oxypropylene adduct to C_{12} - C_{14} alcohols as oxyalkylene base defoaming agent in a glass reaction vessel equipped with a thermometer, a stirrer, a dropping funnel, a nitrogen introduction tube and a reflux condenser, and the interior of the reaction vessel is purged with nitrogen while stirring, and heating was carried out to 95°C under a nitrogen atmosphere. A monomer/polymerization initiator mixture aqueous solution comprising 687 parts of maleic acid, 1030 parts of water and 57.2 parts of 5% ammonium persulfate aqueous solution is then drip-fed for 2 hours, and after completion of dropping, 527 parts of 5% ammonium persulfate aqueous solution is dropped for 1 hour. The temperature is then maintained at 95°C to complete the polymerization reaction. The result is an admixture (6) of the present invention comprising an aqueous solution of a copolymer of average molecular weight of 6,000.

Example 7 for manufacturing Admixture (7)

Admixture (7) of the present invention is obtained by drip-feeding 185 parts of 50% NaOH aqueous solution into the admixture (1) obtained in Example 1, this bringing it to pH 8.

Examples 8 to 21 for manufacturing Admixtures Nos. (8)-(21).

Admixtures (8) to (21) comprising the copolymer (B) obtained in a similar method to Example 7 are summarized in Tables 3 and 4.

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Example 22 for manufacturing Admixture No. (22)

5000 parts of 20% admixture aqueous solution (solids content: 1000 parts) obtained in Example 1 is introduced into a glass reaction vessel equipped with a thermometer, a stirrer, a nitrogen introduction tube and a reflux condenser, and heating to 95°C is carried out. 35 parts of o-phthalic

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acid diglycidyl ester is then added. The temperature is maintained at 95°C for 3 hours to complete the cross-linking reaction and the result is admixture (22) comprising a cross-linked copolymer aqueous solution.

5 Examples 23 to 25 for manufacturing Admixtures No. (23) to (25).

Admixtures Nos. (23) to (25) of the present invention comprising the cross-linked copolymer (C) manufactured by a similar method to Example 22 are summarized in Table 5.

10 Example 26 for manufacturing Admixture No. (26)

420 parts of 1-hexane, 490 parts of maleic anhydride, 9.1 parts of oxyethylene oxypropylene adduct of C₁₂-C₁₄ alcohols, 27 parts of azobisisobutyronitrile and 2730 parts of toluene are introduced in a glass reaction vessel equipped with a thermometer, a stirrer, a dropping funnel, a nitrogen introduction tube and a reflux condenser, and the interior is purged with nitrogen under stirring. After reacting at 80°C for 7 hours under nitrogen atmosphere, and precipitated while polymer was collected and dried. 2500 Parts of 10% aqueous sodium hydroxide solution is added into 644 parts of the copolymer thus obtained and heated at 90°C under stirring to obtain an admixture (26) of the present invention comprising a copolymer of average molecular weight of 6100.

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Examples 27 to 28 for manufacturing Admixtures Nos. (27) to (28)

Admixtures (27) to (28) of the present invention comprising the copolymer (B) manufactured by a similar method to Example 26 are summarized in Table 6.

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Table 1

Example	Admixture No	Reaction composition : numerals in brackets are parts by weight			
		charged solvent	unsaturated carboxylic acid base monomer	other monomer	other monomer
1	(1)	water [1695.0]	MAA [250.0]	MPEGMMA (n=10) [750.0]	
2	(2)	water [1695.0]	AA [200.0]	PEGMA (n=25) [800.0]	
3	(3)	water [1315.0]	MAA [250.0]	MPEGMMA (n=25) [740.0]	methyl methacrylate
4	(4)	water [1695.0]	MAA [300.0]	PEGMME (n=25) [700.0]	
5	(5)	water [1800.0]	TEGMM [369.6]	PEGMAE (n=25) [630.4]	
6	(6)	water [349.6]	MA [687.0]	PEGMAE (n=25) [1648.0]	

16

MAA : methacrylic acid
 AA : acrylic acid
 TEGMM : tetraethylene glycol monomaleate
 MA : maleic acid
 MPEGMMA : methoxy polyethylene glycol monomethacrylate
 PEGMA : polyethylene glycol monoacrylate
 PEGMME : polyethylene glycol monomethyl ether
 PEGMAE : polyethylene glycol monoallyl ether

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11 JUL 1997

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Table 2

Example	Reaction composition : numerals in brackets are parts by weight		reaction temperature (°C)	molecular weight
	defoaming agent (II)	polymerization initiator		
1	Pluronic L-64 a) [7.0]	ammonium persulfate [20.0]	95	35000
2	polyethylene glycol polypropylene glycol nonyl phenyl ether [5.0]	azobis-2-methyl propionimidine hydrochloride [20.0]	80	38000
3	oxyethylene oxypropylene adduct of C ₁₂ - C ₁₄ alcohols [1.0]	ammonium persulfate [40.0]	95	23000
4	Surfynol 440 b) [7.0]	ammonium persulfate [20.0]	95	30000
5	polyethylene glycol polypropylene glycol nonyl phenyl ether [5.0]	ammonium persulfate [15.0]	95	10000
6	oxyethylene oxypropylene adduct of C ₁₂ - C ₁₄ alcohols [23.2]	ammonium persulfate [85.8]	95	6000

- a) polyoxyethylene polyoxypropylene adduct (Asahi Denka K.K.)
 b) acetylene alcohol polyoxyethylene adduct (Nisshin Kagaku Kogyo K.K.)
 c) Monomer mixture is added in 40% aqueous solution and polymerization initiator is added in 5% aqueous solution.
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Table 3

Example	Admixture No.	Reaction composition : numerals in brackets are parts by weight			
		charged solvent	unsaturated carboxylic acid base monomer	other monomer	other monomer
7	(7)	water [1695.0]	MAA [250.0]	MPEGMMA (n=10) [750.0]	
8	(8)	water [2838.0]	MAA [239.0]	MPEGMMA (n=25) [1200.0]	
9	(9)	water [2838.0]	MAA [239.0]	MPEGMMA (n=25) [1200.0]	
10	(10)	water [2931.0]	MAA [239.0]	MPEGMMA (n=50) [1200.0]	
11	(11)	water [3158.0]	MAA [239.0]	MPEGMMA (n=50) [1200.0]	
12	(12)	water [3077.0]	MAA [177.0]	MPEGMMA (n=50) [1262.0]	
13	(13)	water [2972.0]	MAA [239.0]	MPEGMMA (n=75) [1200.0]	
14	(14)	water [3334.0]	SA [288.0]	MPEGMMA (n=50) [1151.0]	
15	(15)	water [2195.0]	MAA [239.0]	PEGMMA (n=5) [1200.0]	
16	(16)	water [2823.0]	MAA [239.0]	MPEGMMA (n=50) [1080.0]	sodium sulfoethacrylate [120.0]

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11 JUL 1997

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Table 3 (cont'd)

17	(17)	water [2924.0]	MAA [215.0]	MPEGMMA (n=50) [1200.0]	methyl acrylate [24.0]
18	(18)	water [1695.0]	MAA [250.0]	MPEGMMA (n=10) [750.0]	
19	(19)	water [1695.0]	MAA [300.0]	PEGMAE (n=25) [700.0]	
20	(20)	water [1695.0]	MAA [300.0]	PEGMAE (n=25) [700.0]	
21	(21)	water [349.6]	MA [687.0]	PEGMAE (n=5) [1648.0]	

19

MA : methacrylic acid
 SA : sodium acrylate
 MA : maleic acid
 MPEGMMA : methoxy polyethylene glycol monomethacrylate
 PEGMMA : polyethylene glycol monomethacrylate
 PEGMAE : polyethylene glycol monoallyl ether



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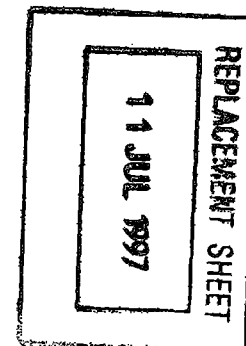
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Table 4

Example	Reaction composition : numerals in brackets are parts by weight		reaction temperature (°C)	alkaline substance	pH	molecular weight
	defoaming agent (II)	polymerization initiator				
7	Pluronic L-64 a) [7.0]	APS [20.0]	95	50% NaOH	8.0	36000
8	Pluronic L-64 a) [7.0]	APS [38.0]	95	50% NaOH	8.0	40000
9	Pluronic L-64 a) [1.4]	APS [38.0]	95	50% NaOH	8.0	39000
10	oxyethylene oxypropylene adduct of C ₁₂ -C ₁₄ alcohols [14.0]	APS [33.0]	95	50% NaOH	8.1	37000
11	polyoxyethylene polyoxypropylene nonyl phenyl ether [7.0]	APS [22.0]	95	50% NaOH	8.5	113000
12	Surfynol [*] 440 b) [7.0]	APS [26.1]	95	50% NaOH	7.7	53000
13	polyoxyethylene polyoxypropylene oleate [7.0]	APS [31.3]	95	50% NaOH	7.6	34000
14	polyoxyethylene polyoxypropylene sorbitan monolaurate [21.0]	APS [12.5]	95	50% NaOH	8.0	16000
15	polyoxypropylene dodecyl benzene sulfonate [21.0]	APS [69.5]	95	50% NaOH	8.0	78000
16	polyoxyethylene stearate [21.0]	APS [38.0]	95	50% NaOH	7.9	19000
17	polyoxyethylene laurylamine [21.0]	APS [33.0]	95	50% NaOH	8.1	32000
18	Pluronic L-64 a) [7.0]	APS [20.0]	95	30% Ca(OH) ₂	7.5	35000
19	Surfynol [*] 440 b) [7.0]	APS [20.0]	95	50% NaOH	7.1	30000
20	Surfynol [*] 440 b) [7.0]	APS [20.0]	95	TEA	7.1	30000

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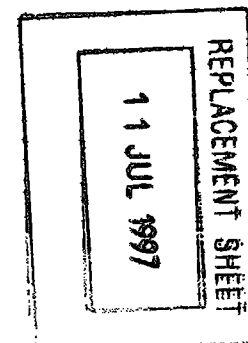


Table 4 (cont'd)

21	oxyethylene oxypropylene adduct of C ₁₂ -C ₁₄ alcohols [23.2]	APS	[85.8]	95	50% NaOH	7.8	6000
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- a) polyoxyethylene polyoxypropylene adduct (Asahi Denka K.K.)
b) acetylene alcohol polyoxyethylene adduct (Nissin Kagaku Kogy K.K.)
c) Monomer mixture is added in 40% aqueous solution and polymerization initiator is added in 5 % aqueous solution.

