



**LIGHTWEIGHT  
CONCRETE**

**A VERSATILE BUILDING MATERIAL**

For some applications, regular concrete may be too dense, too heavy and too hard to work with. Once set, cutting is very difficult or even not possible. Foam concretes have a lower density and are easy to work with.

## LIGHTWEIGHT CONCRETE

### What is foam concrete?

Foam concrete, also known as lightweight aerated concrete, variable density concrete, cellular concrete and lightweight or ultra-lightweight concrete, is defined as a cementitious material with a minimum of 20% by volume of mechanically entrained foam in the plastic mortar. As mostly no coarse aggregate is used for production of foam concrete the correct term would be called indeed mortar instead of concrete. Sometimes it may also be called as "foamed cement" or "foam cement" because of mixture of only cement and foam without any fine aggregate. However, foam concrete is not to be confused with aerated autoclaved concrete, which is manufactured offsite using an entirely different method.

The density of foam concrete usually varies from 400 kg/m<sup>3</sup> to 1,600 kg/m<sup>3</sup>. The density is normally controlled by substituting fully or part of the fine aggregate with foam.

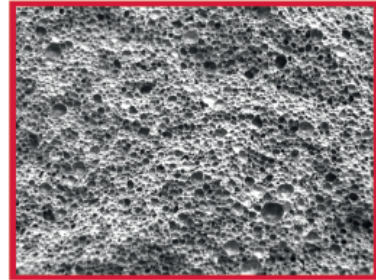
### Displacing concrete with air

The variable density is normally described in kg per m<sup>3</sup>, where regular concrete is 2,400 kg/m<sup>3</sup>. Variable density can be as low as 300 kg/m<sup>3</sup>, although at this density it would have no structural integrity at all. By replacing the dense heavy concrete with air, the variable density reduces strength to increase thermal and acoustical insulation. There are many competing products, e.g. foaming agents that resembles shaving cream, to mix air bubbles in with the concrete, but all accomplish the same outcome: to displace concrete with air.

### Applications

Foam concrete can be produced with dry densities of 400 to 1,600 kg/m<sup>3</sup>, with 28-day strengths of approximately 1 to 10 N/mm<sup>2</sup> respectively. Foam concretes are fire resistant, and their thermal and acoustical insulation properties make them ideal for a broad range of purposes, from insulating floors and roofs, to void filling. It is also particularly useful for trench re-instatement. Applications of foam concrete include, but are not limited to:

- Blocks and panels for walls
- Levelling floors
- Road subbases and maintenance
- Bridge abutments and repairs
- Ground stabilisation
- Roof insulation



### Controlled density over a broad range of applications

#### OUR EFFECTIVE COMBINATION

To ensure that the final product is acceptable to builders, architects, consulting engineers and authorities, we focus on the application aspect of the product. To meet customers' specific requirements, we combine high-quality foaming agents and technical and application support.

### Avoid variations

With many chemical formulations available on the market, foam concrete, its performance and thus the final product may differ. The wide variations in strength and consistency may be the result of a high content of organic protein, a long supply chain or various suppliers using different raw materials.

### PANTAPOR FA & PANTAPOR CLC

To ensure and control quality, we use a developed special foaming agent. PANTAPOR FA allows to produce foam concrete of a bulk density between 0.4 and 2.0 kg/dm<sup>3</sup>. PANTAPOR FA is a protein based foaming agent that features higher strength performance. PANTAPOR CLC on the other hand is synthetic based, focusing on longer storage times, simple handling and less energy to produce foam.

### Talking about benefits...

Foam concrete is a highly versatile material, featuring benefits like:

Weight reduction of superstructure using foam concrete walls: less steel reinforcements required for slabs, columns, beams and foundation due to lesser load.

Reduced cost of raw materials: By adding air, enclosed in foam bubbles, the volume of concrete can be increased at very low cost.

Environmentally-friendly / Energy savings: Compared to autoclaved aerated concrete (AAC), air curing is possible for foam concrete. This saves up to 9 m<sup>2</sup> of gas for curing one cubic meter of AAC and therefore protects our environment.

Cost reduction for transportation and storage: Less raw materials, very efficient foam concentrate.

Faster construction using cast in-situ application improved thermal insulation: Foam concrete can achieve the same insulation results as normal concrete with only 20% of the weight and 10% of raw materials. Improved fire protection: A wall of 13 cm thickness and 1,250 kg/m<sup>3</sup> can withstand a fire for 5 hours. A wall of 10 cm thickness and only 400 kg/m<sup>3</sup> achieves the same result, due to the air enclosed in the foam concrete. Easy to use/ produce/ handle.

High flowing capability: Can fill hollow spaces.

### Supply module (SUMO)

Having high-performance foaming agents is, however, only the first step for offering a complete solution for producing foam concrete. The foam itself is produced in a specially developed and calibrated foam generating device that controls both the rate of production and the proportion of air and solution in the foam. The bubbles are stable and able to resist the physical and chemical forces imposed during mixing, placing and hardening of the foam concrete.

### Required density

Typical applications of foam concrete according to its density:

- 300 - 600 kg/m³: Heat insulation
- 700 - 800 kg/m³: Filling of pipes etc.
- 900 - 1,100 kg/m³: Non-structural elements
- 1, 200 - 1,400 kg/m³: Wall elements as non-structural and floors
- 1,600 - 1,800 kg/m³: Structural elements with higher strength.

