

Method for manufacturing of Supplementary Cementitious Materials (SCMs)

The present invention relates to a method for manufacturing
5 of supplementary cementitious materials (SCMs), i.e.
pozzolans.

Fly ash is a supplementary cementitious material, which is
useful for production of concretes, mortars and other mix-
tures comprising cement. Fly ash is a by-product of coal
10 burning power plants and is produced worldwide in large quan-
tities each year.

In the Swedish patent No 532790 a method is described which
eliminates fluctuations in the fly ash quality due to varia-
15 tions in the coal chemical compositions and parameters of
coal burning processes. Processing of pozzolans, i.e. fly
ashes according to the patented method significantly improves
performance of the concrete and provides higher level of
replacement of Standard Portland cement, which leads to sig-
20 nificant economical and environmental benefits.

Fly ash usually contains about 85% glassy, amorphous compo-
nents in the form of cenosphere particles. According to ASTM
C 618 fly ash is classified in two classes, Class C and Class
25 F. The Class F fly ash typically contains more than 70% by
weight of silica, alumina, and ferric oxides, while Class C
typically contains between 70% and 50%. Class F is produced
as a by product of the combustion of bituminous coal. Class C

fly ash has a higher calcium content and is produced as a by-product of the combustion of sub-bituminous coal.

Comprehensive research has demonstrated that a high volume
5 fly ash concretes, where Portland cement has been replaced by fly ash to a level over 50% showed a higher long term strength development, a lower water and a gas permeability, a high chloride ion resistance, etc. in comparison with Portland cement concretes without fly ash.

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At the same time a high volume fly ash concrete has significant drawbacks. One drawback is long setting times and unsatisfactory slow strength development during the period 0 to 28 days. These negative effects significantly reduce the level
15 of fly ash used for replacement of Portland cement, e.g. about 15% in the US.

Serious problems are also related to the stability of fly ash performance. Usually variations in the chemical composition
20 of coal and frequent changes in operating parameters of power plants cause, among others, formation of crystalline and quasi-crystalline phases, so called scoria, which leads to reduction in fly ash reactivity, so called pozzolanic activity.

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Historically limestone-pozzolan mixes have been used for 2000 years ago by ancient Romans and a lot of ancient buildings as e. g. Coliseum are still in a good shape. At the same time

despite the fact that according to the US Geological Survey billions of tons of natural pozzolan can be found in Western USA and in most other regions of the world, of the usage of natural pozzolans in concrete in the modern building industry is very limited.

Natural pozzolans belong to materials of volcanic origin and sedimentary origin, such as diatomaceous earth. According to ASTM C 618 they are designated Class N pozzolans. The natural pozzolans are described in ACI 232.1R-00 as "Raw or calcinated natural pozzolans that comply with the applicable requirements for the class herein, such as some diatomaceous earth; opaline chert and shales; tuffs and volcanic ashes or pumicites, any of which may or may not be processed calcinations; and various materials requiring calcination to induce satisfactory properties, such as some clays or shales."

The reason why the use of natural pozzolans is very limited can be explained by the following.

The microstructure of natural pozzolan particles is characterized by high porosity, which significantly increases water demand of concrete mixes containing natural pozzolans to achieve required flowability/workability of the concrete. However, increases in water demand lead to unsatisfactory compressive strength development.

Additinally,, uneven distribution of active minerals i.e. amorphous materials, e.g. due to weathering has a further and unacceptable negative impact on negative strength development of concrete with natural pozzolan content.

Optimized natural pozzolan particle size distribution is required in order to achieve consistent performance of high pozzolan containing concrete. An optimized particle distribution is such that there are fine and coarse fractions present.

According to the Report of American Concrete Institute ACI 232.1R-00 "Use of raw or processed natural pozzolans in concrete", properties of natural pozzolans can vary considerably, depending on their origin and therefore variable proportions of chemically active minerals. Chemically active minerals usually contain amorphous materials (e.g. amorphous silicon dioxide), which react with calcium hydroxide released during Portland cement hydration (pozzolanic reaction) and form calcium-silicate-hydrate gel [C-H-S gel] - a product similar to the resulting product of Portland cement hydration.

The present invention solves the problem of using natural pozzolans in concrete.

The present invention thus refers to a method for manufacturing of supplementary cementitious materials for replacement of Portland cement in production of mortars and concretes, where the cementitious materials comprises natural pozzolans in the form of rocks and ashes and sedimentary origin, such as diatomaceous earth.

The invention is characterized in, that the said pozzolans in crushed state are subjected to a high energetic mechanical processing by means of grinding in a grinding equipment, whereby the pozzolan particles receive mechanical impulses,

and in that the grinding is carried out for a predetermined time resulting in a compressive strength of a 2 inch side cube of mortar comprising 80 % Portland cement and 20 % natural pozzolan in a ratio of 1:2.75 to standard sand and in addition water required to obtain a flow of the mortar according to American standard ASTM C 109, which has been properly compacted under vibration and hardened at + 20 °C in sealed condition, which after 28 days is ≥ 75 % of the compressive strength of a 2 inch side cube, treated as said cube, of a mortar comprising a ratio of Portland cement:sand of 1:2.75 and in addition water corresponding to 48.5 % of the weight of Portland cement.

This test corresponds to the American standard ASTM C 109.

The present invention will be described in more detail below.

The invention refers to a method for manufacturing of supplementary cementitious materials for replacement of Portland cement in production of mortars and concretes, where the cementitious materials comprises natural pozzolans in the form of rocks and ashes of volcanic origin and sedimentary origin, such as diatomaceous earth.