APS : ammonium persulfate

TEA : triethanolamine

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21

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Table 5

Example	Admixture No.	Reaction composition : numerals in brackets are parts by weight		Reaction temperature (°C)	Molecular weight after cross-linking
		copolymer (A)	cross-linking agent		
22	(22)	Admixture No. (Nw; 35000)	o-phthalic acid diglycidyl ester	95	220000
23	(23)	Admixture No. (1) [Nw; 35000]	polyethylene glycol diglycidyl ether (n=9)	95	300000
24	(24)	Admixture No. (4) [Nw; 38000]	1,6-hexanediol diglycidyl ether	95	200000
25	(25)	Admixture No. (6) [Nw; 6000]	adipic acid diglycidyl ester	95	150000

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Table 6

Example	Cement Dispersing agent	Reaction composition : numerals in brackets are parts by weight			
		charged solvent	unsaturated carboxylic acid base monomer	other monomer	other monomer
26	(26)	toluene [2730]	maleic anhydride [490]	1-hexene [420]	
27	(27)	methyl ethyl ketone [2571]	maleic anhydride [686]	isobutylene [364]	styrene [52]
28	(28)	toluene [2745]	maleic anhydride [147]	methoxy- polyethylene glycol allyl ether [768]	

Example	Reaction composition : numerals in brackets are parts by weight		reaction temperature (°C)	molecular weight
	defoaming agent (II)	polymerization initiator		
26	oxyethylene oxypropylene adduct of C ₁₂ - C ₁₄ alcohols [9.1]	AIBN [27.0]	80	5200
27	polyoxyethylene laurylamine [5.5]	AIBN [10.0]	80	6000
28	polyoxyethylene polyoxypropylene adduct [6.4]	butyl peroxide [10.0]	90	9000



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11 JUL 1997

Control 1 for manufacturing Comparison Admixture (1)

1695 parts of water is introduced into a glass reaction vessel equipped with a thermometer, a stirrer, a dropping funnel, a nitrogen introduction tube, and a reflux condenser, and the interior of the reaction vessel is purged with nitrogen while stirring, and the mixture is heated to 95°C under a nitrogen atmosphere. A monomer aqueous solution comprising 800 parts of methoxy polyethylene glycol monomethacrylate (average mol addition number of ethylene oxide, 10) 200 parts of methacrylic acid, and 1500 parts of water, and 672 parts of a 5% ammonium persulfate aqueous solution are respectively drip-fed for 4 hours, and after completion of feeding, 168 parts of 5% ammonium persulfate is added over a period of 1 hour. The temperature is maintained for 1 hour at 95°C to complete a polymerization reaction. A comparison admixture (1) comprising an aqueous solution of a copolymer of average molecular weight of 35,000 is obtained.

Control 2 for manufacturing Comparison Admixture No. (2)

1695 parts of water is introduced into a glass reaction vessel equipped with a thermometer, a stirrer, a dropping funnel, a nitrogen introduction tube, and a reflux condenser, and the interior of the reaction vessel is purged with nitrogen while stirring, and the mixture is heated to 95°C under a nitrogen atmosphere. A monomer aqueous solution comprising 800 parts of methoxy polyethylene glycol monomethacrylate (average mol addition number of ethylene oxide, 10), 200 parts of methacrylic acid, 0.005 parts of "Pluronic" L-64 (polyoxyethylene-polyoxypropylene adduct) as oxyalkylene base defoaming agent, and 1500 parts of water, and 672 parts of a 5% ammonium persulfate aqueous solution are respectively dip-fed for 4 hours, and after completion of feeding, 168 parts of 5% ammonium persulfate is added over a period at 1 hour. The temperature is maintained at 95°C for 1 hour to complete a polymerization reaction. A comparison admixture (2) comprising an aqueous solution of a copolymer of M_w 35,000 is obtained.

Control 3 for manufacturing Admixture No. (3)

To 100 parts of comparison admixture No. (1) obtained in Control 1, 0.1 part of polyoxyethylene polyoxypropylene nonyl phenyl ether as a polyoxyalkylene base defoaming agent is added to obtain a comparison cement dispersing agent (3).

11 JUL 1997

Control 4 for manufacturing Comparison Admixture No. (4)

5 349.6 parts of water and 1648 parts of polyethylene glycol monoallyl ether (average mol addition number of ethylene oxide, 5) are introduced into a glass reaction vessel equipped with a thermometer, a stirrer, a dropping funnel, a nitrogen introduction tube and a reflux condenser, and the interior of the reaction vessel is purged with nitrogen while stirring, and the mixture is heated to 95°C under a nitrogen atmosphere. A monomer/polymerization initiator mixture aqueous solution comprising 687 parts of maleic acid, 1030 parts of water and 57.2 parts of ammonium persulfate is
10 dip-fed for 2 hours. After completion of feeding, 527 parts of 5% ammonium persulfate aqueous solution is added over a period of 1 hour. The temperature is maintained at 95°C for 1 further hour to complete the polymerization reaction. A comparison admixture (4) comprising an aqueous solution of a copolymer of M_w 6,000 is obtained.

15 Control 5 for manufacturing Admixture No. (5)

A comparison admixture (5) is obtained by mixing 0.1 part of oxyethyleneoxypropylene adduct of C_{12} - C_{14} alcohol as a polyalkylene base of defoaming agent to the comparison admixture No. (4) obtained in Control 4.

20

(Test of storage stability)

The 28 varieties of cement dispersing agent of the invention shown in Tables 1 to 6 are left standing at 50 C and the storage stability is investigated by visually observing degrees of compatibility.
25 Further, for purposes of comparison, tests are also made of the comparison cement dispersing agent (3) obtained in Control 3 and comparison cement dispersing agent (5) obtained in Control 5. The particle size of the defoaming agent is determined by using a laser diffraction type particle distribution meter (microtruck FRA). The results of these tests are given in Tables 7 and 8.

30 Further, evaluation of compatibilities are as follows:

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11 JUL 1997

- O: Uniformly compatible or stable dispersion
- △: Not compatible or unstable dispersion
- X: Separated into two layers

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Table 7

Example	Admixture used	Number of days elapsed			particle size (µm)
		immediately	50°C, after 1 day	50°C, after 1 month	
1	(1)	○	○	○	1.3
2	(2)	○	○	○	1.7
3	(3)	○	○	○	1.3
4	(4)	○	○	○	1.4
5	(5)	○	○	○	7.1
6	(6)	○	○	○	5.7
7	(7)	○	○	○	1.8
8	(8)	○	○	○	1.2
9	(9)	○	○	○	1.2
10	(10)	○	○	○	1.5
11	(11)	○	○	○	1.3
12	(12)	○	○	○	1.5
13	(13)	○	○	○	1.2
14	(14)	○	○	○	1.4
15	(15)	○	○	○	1.4
16	(16)	○	○	○	1.5
17	(17)	○	○	○	1.2

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Table 7 (cont'd)

18	(18)	○	○	○	1.3
19	(19)	○	○	○	1.4
20	(20)	○	○	○	1.4
21	(21)	○	○	○	5.7
22	(22)	○	○	○	1.3
23	(23)	○	○	○	1.3
24	(24)	○	○	○	1.4
25	(25)	○	○	○	5.7
26	(26)	○	○	○	-
27	(27)	○	○	○	-
28	(28)	○	○	○	-

"-" particle size determination : particle size is not more than 0.1 μm or cannot be determined because of molten state

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11 JUL 1997

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Table 8

Control	Admixture used	Number of days elapsed			particle size (μm)
		immediately	50°C, after 1 day	50°C after 1 month	
3	comparative Admixture No. (3)	Δ	X	X	2.2
5	comparative Admixture No. (5)	Δ	X	X	5.2

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The cement used was ordinary portland cement (blend of equal amounts of 3 brands, specific gravity: 3.16), the fine aggregate was a blend of Oi River System pit sand and Kisarazu mountain sand (specific gravity 2.62, FM 2.71) and coarse aggregate was Ohme, Tokyo graywacke crushed stone (specific gravity 2.64, MS 20mm).

5

The 28 varieties of the admixture according to the invention listed in Tables 1-6 and for comparison the comparison admixtures (1) to (5) and naphthalene sulfonate-formalin condensate (BNS) and melamine sulfonate-formalin condensate (MSF) are tested. As the comparative admixtures (1), (2) and (4) possess air-entraining properties, adjustments of entrained air contents using air-entraining agents are not made, while for the other admixtures of the invention (1)-(17) and the comparison admixtures (3) and (5) and for BNS and MSF, a commercial air-entraining agent ("Pozzolith" (trade mark) No. 303A manufactured by NMB Ltd.) is used in the dosages listed in Tables 9 and 10 to make adjustments of entrained air contents as suited

15

The mix proportions for plain concrete without admixture according to the invention are unit cement content 320kg/m^3 , unit water content 203kg/m^3 (water/cement ratio 0.634) and sand-aggregate ratio 49%, while the proportions for concrete using with the admixture are unit cement content 320kg/m^3 , unit water content 166kg/m^3 (water-cement ratio 0.519), and sand-aggregate ratio 47%

20

Concretes are manufactured under the conditions mentioned above, time-dependent changes in slump values and air content are measured and slump losses and air-entraining properties are evaluated. The time of setting and 28 day age compressive strength of concrete are also measured.

25

Measuring slump, air content, compressive strength and time of setting and the method of collecting compressive strength specimens are all adaptations of Japan Industrial Standards (JIS A 1101, 1108, 1128, 1132, 6204)

The results are given in Tables 9-14

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11 JUL 1997

Example	Admixture used	Amount of cement dispersing agent a)	Amount of air entraining agent b)
1	(1)	0.15	0.012
2	(2)	0.15	0.010
3	(3)	0.15	0.005
4	(4)	0.15	0.012
5	(5)	0.17	0.011
6	(6)	0.17	0.015
7	(7)	0.15	0.012
8	(8)	0.15	0.010
9	(9)	0.15	0.003
10	(10)	0.15	0.015
11	(11)	0.15	0.008
12	(12)	0.15	0.010
13	(13)	0.15	0.018
14	(14)	0.15	0.020
15	(15)	0.15	0.010
16	(16)	0.15	0.008
17	(17)	0.15	0.016
18	(18)	0.15	0.012
19	(19)	0.15	0.010
20	(20)	0.15	0.010
21	(21)	0.17	0.015
22	(22)	0.18	0.012
23	(23)	0.18	0.012
24	(24)	0.18	0.010
25	(25)	0.18	0.015
26	(26)	0.17	0.016
27	(27)	0.15	0.015
28	(28)	0.12	0.012

Remarks: a) Percent by weight of solid content on cement
b) Percent by weight on cement

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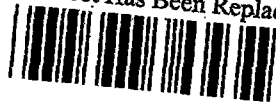
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Table 10

Control	Admixture used	Amount of cement dispersing agent a)	Amount of air entraining agent b)
A	plain concrete	-	-
B	BNS	0.50	0.008
C	MSF	0.60	0.002
1	comparative Admixture No. (1)	0.15	-
2	comparative Admixture No (2)	0.15	-
3	comparative Admixture No. (3)	0.15	0.011
4	comparative Admixture No. (4)	0.15	-
5	comparative Admixture No. (5)	0.15	0.013

Remarks: a) Percent by weight of solid content on cement
b) Percent by weight on cement

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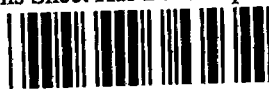
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Table 11

Example	Slump (cm) / air content (vol %)			
	immediately after mixing	After 30 min.	After 60 min.	After 90 min.
1	19.0 / 4.1	19.0 / 3.9	17.5 / 3.7	17.5 / 4.0
2	18.5 / 3.9	17.0 / 3.7	16.5 / 3.3	17.0 / 3.5
3	17.5 / 4.0	18.5 / 3.7	18.0 / 3.8	17.0 / 3.8
4	19.0 / 4.0	17.0 / 3.8	16.5 / 3.8	17.0 / 3.5
5	17.5 / 4.2	18.0 / 4.3	17.5 / 4.0	17.0 / 3.8
6	18.5 / 4.2	17.5 / 4.1	17.5 / 3.9	18.0 / 3.7
7	18.5 / 3.7	18.0 / 3.6	17.0 / 3.5	17.5 / 3.7
8	18.0 / 4.0	18.0 / 4.0	18.5 / 3.8	17.5 / 4.1
9	18.5 / 3.9	18.0 / 4.1	18.0 / 3.8	17.0 / 3.8
10	19.0 / 4.5	18.0 / 4.0	17.0 / 4.3	18.5 / 4.2
11	18.5 / 3.8	17.0 / 4.0	18.0 / 3.8	19.5 / 3.7
12	19.0 / 4.0	17.0 / 4.0	18.5 / 4.2	17.0 / 3.7
13	18.0 / 4.5	17.0 / 4.0	17.5 / 4.1	17.5 / 4.4
14	19.0 / 4.0	19.0 / 4.0	17.5 / 3.8	17.5 / 3.7
15	18.0 / 4.0	17.0 / 4.3	18.5 / 3.8	17.0 / 3.7
16	18.5 / 4.1	19.0 / 4.0	17.5 / 3.8	17.5 / 3.7
17	18.0 / 4.0	18.0 / 4.0	17.5 / 3.7	17.5 / 3.8
18	18.5 / 3.9	15.5 / 3.6	17.5 / 3.9	17.5 / 3.7

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Table 12

Example	Slump (cm) air content (vol %)			
	immediately after mixing	After 30 min.	After 60 min.	After 90 min.
19	18.5 / 3.9	18.0 / 4.0	18.0 / 4.0	17.5 / 3.8
20	18.0 / 4.1	17.0 / 3.8	17.0 / 3.9	17.5 / 3.6
21	19.0 / 3.8	17.0 / 3.4	17.0 / 3.7	17.0 / 3.5
22	17.0 / 3.4	20.5 / 3.7	19.5 / 3.6	19.0 / 3.5
23	17.0 / 3.6	20.0 / 3.5	19.5 / 3.6	18.0 / 3.6
24	17.0 / 3.9	20.0 / 3.9	19.0 / 4.0	18.5 / 3.7
25	17.0 / 4.0	21.0 / 4.1	19.0 / 3.7	17.5 / 3.9
26	19.5 / 4.1	19.0 / 3.7	18.0 / 3.0	17.5 / 3.3
27	18.0 / 4.3	18.0 / 4.1	17.0 / 4.2	17.0 / 3.9
28	18.5 / 3.7	18.0 / 3.8	18.5 / 3.5	17.5 / 3.5
Control				
A	19.0 / 2.0	17.5 / 2.0	15.5 / 1.8	12.5 / 1.7
B	18.0 / 4.4	10.5 / 4.1	6.5 / 3.8	4.0 / 3.3
C	18.5 / 4.2	9.5 / 4.0	6.5 / 3.9	4.0 / 3.1
1	19.0 / 4.4	19.0 / 4.2	18.0 / 4.4	17.0 / 4.6
2	18.5 / 4.2	18.0 / 4.3	15.5 / 4.3	17.5 / 4.6
3	18.0 / 3.9	18.5 / 3.9	17.0 / 4.3	16.5 / 4.6
4	18.5 / 4.6	17.5 / 4.5	17.5 / 4.5	17.0 / 4.7
5	19.0 / 3.7	17.0 / 4.0	18.6 / 4.5	18.5 / 5.1

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Table 13

Example	Setting time (hr-min)		28-Day Comp. Strength (kgf/cm ²)
	Init.	Final	
1	6-20	8-30	480
2	6-20	8-10	472
3	6-30	8-30	467
4	6-20	8-40	461
5	6-30	8-20	458
6	6-10	8-40	462
7	6-10	8-40	477
8	6-20	8-30	470
9	6-00	8-40	488
10	6-30	8-40	494
11	5-50	8-10	453
12	6-00	8-50	475
13	6-20	9-00	455
14	6-30	8-50	459
15	6-40	9-10	486
16	6-00	8-30	477
17	6-10	8-20	463
18	6-20	9-00	473

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Table 14

Example	Setting time (hr-min)		28-Day Comp. strength (kgf/cm ²)
	Init.	Final	
19	6-30	8-10	474
20	6-20	8-20	459
21	6-20	8-10	462
22	6-50	9-10	468
23	6-40	9-00	473
24	6-50	8-50	461
25	6-50	9-20	456
26	6-30	8-30	479
27	6-10	8-20	459
28	6-20	8-40	462
Control			
A	5-40	7-50	329
B	5-30	7-30	407
C	5-30	7-40	410
1	6-20	8-20	422
2	6-20	8-40	431
3	6-30	8-30	419
4	6-00	8-30	417
5	6-10	8-20	425

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11 JUL 1997

From Tables 9 to 10, it may be seen that the shelf life of an admixture according to the invention is considerably improved over the case of the blend of defoaming agent with a copolymer.

Tables 9 to 14 show that the comparison admixtures (1) and (4) obtained by polymerization without using a defoaming agent and the comparison admixture (2) obtained by using 0.005% of the defoaming agent produces an air content of 4.5-5%, so that dosage must be limited. Moreover, 28-day compressive strength is reduced. With admixtures according to the invention, air-entraining tendencies are reduced and adjustment can be made to any air content with an air-entraining agent. Further, other physical properties are equal to or better than comparison concretes, and it may particularly be noted that 28 day compressive strengths are greatly increased.

Moreover, comparison admixtures (3) and (5) with added defoaming agents added to comparison cement dispersing agent (1) show increases in entrained air content with elapse of time, whereas the air-entraining properties of admixtures according to the invention are stable with elapse of time and slump loss prevention is also superior compared with plain concrete, BNS and MSF.

The admixtures according to the invention ameliorate and even eliminate the problem of the excessive air-entraining properties of conventional polycarboxylic acid base high range air-entraining, water-reducing agents. They exhibit excellent shelf life and are capable of entraining suitable amounts of air. Thus, the use of an admixture according to the invention confers the possibility of preparing cementitious mixtures such as concrete of good fluidity with a high rate of water reduction, which on hardening will provide a hardened concrete object of high compressive strength.

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11 JUL 1997



38

Claims:

1. A fluidity-controlling admixture for cementitious compositions, comprising at least one cement-dispersing agent and at least one defoaming agent, characterised in that

(a) the cement-dispersing agent is an aqueous solution of polymer; and

(b) the defoaming agent is oxyalkylene-based and is either dissolved in the polymer

solution or is stably dispersed therein as hereinbefore defined in particles as hereinbefore defined

the aqueous solution of polymer being prepared by the polymerisation of monomer in the presence of the defoaming agent and the defoaming agent being present to the extent of from 0.01 - 10.0% by weight of the monomer mixture.

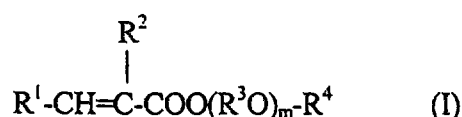
2. An admixture according to claim 1, wherein the polymer comprises a main component which is selected from at least one of

(A) a copolymer obtained by polymerising a monomer mixture which comprises an unsaturated carboxylic acid monomer;

(B) the neutralised salt of (A); and

(C) the polymer obtained by crosslinking (A) and/or (B) by means of a crosslinking agent.

3. An admixture according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the polymer is formed from a monomer mixture which comprises from 5-98% by weight of an alkylene glycol mono(meth)acrylic acid ester (a) of the formula I



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11 JUL 1997



39

wherein R^1 and R^2 are independently hydrogen or methyl, R^3 is an alkylene group of from 2-4 carbon atoms, R^4 is hydrogen or an alkyl group of 1 to 22 carbon atoms, and m represents an integer of 1 to 100, and 2 to 95% by weight of a (meth)acrylic acid base monomer (b) of the formula (II)

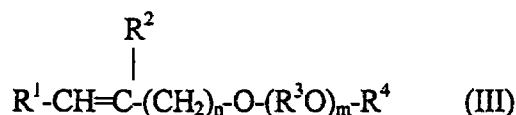


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wherein R^1 and R^2 have the abovementioned significances, and M^1 is hydrogen, monovalent metal, divalent metal, ammonium group or an organic amine group, and 0 to 50% by weight of a monomer (c) capable of being copolymerized with these monomers, provided that the sum of (a), (b) and (c) shall be 100% by weight.

4. An admixture according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the polymer is prepared from a monomer mixture which comprises from 5-98% by weight of an alkoxypolyalkylene glycol mono(meth)allyl ether base monomer (d) of the formula (III);



wherein R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , R^4 and m are as hereinabove defined and n is 0 or 1, and 2 to



wherein X and Y are independently selected from hydrogen, methyl and $-COOM^3$, or X or Y together with $-COOM^2$ form an anhydride ring, Z is selected from $-CH_2COOM^3$, hydrogen or methyl and M^2 and M^3 are independently selected from the significances of M^1 given hereinabove, an alkyl group of 1-20 carbon atoms, an alkylene glycol of 2-4 carbon atoms and a polyalkylene glycol of from 2-100 mols of a glycol adduct, provided that at least one of M^2 , M^3 is selected from

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11 JUL 1997

hydrogen, monovalent metal, divalent metal, ammonium group and an organic amine group; and from 0-50% by weight of monomer (f) capable of copolymerisation with (d) and (e), (d)+(e)+(f) being 100% by weight.

- 5 5. An admixture according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the polymer is prepared from a monomer mixture which comprises from 5-98% by weight of at least one α -olefinic monomer (g) having from 2-12 carbon atoms, from 2-95% by weight of an ethylenically unsaturated dicarboxylic acid anhydride base monomer (h) and from 0-50% by weight of monomer (i) copolymerisable with (g) and (h), (g)+(h)+(i) being 100% by weight.

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6. A process of preparing a fluidity control admixture for use in concrete, comprising the polymerisation of a monomer mixture in the presence of an oxyalkylene-based defoaming agent.

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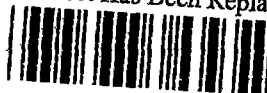
7. A process according to claim 6, comprising the polymerisation of a monomer mixture which comprises at least one unsaturated carboxylic acid base monomer in the presence of an oxyalkylene-based defoaming agent.

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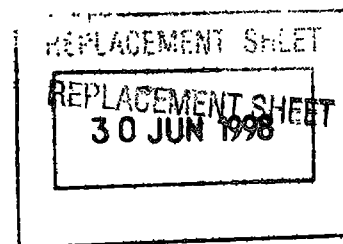
8. A process of modifying the fluidity of a cementitious composition, comprising the incorporation into the composition of an admixture according to any one of claims 1-5.

9. Use of an admixture according to any one of claims 1 to 5 to modify the fluidity of a cementitious composition.

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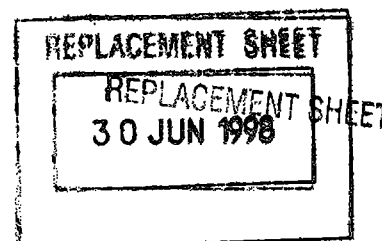
FLUIDITY CONTROL OF CEMENTITIOUS COMPOSITIONS

This invention relates to fluidity control of cementitious compositions, to admixtures for achieving such control and to cementitious compositions comprising such admixtures.

Water-reducing compositions are widely used in cementitious compositions such as concrete to reduce the water content (and thereby increase strength) while maintaining fluidity or "slump" (so that the compositions can flow easily, for example, around complicated formwork). Typical water-reducing agents are the so-called "superplasticisers", for example, β -naphthalene sulphonate-formaldehyde ("BNS") condensates and various polycarboxylate-based materials. One of the problems which water-reducing agents, especially the aforementioned polycarboxylates, can introduce is the entrainment into the cementitious composition of excessive volumes of air. While the presence of some air is harmless and even beneficial, excessive air entrainment leads to reduced strength. Air entrainment can of course be reduced by reducing the concentration of water-reducing agent used, but the desired slump control is then diminished. It has been proposed to use known defoaming agents to counteract excessive aeration, but this has also often proved unsatisfactory, one reason being that a mixture of water-reducing agent and defoaming agent, a commercially desirable package, is usually unstable.

It has now been found that it is possible to make an admixture which confers high slump on cementitious compositions, but without excessive aeration. There is therefore provided, according to the present invention, a fluidity-controlling admixture for cementitious compositions, comprising at least one cement-dispersing agent and at least one defoaming agent, characterised in that

- (a) the cement-dispersing agent is an aqueous solution of copolymer; and
- (b) the defoaming agent is oxyalkylene-based and is either dissolved in the copolymer solution or is stably dispersed therein in particles of no more than 20 μ M diameter,



the aqueous solution of copolymer being prepared by the polymerisation of monomer in the presence of defoaming agent and the defoaming agent being present to the extent of from 0.01-10% by weight of the monomer mixture.

The invention additionally provides a process of preparing a fluidity control admixture for use in concrete, comprising the polymerisation of a monomer mixture to give an aqueous solution of polymer, this polymerisation being carried out in the presence of an oxyalkylene-based defoaming agent, such that the defoaming agent is present to the extent of from 0.01-10% by weight of the monomer mixture and is either dissolved in the solution or dispersed therein in particles of 20 μ m maximum diameter.