According to the invention the said pozzolans in a crushed state are subjected to a high energetic mechanical processing by means of grinding in a grinding equipment, whereby the pozzolan particles receive mechanical impulses.

The grinding leads to modification of its surface properties in the form of surface porosity reduction and improvement of

its chemical reactivity with alkaline medium produced by hydrating cement. It has been observed that the treatment of the pozzolan particles gives that there occurs local melting of the surface of the particles, whereby zones with a high degree of amorphization are created. By this treatment it has shown that natural pozzolans show a surprisingly good effect when the so treated natural pozzolans replace Some of the amount of Portland cement in a cement paste, mortar and concrete comprising Portland cement, pozzolans, sand and water.

Further according to the invention, the grinding is carried out for a predetermined time resulting in a compressive strength of a 2 inch side cube of mortar comprising 80 % Portland cement and 20 % natural pozzolan in a ratio of 1:2.75 to standard sand and in addition water required to obtain a flow of the mortar according to American standard ASTM C 109, which has been properly compacted under vibration and hardened at + 20 °C in sealed condition, which after 28 days is ≥ 75 % of the compressive strength of a 2 inch side cube, treated as said cube, of a mortar comprising a ratio of Portland cement:sand of 1:2.75 and in addition water corresponding to 48.5 % of the weight of Portland cement.

The amount of water required to obtain a flow of the mortar according to ASTM C 109 may vary, but is approximately 40% - 50% of the weight of Portland cement and the pozzolan.

The compressive strength when using natural pozzolan corresponds to the strength which is obtained when fly ash is used together with Portland cement.

The present invention can be realized with the use of different types of grinding equipment such as media milling equipment, e.g. stirred, centrifugal, tumbling ball or non-media milling equipment, e.g. jet, impact, roller with dominating
5 shear mechanical impulses applied to the particles subjected to processing and combined with air classification.

The pozzolan can be subjected to grinding in a grinding equipment, which is adopted to the open or closed circuit for material being grinded.

10 A preferred particle size distribution is:

≤ 5 microns 15-50%,

≤ 10 microns 30-65%,

≤ 30 microns 90-95 %.

According to a preferred embodiment Portland cement, fly ash
15 Class F or C, fine quartz, granite quarry fines, fine fractions of recycled concrete or blast furnace slag or its blends are added to the said pozzolan during or after said processing of the pozzolan.

According to another preferred embodiment Portland cement,
20 fly ash Class F or C, fine quartz, granite quarry fines, fine fractions of recycled concrete or blast furnace slag or its blends are subjected to pregrinding to achieve fineness with a retention on the sieve of 45 microns which is less than 5%.

25 According to still another preferred embodiment water reducing agents, set time regulators, and strength accelerating

admixtures in powder form are added to the said pozzolan during or after said grinding of the pozzolan.

It is preferred that replacement of Portland cement by the said pozzolan in concrete or mortar is from 15 to about 70%.

- 5 It is also preferred that the pozzolans is subjected to grinding in said grinding equipment to a fineness of the final product with a retention on a sieve 30 microns being less than 5%.

Several embodiments of the invention have been described
10 above. However, the present invention is not restricted to the exemplifying embodiments described above, but can be varied within the scope of the claims.

Claims:

1. Method for manufacturing of supplementary cementitious materials for replacement of Portland cement in production of mortars and concretes, where the cementitious materials comprises natural pozzolans in the form of rocks and ashes, characterized in, that the said pozzolans in crushed state are subjected to a high energetic mechanical processing by means of grinding in a grinding equipment, whereby the pozzolan particles receive mechanical impulses, and in that the grinding is carried out for a predetermined time, in, that final product of the pozzolan after grinding has the following particle size distribution:

≤ 5 microns 15-50%,

≤ 10 microns 30-65%,

≤ 30 microns 90-95 %

in, that a mixture of ground pozzolans, Portland cement and water is resulting in a compressive strength of a 2 inch side cube of mortar comprising 80 % Portland cement and 20 % natural pozzolan in a ratio of 1:2.75 to standard sand and in addition water required to obtain a flow of the mortar according to American standard ASTM C 109, which has been properly compacted under vibration and hardened at + 20 °C in sealed condition, which after 28 days is ≥ 75 % of the compressive strength of a 2 inch side cube, treated as said cube, of a mortar comprising a ratio of Portland cement:sand of 1:2.75 and in addition water corresponding to 48.5 % of the weight of Portland cement.

2. Method according to claim 1, characterized in, that Portland cement, fly ash Class F or C, fine quartz, granite quarry fines, fine fractions of recycled concrete or blast furnace slag or its blends are added to the said pozzolan during
5 or after said processing of the pozzolan.

3. Method according to claim 1 or 3, characterized in, that Portland cement, fly ash Class F or C, fine quartz, granite quarry fines, fine fractions of recycled concrete or blast furnace slag or its blends are subjected to pregrinding to
10 achieve fineness with a retention on the sieve of 45 microns which is less than 5%.

4. Method according to claims any of the claims 1 - 3, characterized in, that water reducing agents, set time regulators, and strength accelerating admixtures in powder form are
15 added to the said pozzolan during or after said grinding of the pozzolan.

5. Method according to any of claims 1-4, characterized in, that replacement of Portland cement by the said pozzolan in
20 concrete or mortar is from 15 to about 70%.

6. Method according to any of the preceeding claims, characterized in, that the pozzolans is subjected to grinding in said grinding equipment to a fineness of the final product with a retention on a sieve 30 microns being less than 5%.

7. Method according to any of the proceeding claims, characterized in, that pozzolan is subjected by grinding in a grinding equipment, which is adopted to open or closed circuit for material being grinded