Where the defoaming agent is present in the form of particles, the particles are stably dispersed in the solution. By "stably dispersed" is meant that, when prepared and allowed to stand, a dispersion will remain a dispersion for at least 24 hours. The reason for this is not fully understood, but it is noticeable that a dispersion which does not comply with this requirement does not give such good results in a cementitious composition, even when it is used when it is still a dispersion, for example, immediately upon preparation or shortly thereafter.

The defoaming agent is dissolved or dispersed in the presence of polymerisable monomer and polymerisation of the monomer polymerised to give the polymer. It has been found that dispersions prepared in this manner are appreciably better than those obtained by simply dissolving or dispersing a defoaming agent in an already-existing polymer solution. A further practical advantage is that the achievement of the desired small particle size is more easily achievable. Details of preferred monomer compositions are given hereinunder.

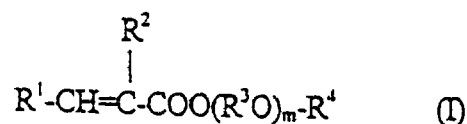
The polymer for use in this invention may be any polymer which is water-soluble and which is a water-reducing agent or a cement-dispersing agent. However, it has been found that certain polymers give especially good results. Thus, in a preferred admixture, the polymer comprises a main component which is selected from at least one of

(A) a copolymer obtained by polymerising a monomer mixture which comprises an unsaturated carboxylic monomer;

(B) the neutralised salt of (A); and

(C) the polymer obtained by crosslinking (A) and/or (B) by means of a crosslinking agent.

In a preferred embodiment, the monomer mixture comprises from 5-98% by weight of an alkylene glycol mono(meth)acrylic acid ester monomer (a) of the formula I

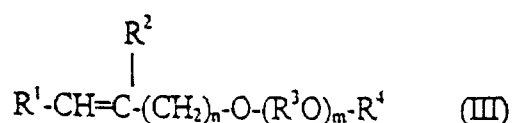


wherein R^1 and R^2 are independently hydrogen or methyl, R^3 is an alkylene group of from 2-4 carbon atoms, R^4 is hydrogen or an alkyl group of 1 to 22 carbon atoms, and m represents an integer of 1 to 100, and 2 to 95% by weight of a (meth)acrylic acid base monomer (b) of the formula (II)



wherein R^1 and R^2 have the abovementioned significances, and M^1 is hydrogen, monovalent metal, divalent metal, ammonium group or an organic amine group, and 0 to 50% by weight of a monomer (c) capable of being copolymerized with these monomers provided that the sum of (a), (b) and (c) shall be 100% by weight.

In a further embodiment of the invention, said monomer mixture comprises from 5-98% by weight of an alkoxypolyalkylene glycol mono(meth)allyl ether base monomer (d) of the formula (III);



wherein R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , R^4 and m are as hereinabove defined and n is 0 or 1, and 2 to 95% by weight of a (meth)acrylic acid base monomer (b) of the formula (IV)



wherein X and Y are independently selected from hydrogen, methyl and $-\text{COOM}^1$, or X or Y together with $-\text{COOM}^2$ form an anhydride ring, Z is selected from $-\text{CH}_2\text{COOM}^1$, hydrogen or methyl and M^2 and M^3 are independently selected from the significances of M^1 given hereinabove, an alkyl group of 1-20 carbon atoms, an alkylene glycol of 2-4 carbon atoms and a polyalkylene glycol of from 2-100 mols of a glycol adduct, provided that at least one of M^2 , M^3 is selected from hydrogen, monovalent metal, divalent metal, ammonium group and an organic amine group; and from 0-50% by weight of monomer (f) capable of copolymerisation with (d) and (e), (d)+(e)+(f) being 100% by weight.

In a further preferred embodiment, said monomer mixture comprises from 5-98% by weight of at least one α -olefinic monomer (g) having from 2-12 carbon atoms, from 2-95% by weight of an ethylenically unsaturated dicarboxylic acid anhydride base monomer (h) and from 0-50% by weight of monomer (i) copolymerisable with (g) and (h), (g)+(h)+(i) being 100% by weight.

Polycarboxylic acid base is a general name of a cement-dispersing agent which contains as a main component a copolymer (A) obtained by polymerising a monomer mixture containing an unsaturated carboxylic acid base monomer as an essential component and/or a copolymer (B) obtained by further neutralizing the copolymer (A) with an alkaline substance and/or a cross-linked copolymer (C) obtained by post cross-linking the copolymer (A) by using a cross-linking agent.

The unsaturated carboxylic acid monomer may include unsaturated monocarboxylic acid such as (meth)acrylic acid and monovalent metal salt, divalent metal salt, ammonium salt and an organic amine salt thereof; an unsaturated dicarboxylic acid such as maleic acid, fumaric acid, citraconic acid, itaconic acid, etc. and monovalent metal salt, divalent metal salt, ammonium salt, an organic amine salt, anhydride thereof or a monoester of these acids with an aliphatic alcohol having 1 to 20 carbon atoms or a glycol having 2 to 4 carbon atoms or a polyalkylene glycol having 2 to 100 addition mol number. One or more of these can be used.

Further preferable monomer mixtures comprise a mixture containing 5 to 98%, preferably 50 to 97%, by weight of an alkylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate (a) designated by the abovementioned general formula (I), 2 to 95% by weight, preferably 3 to 50% by weight of a (meth)acrylate base monomer (b) designated by the abovementioned formula (II) and 0 to 50% by weight, preferably 0 to 30% by weight of monomer (c) capable of being copolymerized with these monomers, provided that the sum of (a), (b) and (c) is 100% by weight; a mixture containing 5 to 98% by weight, preferably 50 to 97% by weight of an (alkoxy)polyalkylene glycol mono(meth)allyl ether base monomer (d) designated by the abovementioned general formula (III), 2 to 95% by weight, preferably 3 to 50% by weight of an unsaturated carboxylic acid base monomer (e) designated by the above mentioned general formula (IV), and 0 to 50% by weight, preferably 0 to 30% by weight of monomer (f) capable of being copolymerized with these monomers, provided that the sum of (d), (e), and (f) is 100% by weight; and a mixture of 5 to 98% by weight, preferably 10 to 70% by weight of an α -olefinic monomer (g) having 2 to 12 carbon atoms, 2 to 95% by weight, preferably 30 to 90% by weight of an ethylenically unsaturated dicarboxylic acid anhydride base monomer (h), and 0 to 50% by weight, preferably 0 to 30% by weight of monomer (i) capable of being copolymerized with these monomers, provided that the sum of (g), (h) and (i) is 100% by weight.

Examples of monomer (a) include hydroxyethyl (meth)acrylate, hydroxypropyl (meth)acrylate, polyethylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate, polypropylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate, polybutylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate, polyethylene glycol polypropylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate, polyethylene glycol polybutylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate, polypropylene glycol polybutylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate, polyethylene glycol polypropylene glycol polybutylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate, methoxy polyethylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate, methoxy polypropylene

glycol mono(meth)acrylate, methoxy polybutylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate, methoxy polybutylene glycol mono(meth)-acrylate, methoxy polyethylene glycol polypropylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate, methoxy polyethylene glycol polybutylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate, methoxy polypropylene glycol polybutylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate, methoxy propylene glycol polypropylene glycol polybutylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate, ethoxypolyethylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate, ethoxypolypropylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate, ethoxypolybutylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate, ethoxypolyethylene glycol polypropylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate, ethoxypolyethylene glycol polybutylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate, ethoxypolypropylene glycol polybutylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate and ethoxypolyethylene glycol polypropylene glycol polybutylene glycol mono(meth)acrylate. More than one such monomer may be used.

Suitable examples of monomer (b) include acrylic and methacrylic acids and their monovalent metal salts, divalent metal salts, ammonium salts and organic amine salts. More than one such monomer may be used.

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The monomer (c) is a monomer capable of copolymerization with the monomers (a) and (b). Examples of monomer (c) include esters of aliphatic alcohols of 1 to 20 carbons with (meth)acrylic acid unsaturated dicarboxylic acids of maleic acid, fumaric acid, citraconic acid, etc., or monoesters or diesters of these acids with aliphatic alcohols of 1 to 20 carbons or glycols of 2 to 4 carbons, or polyalkylene glycols of added mol number 2 to 100 of these glycols, unsaturated amides such as (meth)acrylamide and (meth)acryl alkylamide, vinyl esters such as vinyl acetate and vinyl propionate, aromatic vinyls such as styrene, unsaturated sulfonates such as vinyl sulfonates, (meth)allylsulfonic acid, sulfoethyl(meth)acrylate, 2-(meth)-acrylamido-2-methylpropane sulfonic acid and styrene sulfonate, and their monovalent metal salts, divalent metal salts, ammonium salts and organic amine salts. More than one such monomer may be used.

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Examples of the monomer (d) include alkoxypolyalkylene glycol mono(meth)allyl ether, e.g., polyethylene glycol mono(meth)allyl ether, polypropylene glycol mono(meth)allyl ether, polyethylene glycol polypropylene glycol mono(meth)allyl ether, polyethylene glycol polybutylene glycol mono(meth)allyl ether, polypropylene glycol polybutylene glycol mono(meth)allyl ether, polyethylene glycol polypropylene glycol polybutylene glycol mono(meth)allyl ether, methoxypolyethylene glycol mono(meth)allyl ether, methoxypolypropylene glycol mono(meth)allyl

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ether, methoxypolybutylene glycol mono(meth)allyl ether, methoxypolyethylene glycol polypropylene glycol mono(meth)allyl ether, methoxypolyethylene glycol polybutylene glycol mono(meth)allyl ether, methoxypolyethylene glycol polypropylene glycol polybutylene glycol mono(meth)allyl ether, ethoxypolyethylene glycol mono(meth)allyl ether, ethoxypolypropylene glycol mono(meth)allyl ether, ethoxypolybutylene glycol mono(meth)allyl ether, ethoxypolyethylene glycol polypropylene glycol mono(meth)allyl ether, ethoxypolyethylene glycol polybutylene glycol mono(meth)allyl ether, and ethoxypolyethylene glycol polypropylene glycol polybutylene glycol mono(meth)allyl ether, and an alkoxypolyalkylene glycol monocrotyl ether, polyethylene glycol monocrotyl ether, polyethylene glycol monocrotyl ether, polypropylene glycol monocrotyl ether, polybutylene glycol monocrotyl ether, polyethylene glycol polypropylene glycol monocrotyl ether, polyethylene glycol polybutylene glycol monocrotyl ether, polypropylene glycol polybutylene glycol monocrotyl ether, polyethylene glycol polypropylene glycol polybutylene glycol monocrotyl ether, methoxypolyethylene glycol monocrotyl ether, methoxypolypropylene glycol monocrotyl ether, methoxybutylene glycol monocrotyl ether, methoxypolyethylene glycol polypropylene glycol monocrotyl ether, methoxypolyethylene glycol polybutylene glycol monocrotyl ether, methoxypolypropylene glycol polybutylene glycol monocrotyl ether, methoxypolyethylene glycol polypropylene glycol polybutylene glycol monocrotyl ether, ethoxypolyethylene glycol monocrotyl ether, ethoxypolypropylene glycol monocrotyl ether, ethoxypolypropylene glycol monocrotyl ether, ethoxypolybutylene glycol monocrotyl ether, ethoxypolybutylene glycol monocrotyl ether, ethoxypolyethylene glycol polypropylene glycol monocrotyl ether, ethoxypolyethylene glycol polybutylene glycol monocrotyl ether, ethoxypolypropylene glycol polybutylene glycol monocrotyl ether, and ethoxypolyethylene glycol polypropylene glycol polybutylene glycol monocrotyl ether. More than one of these monomers may be used.

Examples of the monomer (e) include an unsaturated monocarboxylic acid and monovalent metal salt, divalent metal salt, ammonium salt and an organic amine salt thereof, e.g. acrylic acid and methacrylic acid; an unsaturated dicarboxylic acid and monovalent metal salt, divalent metal salt, ammonium salt, an organic amine salt and anhydride thereof, e.g., maleic acid, fumaric acid, citraconic acid and itaconic acid; or a monoester of these acids with an aliphatic alcohol having 1

to 20 carbon atoms or glycol having 2 to 4 carbon atoms or a polyalkylene glycol having 2 to 100 mols of these glycols. More than one of these monomers may be used.

Examples of the monomer (t) include ester of an aliphatic alcohol having 1 to 20 carbon atoms and acrylic acid, and a diester of an unsaturated dicarboxylic acid such as maleic acid, fumaric acid and citraconic acid acids with an aliphatic alcohol having 1 to 20 carbon atoms or glycol having 2 to 4 carbon atoms or a polyalkylene glycol having 2 to 4 carbon atoms or a polyalkylene glycol having 1 to 100 mols of these glycols; an unsaturated amide such as (meth)acrylamide and (meth)acrylamide, a vinyl ester such as vinyl acetate and vinyl propionate; an aromatic vinyl such as styrene; an unsaturated sulfonic acid such as vinyl sulfonic acid, (meth)allyl sulfonic acid, sulfoethyl (meth)acrylate, 2-(meth)acrylamide-2-methylpropane sulfonic acid and styrene sulfonic acid and monovalent metal salt, divalent metal salt, ammonium salt and an organic amine salt thereof. More than one of these monomers may be used.

15 The monomer (g) may be an unsaturated hydrocarbon having 2 to 12 carbon atoms, and examples of the monomer (g) include ethylene, propylene, 1-butene, 2-butene, isobutylene, n-pentene, isoprene, 2-methyl-1-butene, n-hexane, 2-methyl-1-pentene, 3-methyl-1-pentene, 4-methyl-1-pentene, 2-ethyl-1-butene, diisobutylene, 1,3-butadiene, 1,3-pentadiene, 1,3-hexadiene, 1,3-octadiene, 2-methyl-4-dimethyl-1-pentene, 2-methyl-4-dimethyl-2-pentene. Isobutylene also means 20 spent BB containing isobutylene. Preferably α -olefin having 2 to 8 carbon atoms, especially α -olefin having 4 to 5 carbon atoms is used. More than one kind of these monomers may be used.

Examples of the monomer (h) include maleic anhydride, itaconic anhydride, citraconic anhydride and mesaconic anhydride,. Maleic anhydride is the preferred monomer because of its reactivity, 25 quality and lower cost. More than one such monomer may be used.

Examples of the monomer (i) include (meth)acrylic acid and monovalent metal salt, divalent metal salt, ammonium salt, and an organic amine salt thereof; an ester of an aliphatic alcohol having 1 to 20 carbon atoms with (meth)acrylic acid; an unsaturated dicarboxylic acid such as maleic acid, 30 fumaric acid and citraconic acid, and mono- or diester of these acids with an aliphatic alcohol having 1 to 20 carbon atoms or glycol having 2 to 4 carbon atoms or a polyalkylene glycol having 2 to 100 mols of these glycols; unsaturated amide such as (meth)acrylamide and (meth)acryl

alkylamide; a vinyl ester such as vinyl acetate and vinyl propionate; an aromatic vinyl such as styrene; an unsaturated sulfonic acid such as vinyl sulfonic acid, (meth)allyl sulfonic acid, sulfoethyl (meth)acrylate, 2-(meth)acrylamide-2-methylpropane sulfonic acid and styrene sulfonic acid and monovalent metal salt, divalent metal salt, ammonium salt, and an organic amine salt thereof. More
5 than one such monomer may be used.

Examples of suitable defoaming agents include polyoxyalkylenes such as (poly)oxyethylene (poly)oxypropylene (poly)oxyalkylene alkyl ethers such as diethylene glycol heptyl ether, polyoxyethylene oleyl ether, polyoxypropylene butyl ether, polyoxyethylene polyoxypropylene-2-
10 ethyl hexyl ether, and oxyethylene oxypropylene adducts of high alcohols of 12 to 14 carbons; polyoxyalkylene (alkyl)aryl ethers such as polyoxypropylene phenyl ether and polyoxyethylene nonylphenyl ether; acetylene ethers of alkylene oxide additional polymerized with acetylene alcohols such as 2,4,7,9-tetramethyl-5-decyn-4,7-diol, 2,5-dimethyl-3-hexyn-2,5-diol, 3-methyl-1-buryn-3-ol; (poly)oxyalkylene aliphatic acid esters such as diethylene glycol oleic acid ester and
15 ethylene glycol distearic acid ester; (poly)oxyalkylene sorbitan aliphatic acid esters such as polyoxyethylene sorbitan monolauric acid ester, and polyoxyethylene sorbitan trioleic acid ester; (poly)oxyalkylene alkyl (aryl)ether sulfuric acid esters such as polyoxypropylene methyl ester sodium sulfate and polyoxyethylene dodecyl phenol ether sodium sulfate; (poly)oxyalkylene alkyl phosphates such as (poly)oxyethylene stearyl phosphates; and (poly)oxyalkylene alkylamines such
20 as polyoxyethylene laurylamine. More than one kind of these may be used.

The copolymer (A) is obtained by polymerization of a monomer mixture containing an unsaturated carboxylic acid base monomer as hereinabove described. As previously mentioned, this is carried out in the presence of the defoaming agent. The proportion of the unsaturated carboxylic acid base
25 monomer in the mixture is from 2 to 95% by weight; it is essential that this range be adhered to, otherwise the advantages of the present invention are not given. The proportion is preferably from 50 to 95% by weight. Preferably the proportion is from 3-50% in the cases of (a),(b),(c) and (c),(d),(e), and from 30-90% in the case of (g),(h),(i).

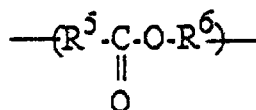
30 To manufacture the copolymer (A), the abovementioned monomer mixture is copolymerized in the presence of the abovementioned defoaming agent using a polymerization initiator. The quantity of defoaming agent to be used is in the range of 0.01 to 10 weight percent of the monomer mixture,

preferably 0.05 to 5 weight percent. When less than 0.01 weight percent of defoaming agent is used, adjustment of entrained air content of the cement mixture is difficult and a cement mixture of stable strength cannot be obtained. When the quantity of defoaming agent used exceeds 10 weight percent, the performance of the admixture obtained is reduced and a cement mixture of good fluidity cannot be obtained.

The copolymer (A) obtained in this manner can be used as prepared as the main ingredient of a fluidity-controlling admixture according to the invention. The copolymer (B) obtained by further neutralizing copolymer (A) with an alkaline substance as necessary may also be thus used, as may a crosslinked copolymer (C). Alkaline substances particularly suitable for neutralisation include hydroxides of monovalent metals and divalent metals, inorganic salts of sulfates and carbonates ammonia and organic amines.

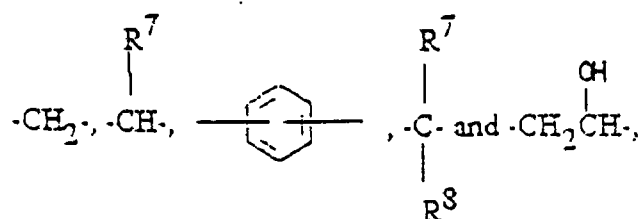
Further, although the cross-linking agent may be selected from any suitable crosslinked agent capable of reactions with a functional group such as carboxyl group, hydroxyl group, amino group, sulfonic acid group, etc. contained in the copolymer (A), a cross-linking agent which has at least one divalent group designated by the following general formula (V)

20



wherein R⁵ and R⁶ are independently selected from the group consisting of

25

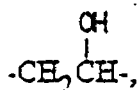


REPLACEMENT SHEET

30 JUN 1998

wherein

when R⁶ is



5

R⁵ may be unnecessary, and R⁷ and R⁸ are independently alkyl group of 1 to 5 carbon atoms, as a structural unit and/or can be formed is preferable. Examples of these cross-linking agents include
 10 polyvalent glycidyl compounds such as ethylene glycol diglycidyl ether, polyethylene glycol diglycidyl ether, glycerol polyglycidyl ether, diglycerol diglycidyl ether, polyglycerol polyglycidyl ether, sorbitol polyglycidyl ether, pentaerythritol polyglycidyl ether, propylene glycol diglycidyl ether, polypropylene glycol diglycidyl ether, resorcin diglycidyl ether, 1,6-hexanediol diglycidyl ether, adipic acid diglycidyl ester, s-phthalic acid diglycidyl ester, etc.

15

It is desirable that the weight average molecular weight (hereinafter "M_w") of copolymer (A) (either as such or as the raw material of copolymer (C)) and copolymer (B) lie in the range of 500 to 500,000. When the monomer mixture comprises monomers (a), (b) and (c), M_w lies preferably in the range of 5,000-500,000, when the mixture comprises monomers (d), (e) and (f) or
 20 monomers (g), (h) and (i), it lies preferably in the range 500-100,000. If M_w is less than 500, the water-reducing capability and slump loss prevention capability of the cement dispersing agent are reduced. When M_w exceeds 500,000, the water-reducing capability of the cement dispersing agent is reduced.

25 The copolymer (A) and/or the copolymer (B) and/or the crosslinked copolymer (C), with defoaming agent dissolved or dispersed therein, may be used as a cement dispersing agent in an

admixture according to the invention in the form of an aqueous solution or an aqueous emulsion and the air-entraining property in a cementitious mixture such as concrete may be adjusted arbitrarily by suitably adjusting the variety and/or dosage of the defoaming agent used. Further, with (A) and/or (B) and/or (C) as main ingredient, it is permissible to use the admixture according to the invention in combination with other known admixtures. Examples of such cement admixtures include conventional cement dispersing agents, air-entraining agents, cement wetting agents, expansion agents, waterproofing agents, retarding agents, quick-setting agents, water-soluble polymeric substances, thickeners, coagulants, drying shrinkage reducing agents, strength increasing agents and hardening accelerators.

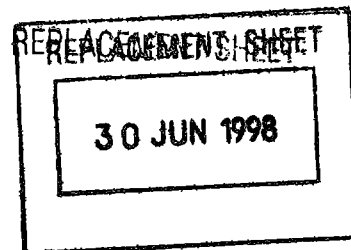
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The admixture of the invention may be used with hydraulic cements such as portland cement, high alumina cement and various blended cements or hydraulic materials other than cement, such as gypsum.

15 The admixture of this invention gives excellent performance even when relatively small quantities compared with conventional dispersing agents are used. For example, when used in mortars or concretes containing hydraulic cement, quantities used are typically from 0.01 to 1.0%, preferably from 0.02 to 0.5% by weight of cement. Various desirable effects such as increase in slump, reduction in unit water content, increase in strength and improvement in durability are brought about by such addition. With less than 0.01% addition, the performance is inadequate, whereas, when a large quantity in excess of 1.0% is used, the results are no better and costs more. It has the additional advantage of long shelf stability.

25 The invention therefore also provides a process of modifying the fluidity of a cementitious composition, comprising the incorporation into the composition of an admixture as hereinabove described. The use of an admixture as hereinabove described to modify the fluidity of a cementitious composition is also provided.

30 The invention is further described with reference to the following examples. In the examples, unless otherwise stated, "percent" and "part" shall indicate "weight percent" and "part by weight" respectively.



Example 1 for manufacturing Admixture No. 1

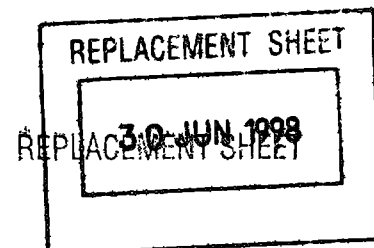
1695 parts of water is introduced in a glass reaction vessel equipped with a thermometer, a stirrer, a dropping funnel, a nitrogen introduction tube, and a reflux condenser, and the interior of the reaction vessel is purged with nitrogen while stirring and heating to 95°C is carried out under a nitrogen atmosphere. An aqueous solution of monomer comprising 750 parts of methoxy polyethylene glycol monomethacrylate (average mol addition number of ethylene oxide, 10), 250 parts of methacrylic acid, 7 parts of "Pluronic" (trade mark) L-64 (polyoxyethylene-polyoxypropylene adduct manufactured by Asahi Denka Kogyo KK) as oxyalkylene base defoaming agent, and 1500 parts of water, and 672 parts of a 5% ammonium persulfate aqueous solution is then drip-fed for 4 hours, and after completion of dropping, 168 parts of 5% ammonium persulfate is further drip-fed for 1 hour. The temperature is then maintained at 95 C for 1 hour to complete the polymerization reaction. An admixture of the present invention comprising an aqueous solution of a copolymer of Mw 35,000 is obtained.

Examples 2 to 5 for Manufacturing Admixtures Nos. (2) to (5).

Admixtures (2) to (5) of the present invention comprising the copolymer (A) manufactured by operations similar to those in Example 1 are summarized in Tables 1 and 2.

Example 6 for manufacturing Admixture No. 6.

349.6 parts of water, 1648 parts of polyethylene glycol monoallyl ether (average mol addition number of ethylene oxide, 5) and 23.2 parts of oxyethylene oxypropylene adduct to C₁₂-C₁₄ alcohols as oxyalkylene base defoaming agent in a glass reaction vessel equipped with a thermometer, a stirrer, a dropping funnel, a nitrogen introduction tube and a reflux condenser, and the interior of the reaction vessel is purged with nitrogen while stirring, and heating was carried out to 95°C under a nitrogen atmosphere. A monomer/polymerization initiator mixture aqueous solution comprising 687 parts of maleic acid, 1030 parts of water and 57.2 parts of 5% ammonium persulfate aqueous solution is then drip-fed for 2 hours, and after completion of dropping, 527 parts of 5% ammonium persulfate aqueous solution is dropped for 1 hour. The temperature is then maintained at 95°C to complete the polymerization reaction. The result is an admixture (6) of the



present invention comprising an aqueous solution of a copolymer of average molecular weight of 6,000.

Example 7 for manufacturing Admixture (7)

5

Admixture (7) of the present invention is obtained by drip-feeding 185 parts of 50% NaOH aqueous solution into the admixture (1) obtained in Example 1, this bringing it to pH 8.

Examples 8 to 21 for manufacturing Admixtures Nos. (8)-(21).

10

Admixtures (8) to (21) comprising the copolymer (B) of the present invention obtained in a similar method to Example 7 are summarized in Tables 3 and 4.

Examples 22 for manufacturing Admixture No. (22)

15

5000 parts of 20% admixture aqueous solution (solids content: 1000 parts) obtained in Example 1 is introduced into a glass reaction vessel equipped with a thermometer, a stirrer, a nitrogen introduction tube and a reflux condenser, and heating to 95°C is carried out. 35 parts of o-phthalic acid diglycidyl ester is then added. The temperature is maintained at 95°C for 3 hours to complete the cross-linking reaction and the result is admixture (22) comprising a cross-linked copolymer aqueous solution.

20

Examples 23 to 25 for manufacturing Admixtures No. (23) to (25).

Admixtures Nos. (23) to (25) of the present invention comprising the cross-linked copolymer (C) of the present invention manufactured by a similar method to Example 22 are summarized in Table 5.

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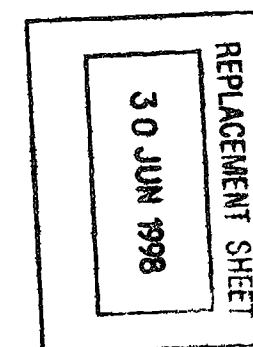
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Table 1

Example	Admixture No	Reaction composition : numerals in brackets are parts by weight			
		charged solvent	unsaturated carboxylic acid base monomer	other monomer	other monomer
1	(1)	water [1695.0]	MAA [250.0]	MPEGMMA (n=10) [750.0]	
2	(2)	water [1695.0]	AA [200.0]	PEGMA (n=25) [800.0]	
3	(3)	water [1315.0]	MAA [250.0]	MPEGMMA (n=25) [740.0]	methyl methacrylate
4	(4)	water [1695.0]	MAA [300.0]	PEGMME (n=25) [700.0]	
5	(5)	water [1800.0]	TEGMM [369.6]	PEGMAE (n=25) [630.4]	
6	(6)	water [349.6]	MA [687.0]	PEGMAE (n=25) [1648.0]	

15

MAA : methacrylic acid
 AA : acrylic acid
 TEGMM : tetraethylene glycol monomaleate
 MA : maleic acid
 MPEGMMA : methoxy polyethylene glycol monomethacrylate
 PEGMA : polyethylene glycol monoacrylate
 PEGMME : polyethylene glycol monomethyl ether
 PEGMAE : polyethylene glycol monoallyl ether



REPLACEMENT SHEET

Table 2

Example	Reaction composition : numerals in brackets are parts by weight		reaction temperature (°C)	molecular weight
	defoaming agent (II)	polymerization initiator		
1	Pluronic L-64 a) [7.0]	ammonium persulfate [20.0]	95	35000
2	polyethylene glycol polypropylene glycol nonyl phenyl ether [5.0]	azobis-2-methyl propionidine hydrochloride [20.0]	80	38000
3	oxyethylene oxypropylene adduct of C ₁₂ - C ₁₄ alcohols [1.0]	ammonium persulfate [40.0]	95	23000
4	Surfynol 440 b) [7.0]	ammonium persulfate [20.0]	95	30000
5	polyethylene glycol polypropylene glycol nonyl phenyl ether [5.0]	ammonium persulfate [15.0]	95	10000
6	oxyethylene oxypropylene adduct of C ₁₂ - C ₁₄ alcohols [23.2]	ammonium persulfate [85.8]	95	6000

- a) polyoxyethylene polyoxypropylene adduct (Asahi Denka K.K.)
b) acetylene alcohol polyoxyethylene adduct (Nisshin Kagaku Kogyo K.K.)
c) Monomer mixture is added in 40% aqueous solution and polymerization initiator is added in 5% aqueous solution.

Table 3

Example	Admixture No.	Reaction composition : numerals in brackets are parts by weight			
		charged solvent	unsaturated carboxylic acid base monomer	other monomer	other monomer
7	(7)	water [1695.0]	MAA [250.0]	MPEGMMA (n=10) [750.0]	
8	(8)	water [2838.0]	MAA [239.0]	MPEGMMA (n=25) [1200.0]	
9	(9)	water [2838.0]	MAA [239.0]	MPEGMMA (n=25) [1200.0]	
10	(10)	water [2931.0]	MAA [239.0]	MPEGMMA (n=50) [1200.0]	
11	(11)	water [3158.0]	MAA [239.0]	MPEGMMA (n=50) [1200.0]	
12	(12)	water [3077.0]	MAA [177.0]	MPEGMMA (n=50) [1262.0]	
13	(13)	water [2972.0]	MAA [239.0]	MPEGMMA (n=75) [1200.0]	
14	(14)	water [3334.0]	SA [288.0]	MPEGMMA (n=50) [1151.0]	
15	(15)	water [2195.0]	MAA [239.0]	PEGMMA (n=5) [1200.0]	
16	(16)	water [2823.0]	MAA [239.0]	MPEGMMA (n=50) [1080.0]	sodium sulfoethacrylate [120.0]

30 JUN 1998

REPLACEMENT SHEET

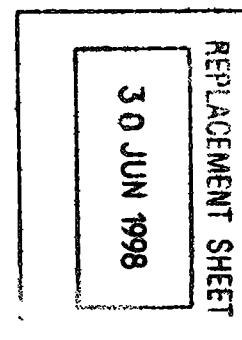
REPLACEMENT SHEET

Table 3 (cont'd)

17	(17)	water [2924.0]	MAA [215.0]	MPEGMMA (n=50) [1200.0]	methyl acrylate [24.0]
18	(18)	water [1695.0]	MAA [250.0]	MPEGMMA (n=10) [750.0]	
19	(19)	water [1695.0]	MAA [300.0]	PEGMAE (n=25) [700.0]	
20	(20)	water [1695.0]	MAA [300.0]	PEGMAE (n=25) [700.0]	
21	(21)	water [349.6]	MA [687.0]	PEGMAE (n=5) [1648.0]	

18

MA : methacrylic acid
 SA : sodium acrylate
 MA : maleic acid
 MPEGMMA : methoxy polyethylene glycol monomethacrylate
 PEGMMA: polyethylene glycol monomethacrylate
 PEGMAE : polyethylene glycol monoallyl ether



REPLACEMENT SHEET

Table 4

Example	Reaction composition : numerals in brackets are parts by weight		reaction temperature (°C)	alkaline substance	pH	molecular weight
	defoaming agent (II)	polymerization initiator				
7	Pluronic L-64 a) (7.0)	APS (20.0)	95	50% NaOH	8.0	36000
8	Pluronic L-64 a) (7.0)	APS (38.0)	95	50% NaOH	8.0	40000
9	Pluronic L-64 a) (1.4)	APS (38.0)	95	50% NaOH	8.0	39000
10	oxyethylene oxypropylene adduct of C ₁₂ -C ₁₄ alcohols (14.0)	APS (33.0)	95	50% NaOH	8.1	37000
11	polyoxyethylene polyoxy-propylene nonyl phenyl ether (7.0)	APS (22.0)	95	50% NaOH	8.5	113000
12	Surfynol [*] 440 b) (7.0)	APS (26.1)	95	50% NaOH	7.7	53000
13	polyoxyethylene polyoxypropylene oleate (7.0)	APS (31.3)	95	50% NaOH	7.6	34000
14	polyoxyethylene polyoxypropylene sorbitan monolaurate (21.0)	APS (12.5)	95	50% NaOH	8.0	16000
15	polyoxypropylene dodecyl benzene sulfonate (21.0)	APS (69.5)	95	50% NaOH	8.0	78000
16	polyoxyethylene stearate (21.0)	APS (38.0)	95	50% NaOH	7.9	19000
17	polyoxyethylene laurylamine (21.0)	APS (33.0)	95	50% NaOH	8.1	32000
18	Pluronic L-64 a) (7.0)	APS (20.0)	95	30% Ca(OH) ₂	7.5	35000
19	Surfynol [*] 440 b) (7.0)	APS (20.0)	95	50% NaOH	7.1	30000
20	Surfynol [*] 440 b) (7.0)	APS (20.0)	95	TEA	7.1	30000

30 JUN 1998

REPLACEMENT SHEET
REPLACEMENT SHEET
REPLACEMENT SHEET

Table 4 (cont'd)

21	oxyethylene oxypropylene adduct of C ₁₂ -C ₁₄ alcohols [23.2]	APS [85.8]	95	50% NaOH	7.8	6000
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- a) polyoxyethylene polyoxypropylene adduct (Asahi Denka K.K.)
 b) acetylene alcohol polyoxyethylene adduct (Nissin Kagaku Kogy K.K.)
 c) Monomer mixture is added in 40% aqueous solution and polymerization initiator is added in 5 % aqueous solution.
 APS : ammonium persulfate
 TEA : triethanolamine

* RTM

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REPLACEMENT SHEET

REPLACEMENT SHEET

30 JUN 1998

Table 5

Example	Admixture No.	Reaction composition : numerals in brackets are parts by weight		Reaction temperature (°C)	Molecular weight after cross-linking
		copolymer (A)	cross-linking agent		
22	(22)	Admixture No. (Nw; 35000)	o-phthalic acid diglycidyl ester	95	220000
23	(23)	Admixture No. (1) [Nw; 35000]	polyethylene glycol diglycidyl ether (n=9)	95	300000
24	(24)	Admixture No. (4) [Nw; 38000]	1,6-hexanediol diglycidyl ether	95	200000
25	(25)	Admixture No. (6) [Nw; 6000]	adipic acid diglycidyl ester	95	150000

30 JUN 1998

Control 1 for manufacturing Comparison Admixture (1)

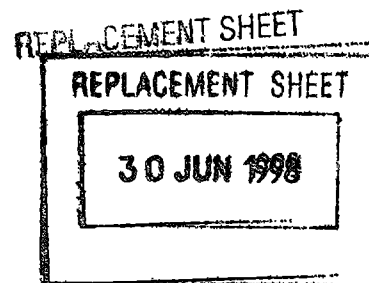
1695 Parts of water is introduced into a glass reaction vessel equipped with a thermometer, a stirrer, a dropping funnel, a nitrogen introduction tube, and a reflux condenser, and the interior of the reaction vessel is purged with nitrogen while stirring, and the mixture is heated to 95°C under a nitrogen atmosphere. A monomer aqueous solution comprising 800 parts of methoxy polyethylene glycol monomethacrylate (average mol addition number of ethylene oxide, 10) 200 parts of methacrylic acid, and 1500 parts of water, and 672 parts of a 5% ammonium persulfate aqueous solution are respectively drip-fed for 4 hours, and after completion of feeding, 168 parts of 5% ammonium persulfate is added over a period of 1 hour. The temperature is maintained for 1 hour at 95°C to complete a polymerization reaction. A comparison admixture (1) comprising an aqueous solution of a copolymer of average molecular weight of 35,000 is obtained.

Control 2 for manufacturing Comparison Admixture No. (2)

1695 parts of water is introduced into a glass reaction vessel equipped with a thermometer, a stirrer, a dropping funnel, a nitrogen introduction tube, and a reflux condenser, and the interior of the reaction vessel is purged with nitrogen while stirring, and the mixture is heated to 95°C under a nitrogen atmosphere. A monomer aqueous solution comprising 800 parts of methoxy polyethylene glycol monomethacrylate (average mol addition number of ethylene oxide, 10), 200 parts of methacrylic acid, 0.005 parts of "Pluronic" L-64 (polyoxyethylene-polyoxypropylene adduct) as oxyalkylene base defoaming agent, and 1500 parts of water, and 672 parts of a 5% ammonium persulfate aqueous solution are respectively dip-fed for 4 hours, and after completion of feeding, 168 parts of 5% ammonium persulfate is added over a period at 1 hour. The temperature is maintained at 95°C for 1 hour to complete a polymerization reaction. A comparison admixture (2) comprising an aqueous solution of a copolymer of M_w 35,000 is obtained.

Control 3 for manufacturing Admixture No. (3)

To 100 parts of comparison admixture No. (1) obtained in Control 1, 0.1 part of polyoxyethylene polyoxypropylene nonyl phenyl ether as a polyoxyalkylene base defoaming agent is added to obtain a comparison cement dispersing agent (3).



Control 4 for manufacturing Comparison Admixture No. (4)

349.6 parts of water and 1648 parts of polyethylene glycol monoallyl ether (average mol addition
 5 number of ethylene oxide, 5) are introduced into a glass reaction vessel equipped with a
 thermometer, a stirrer, a dropping funnel, a nitrogen introduction tube and a reflux condenser, and
 the interior of the reaction vessel is purged with nitrogen while stirring, and the mixture is heated
 to 95°C under a nitrogen atmosphere. A monomer/polymerization initiator mixture aqueous
 solution comprising 687 parts of maleic acid, 1030 parts of water and 57.2 parts of ammonium
 10 persulfate is dip-fed for 2 hours. After completion of feeding, 527 parts of 5% ammonium
 persulfate aqueous solution is added over a period of 1 hour. The temperature is maintained at
 95°C for 1 further hour to complete the polymerization reaction. A comparison admixture (4)
 comprising an aqueous solution of a copolymer of Mw 6,000 is obtained.

15 Control 5 for manufacturing Admixture No. (5)

A comparison admixture (5) is obtained by mixing 0.1 part of oxyethyleneoxypropylene adduct of
 C_{12} - C_{14} alcohol as a polyalkylene base of defoaming agent to the comparison admixture No. (4)
 obtained in Control 4.

20

(Test of storage stability)

The 25 varieties of cement dispersing agent of the invention shown in Tables 1 to 5 are left
 standing at 50°C and the storage stability is investigated by visually observing degrees of
 compatibility. Further, for purposes of comparison, tests are also made of the comparison cement
 25 dispersing agent (3) obtained in Control 3 and comparison cement dispersing agent (5) obtained in
 Control 5. The particle size of the defoaming agent is determined by using a laser diffraction type
 particle distribution meter (microtrunk FRA). The results of these tests are given in Tables 6 and 7.

Further, evaluation of compatibilities are as follows:

- 30 ○: Uniformly compatible or stable dispersion
 △: Not compatible or unstable dispersion
 X: Separated into two layers

Table 6

Example	Admixture used	Number of days elapsed			particle size (µm)
		immediately	50°C, after 1 day	50°C, after 1 month	
1	(1)	○	○	○	1.3
2	(2)	○	○	○	1.7
3	(3)	○	○	○	1.3
4	(4)	○	○	○	1.4
5	(5)	○	○	○	7.1
6	(6)	○	○	○	5.7
7	(7)	○	○	○	1.8
8	(8)	○	○	○	1.2
9	(9)	○	○	○	1.2
10	(10)	○	○	○	1.5
11	(11)	○	○	○	1.3
12	(12)	○	○	○	1.5
13	(13)	○	○	○	1.2
14	(14)	○	○	○	1.4
15	(15)	○	○	○	1.4
16	(16)	○	○	○	1.5
17	(17)	○	○	○	1.2

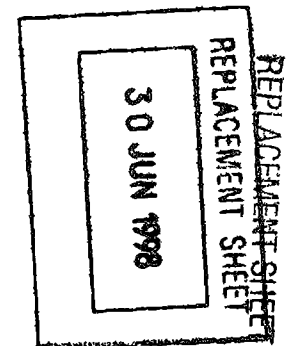


Table 6 (cont'd)

18	(18)	O	O	O	1.3
19	(19)	O	O	O	1.4
20	(20)	O	O	O	1.4
21	(21)	O	O	O	5.7
22	(22)	O	O	O	1.3
23	(23)	O	O	O	1.3
24	(24)	O	O	O	1.4
25	(25)	O	O	O	5.7

25

"-" particle size determination : particle size is not more than 0.1 μm or cannot be determined because of molten state

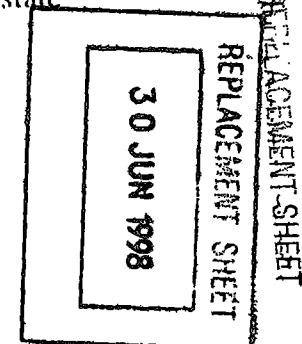
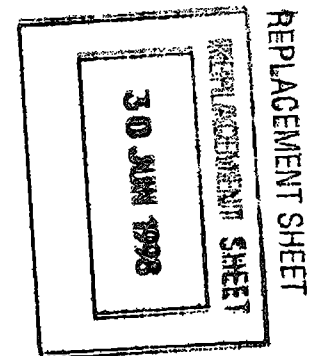


Table 7

Control	Admixture used	Number of days elapsed			particle size (μm)
		immediately	50°C, after 1 day	50°C after 1 month	
3	comparative Admixture No. (3)	Δ	X	X	2.2
5	comparative Admixture No. (5)	Δ	X	X	5.2



The cement used was ordinary portland cement (blend of equal amounts of 3 brands, specific gravity: 3.16), the fine aggregate was a blend of Oi River System pit sand and Kisarazu mountain sand (specific gravity 2.62, FM 2.71) and coarse aggregate was Ohme, Tokyo graywacke crushed stone (specific gravity 2.64, MS 20mm).

The 25 varieties of the admixture according to the invention listed in Tables 1-5 and for comparison the comparison admixtures (1) to (5) and naphthalene sulfonate-formalin condensate (BNS) and melamine sulfonate-formalin condensate (MSF) are tested. As the comparative admixtures (1), (2) and (4) possess air-entraining properties, adjustments of entrained air contents using air-entraining agents are not made, while for the other admixtures of the invention (1)-(17) and the comparison admixtures (3) and (5) and for BNS and MSF, a commercial air-entraining agent ("Pozzolith" (trade mark) No. 303A manufactured by NMB Ltd.) is used in the dosages listed in Tables 8 and 9 to make adjustments of entrained air contents as suited

15 The mix proportions for plain concrete without admixture according to the invention are unit cement content 320kg/m^3 , unit water content 203kg/m^3 (water/cement ratio 0.634) and sand-aggregate ratio 49%, while the proportions for concrete using with the admixture are unit cement content 320kg/m^3 , unit water content 166kg/m^3 (water-cement ratio 0.519), and sand-aggregate ratio 47%

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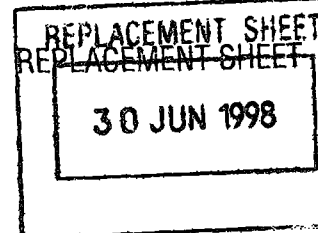
Concretes are manufactured under the conditions mentioned above, time-dependent changes in slump values and air content are measured and slump losses and air-entraining properties are evaluated. The time of setting and 28 day age compressive strength of concrete are also measured.

25

Measuring slump, air content, compressive strength and time of setting and the method of collecting compressive strength specimens are all adaptations of Japan Industrial Standards (JIS A 1101, 1108, 1128, 1132, 6204)

30 The results are given in Tables 8-13

Table 8



Example	Admixture used	Amount of cement dispersing agent a)	Amount of air entraining agent b)
1	(1)	0.15	0.012
2	(2)	0.15	0.010
3	(3)	0.15	0.005
4	(4)	0.15	0.012
5	(5)	0.17	0.011
6	(6)	0.17	0.015
7	(7)	0.15	0.012
8	(8)	0.15	0.010
9	(9)	0.15	0.003
10	(10)	0.15	0.015
11	(11)	0.15	0.008
12	(12)	0.15	0.010
13	(13)	0.15	0.018
14	(14)	0.15	0.020
15	(15)	0.15	0.010
16	(16)	0.15	0.008
17	(17)	0.15	0.016
18	(18)	0.15	0.012
19	(19)	0.15	0.010
20	(20)	0.15	0.010
21	(21)	0.17	0.015
22	(22)	0.18	0.012
23	(23)	0.18	0.012
24	(24)	0.18	0.010
25	(25)	0.18	0.015

Remarks: a) Percent by weight of solid content on cement
b) Percent by weight on cement

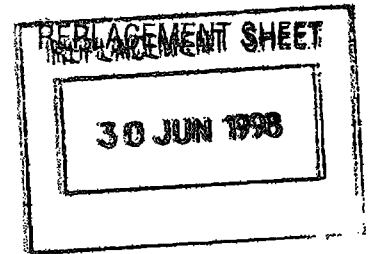


Table 9

Control	Admixture used	Amount of cement dispersing agent a)	Amount of air entraining agent b)
A	plain concrete	-	-
B	BNS	0.50	0.008
C	MSF	0.60	0.002
1	comparative Admixture No. (1)	0.15	-
2	comparative Admixture No (2)	0.15	-
3	comparative Admixture No. (3)	0.15	0.011
4	comparative Admixture No. (4)	0.15	-
5	comparative Admixture No. (5)	0.15	0.013

Remarks: a) Percent by weight of solid content on cement
 b) Percent by weight on cement

30 JUN 1998

Table 10

Example	Slump (cm) / air content (vol %)			
	immediately after mixing	After 30 min.	After 60 min.	After 90 min.
1	19.0 / 4.1	19.0 / 3.9	17.5 / 3.7	17.5 / 4.0
2	18.5 / 3.9	17.0 / 3.7	16.5 / 3.3	17.0 / 3.5
3	17.5 / 4.0	18.5 / 3.7	18.0 / 3.8	17.0 / 3.8
4	19.0 / 4.0	17.0 / 3.8	16.5 / 3.8	17.0 / 3.5
5	17.5 / 4.2	18.0 / 4.3	17.5 / 4.0	17.0 / 3.8
6	18.5 / 4.2	17.5 / 4.1	17.5 / 3.9	18.0 / 3.7
7	18.5 / 3.7	18.0 / 3.6	17.0 / 3.5	17.5 / 3.7
8	18.0 / 4.0	18.0 / 4.0	18.5 / 3.8	17.5 / 4.1
9	18.5 / 3.9	18.0 / 4.1	18.0 / 3.8	17.0 / 3.8
10	19.0 / 4.5	18.0 / 4.0	17.0 / 4.3	18.5 / 4.2
11	18.5 / 3.8	17.0 / 4.0	18.0 / 3.8	19.5 / 3.7
12	19.0 / 4.0	17.0 / 4.0	18.5 / 4.2	17.0 / 3.7
13	18.0 / 4.5	17.0 / 4.0	17.5 / 4.1	17.5 / 4.4
14	19.0 / 4.0	19.0 / 4.0	17.5 / 3.8	17.5 / 3.7
15	18.0 / 4.0	17.0 / 4.3	18.5 / 3.8	17.0 / 3.7
16	18.5 / 4.1	19.0 / 4.0	17.5 / 3.8	17.5 / 3.7
17	18.0 / 4.0	18.0 / 4.0	17.5 / 3.7	17.5 / 3.8
18	18.5 / 3.9	15.5 / 3.6	17.5 / 3.9	17.5 / 3.7

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Table 11

Example	Slump (cm) air content (vol %)			
	immediately after mixing	After 30 min.	After 60 min.	After 90 min.
19	18.5 / 3.9	18.0 / 4.0	18.0 / 4.0	17.5 / 3.8
20	18.0 / 4.1	17.0 / 3.8	17.0 / 3.9	17.5 / 3.6
21	19.0 / 3.8	17.0 / 3.4	17.0 / 3.7	17.0 / 3.5
22	17.0 / 3.4	20.5 / 3.7	19.5 / 3.6	19.0 / 3.5
23	17.0 / 3.6	20.0 / 3.5	19.5 / 3.6	18.0 / 3.6
24	17.0 / 3.9	20.0 / 3.9	19.0 / 4.0	18.5 / 3.7
25	17.0 / 4.0	21.0 / 4.1	19.0 / 3.7	17.5 / 3.9
Control				
A	19.0 / 2.0	17.5 / 2.0	15.5 / 1.8	12.5 / 1.7
B	18.0 / 4.4	10.5 / 4.1	6.5 / 3.8	4.0 / 3.3
C	18.5 / 4.2	9.5 / 4.0	6.5 / 3.9	4.0 / 3.1
1	19.0 / 4.4	19.0 / 4.2	18.0 / 4.4	17.0 / 4.6
2	18.5 / 4.2	18.0 / 4.3	15.5 / 4.3	17.5 / 4.6
3	18.0 / 3.9	18.5 / 3.9	17.0 / 4.3	16.5 / 4.6
4	18.5 / 4.6	17.5 / 4.5	17.5 / 4.5	17.0 / 4.7
5	19.0 / 3.7	17.0 / 4.0	18.6 / 4.5	18.5 / 5.1

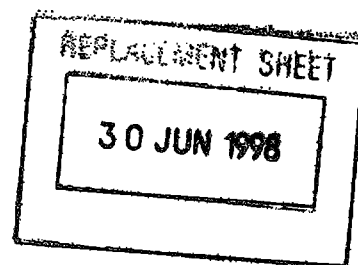


Table 12

Example	Setting time (hr-min)		28-Day Comp. Strength (kgf/cm ²)
	Init.	Final	
1	6-20	8-30	480
2	6-20	8-10	472
3	6-30	8-30	467
4	6-20	8-40	461
5	6-30	8-20	458
6	6-10	8-40	462
7	6-10	8-40	477
8	6-20	8-30	470
9	6-00	8-40	488
10	6-30	8-40	494
11	5-50	8-10	453
12	6-00	8-50	475
13	6-20	9-00	455
14	6-30	8-50	459
15	6-40	9-10	486
16	6-00	8-30	477
17	6-10	8-20	463
18	6-20	9-00	473

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30 JUN 1998

Table 13

Example	Setting time (hr-min)		28-Day Comp. strength (kgf/cm ²)
	Init.	Final	
19	6-30	8-10	474
20	6-20	8-20	459
21	6-20	8-10	462
22	6-50	9-10	468
23	6-40	9-00	473
24	6-50	8-50	461
25	6-50	9-20	456
Control			
A	5-40	7-50	329
B	5-30	7-30	407
C	5-30	7-40	410
1	6-20	8-20	422
2	6-20	8-40	431
3	6-30	8-30	419
4	6-00	8-30	417
5	6-10	8-20	425

From Tables 8 and 9, it may be seen that the shelf life of an admixture according to the invention is considerably improved over the case of the blend of defoaming agent with a copolymer.

Tables 8 to 13 show that the comparison admixtures (1) and (4) obtained by polymerization
5 without using a defoaming agent and the comparison admixture (2) obtained by using 0.005% of the defoaming agent produces an air content of 4.5-5%, so that dosage must be limited. Moreover, 28-day compressive strength is reduced. With admixtures according to the invention, air-entraining tendencies are reduced and adjustment can be made to any air content with an air-entraining agent.
Further, other physical properties are equal to or better than comparison concretes, and it may
10 particularly be noted that 28 day compressive strengths are greatly increased.

Moreover, comparison admixtures (3) and (5) with added defoaming agents added to comparison cement dispersing agent (1) show increases in entrained air content with elapse of time, whereas the air-entraining properties of admixtures according to the invention are stable with elapse of time
15 and shrink loss prevention is also superior compared with plain concrete, BNS and MSF.

The admixtures according to the invention ameliorate and even eliminate the problem of the excessive air-entraining properties of conventional polycarboxylic acid base high range air-entraining, water-reducing agents. They exhibit excellent shelf life and are capable of entraining
20 suitable amounts of air. Thus, the use of an admixture according to the invention confers the possibility of preparing cementitious mixtures such as concrete of good fluidity with a high rate of water reduction, which on hardening, will provide a hardened concrete object of high compressive strength.



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30 JUN 1998

Claims:

1. A fluidity-controlling admixture for cementitious compositions, comprising at least one cement-
5 dispersing agent and at least one defoaming agent, characterised in that

(a) the cement-dispersing agent is an aqueous solution of copolymer; and

(b) the defoaming agent is oxyalkylene-based and is either dissolved in the copolymer solution
10 or is stably dispersed therein in particles of no more than 20 μ M diameter,

the aqueous solution of copolymer being prepared by the polymerisation of monomer in the
presence of defoaming agent and the defoaming agent being present to the extent of from 0.01-
10% by weight of the monomer mixture.

15

2. An admixture according to claim 1, wherein the polymer comprises a main component which is
selected from at least one of

(A) a copolymer obtained by polymerising a monomer mixture which comprises an unsaturated
20 carboxylic acid monomer;

(B) the neutralised salt of (A); and

(C) the polymer obtained by crosslinking (A) and/or (B) by means of a crosslinking
25 agent.

3. An admixture according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the polymer is formed from a monomer
mixture which comprises from 5-98% by weight of an alkylene glycol mono(meth)acrylic acid
ester monomer (a) of the formula I

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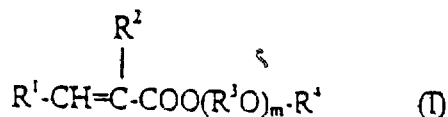


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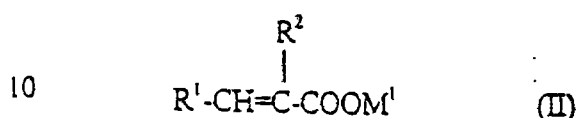
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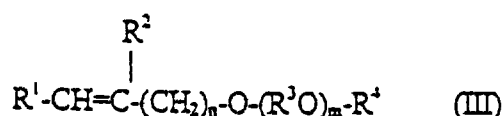
wherein R^1 and R^2 are independently hydrogen or methyl, R^3 is an alkylene group of from 2-4 carbon atoms, R^4 is hydrogen or an alkyl group of 1 to 22 carbon atoms, and m represents an integer of 1 to 100, and 2 to 95% by weight of a (meth)acrylic acid base monomer (b) of the formula (II)



wherein R^1 and R^2 have the abovementioned significances, and M^1 is hydrogen, monovalent metal, divalent metal, ammonium group or an organic amine group, and 0 to 50% by weight of a monomer (c) capable of being copolymerized with these monomers, provided that the sum of (a), 15 (b) and (c) shall be 100% by weight.

4. An admixture according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the polymer is prepared from a monomer mixture which comprises from 5-98% by weight of an alkoxypolyalkylene glycol mono(meth)allyl ether base monomer (d) of the formula (III);

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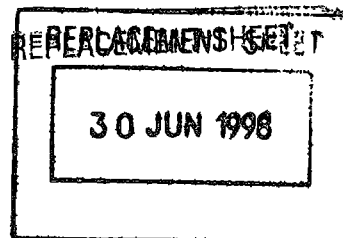


wherein R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , R^4 and m are as hereinabove defined and n is 0 or 1, and 2 to 95% by 25 weight of a (meth)acrylic acid base monomer (b) of the formula (IV)



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wherein X and Y are independently selected from hydrogen, methyl and $-\text{COOM}^2$, or X or Y together with $-\text{COOM}^2$ form an anhydride ring, Z is selected from $-\text{CH}_2\text{COOM}^2$, hydrogen or



- methyl and M^2 and M^3 are independently selected from the significances of M^1 given hereinabove, an alkyl group of 1-20 carbon atoms, an alkylene glycol of 2-4 carbon atoms and a polyalkylene glycol of from 2-100 mols of a glycol adduct, provided that at least one of M^2 , M^3 is selected from hydrogen, monovalent metal, divalent metal, ammonium group and an organic amine group; and
- 5 from 0-50% by weight of monomer (f) capable of copolymerisation with (d) and (e), (d)+(e)+(f) being 100% by weight.
5. An admixture according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the polymer is prepared from a monomer mixture which comprises from 5-98% by weight of at least one α -olefinic monomer (g) having
- 10 from 2-12 carbon atoms, from 2-95% by weight of an ethylenically unsaturated dicarboxylic acid anhydride base monomer (h) and from 0-50% by weight of monomer (i) copolymerisable with (g) and (h), (g)+(h)+(i) being 100% by weight.
6. A process of preparing a fluidity control admixture for use in concrete, comprising the
- 15 polymerisation of a monomer mixture to give an aqueous solution of polymer, this polymerisation being carried out in the presence of an oxyalkylene-based defoaming agent, such that the defoaming agent is present to the extent of from 0.01-10% by weight of the monomer mixture and is either dissolved in the solution or dispersed therein in particles of 20 μ M maximum diameter.
- 20 7. A process according to claim 6, comprising the polymerisation of a monomer mixture which comprises at least one unsaturated carboxylic acid base monomer in the presence of an oxyalkylene-based defoaming agent.
8. A process of modifying the fluidity of a cementitious composition, comprising the incorporation
- 25 into the composition of an admixture according to any one of claims 1-5.
9. Use of an admixture according to any one of claims 2 to 5 to modify the fluidity of a cementitious composition.

30 JUN 1998

ABSTRACT

FLUIDITY CONTROL OF CEMENTITIOUS COMPOSITIONS

An admixture for modifying the fluidity of a cementitious mixture comprises a cement-dispersing agent which is an aqueous solution of polymer, in which solution an oxyalkylene-based defoaming agent is dissolved or dispersed in particles of no greater than 20 μ m diameter. The polymer is preferably a polymer which comprises units derived from unsaturated carboxylic acid monomer and the polymer is preferably prepared in the presence of the defoaming agent. Particular addition copolymers give particularly good results. The admixture permits good control of the fluidity of cementitious compositions and has extended shelf life.