## CONCRETE TRIALS

|                           |                                                                                                                                       |                    |                                     |                                        |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| <b>Trials with:</b>       | Ha-Be Middle East FZE                                                                                                                 | <b>Admixtures:</b> | PANTAPOR® FA<br>STABILISIERER LC ME | Ha-Be Middle East<br>Ha-Be Middle East |
| <b>BTU No.:</b>           | U_35_17                                                                                                                               | <b>Cement:</b>     | OPC                                 | Sharjah                                |
| <b>Plant:</b>             | SAIF Zone - Concrete Lab                                                                                                              | <b>Aggregate:</b>  | Dune Sand<br>0/5mm                  | Al Ain<br>STEVIN ROCK                  |
| <b>Trial aim:</b>         | Testing our Foam Concrete mix designs for flaws                                                                                       |                    |                                     |                                        |
| <b>Trial description:</b> | Comparison of the fresh- and the hardened concrete<br>Comparative trials:<br>- consistency<br>- strength development                  |                    |                                     |                                        |
| <b>Date:</b>              | 04/07/2017 & 06/07/2017                                                                                                               |                    |                                     |                                        |
| <b>Concrete type:</b>     | CLC800 - OPC 360kg<br>CLC1000 - OPC 380kg<br>CLC1200 - OPC 400kg<br>CLC1400 - OPC 410kg<br>CLC1500 - OPC 500kg<br>CLC1600 - OPC 430kg |                    |                                     |                                        |
| <b>Trial execution:</b>   | Ha-Be Central Lab<br>Technical Department<br>SAIF ZONE<br>Sharjah - U.A.E.                                                            |                    |                                     |                                        |
| <b>Participants:</b>      | Sean Hogg, Concrete technician - Ha-Be Middle East<br>Kamal H., Lab Technician - Ha-Be Middle East                                    |                    |                                     |                                        |
| <b>Attachments:</b>       | Test results<br>Diagram: slump<br>Diagram: strength                                                                                   |                    |                                     |                                        |
| <b>Status:</b>            | Sharjah, 06.07.2017                                                                                                                   |                    |                                     |                                        |

### Test results

#### Testing our Foam Concrete mix designs for flaws

| Information |            |                         | Mixdesign             |     |         |           |                |         |                                               |                  |            |        | Foam Generator settings |       |          |         | Fresh concrete |          |         |                               | hardened concrete |          |         |          |   |   |
|-------------|------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----|---------|-----------|----------------|---------|-----------------------------------------------|------------------|------------|--------|-------------------------|-------|----------|---------|----------------|----------|---------|-------------------------------|-------------------|----------|---------|----------|---|---|
| Trial No.   | Date       | Concrete classification | Binder type & content |     | Cement  | Dune Sand | Different Sand | Foam    | Total water / Free water<br>w/b (w/mix) (w/m) |                  | Admixtures | Valves |                         | Foam  |          | Density | Density        |          |         | Temperature<br>outside<br>air | hardened concrete |          |         |          |   |   |
|             |            |                         |                       |     |         |           |                |         |                                               |                  |            | kg/m³  | % a.o.c.                | kg/m³ | % a.o.c. |         | kg/m³          | % a.o.c. | kg/m³   |                               |                   | % a.o.c. | kg/m³   | % a.o.c. |   |   |
|             |            |                         |                       |     | (kg/m³) | (kg/m³)   | (kg/m³)        | (l/m³)  | (l/m³)                                        |                  |            | (bar)  | (bar)                   | (bar) | (l/min)  | (g/l)   |                | (kg/m³)  | (°C)    | (days)                        | (kg/m³)           | (N/mm²)  |         |          |   |   |
| 635         | 04.07.2017 | CLC 1900                | OPC                   | 390 | 260     | 265       | 895            | 150     | 0,38                                          | PANTAPOR® FA     | 1.0        | 0,20   | 7,5                     | 6,0   | 2,5      | -       | -              | 91       | 1050    | 1102                          | -                 | -        | -       | -        |   |   |
| 636         |            | CLC 1200                |                       | 400 | 300     | 407       | 487            | 165     | 0,41                                          | PANTAPOR® FA     | 0,5        | 0,13   |                         |       |          |         |                |          | 1240    | 1275                          | -                 | -        | -       | -        | - | - |
| 637         |            | CLC 1600                |                       | 800 | 247     | 588       | 300            | 230     | 0,46                                          | PANTAPOR® FA     | 0,8        | 0,23   |                         |       |          |         |                |          | 1388    | 1017                          | -                 | -        | -       | -        | - | - |
| 642         | 06.07.2017 | CLC 800                 |                       | 360 | 175     | 178       | 630            | 135     | 0,38                                          | PANTAPOR® FA     | 1.2        | 0,33   | 7,5                     | 6,0   | 2,5      | -       | -              | 91       | 850     | 848                           | -                 | -        | -       | -        |   |   |
| 643         |            | CLC 1400                |                       | 410 | 270     | 642       | 370            | 180     | 0,44                                          | STABILISIERER LC | 0,5        | 0,14   |                         |       |          |         |                |          | 1512    | 1400                          | -                 | -        | -       | -        | - | - |
| 644         |            | CLC 1600                |                       | 430 | 321     | 753       | 290            | 200     | 0,47                                          | PANTAPOR® FA     | 0,6        | 0,14   |                         |       |          |         |                |          | 1706    | 1684                          | -                 | -        | -       | -        | - | - |
|             |            |                         |                       |     |         | (kg/m³)   | (kg/m³)        | (kg/m³) | (l/m³)                                        | (l/m³)           |            |        | (bar)                   | (bar) | (bar)    | (l/min) | (g/l)          |          | (kg/m³) | (°C)                          | (days)            | (kg/m³)  | (N/mm²) |          |   |   |

Up until 7 Days f<sub>cube</sub> = 0.88 x f<sub>cube</sub> = 0.92 x f<sub>cube</sub>

### Comparison Fresh Concrete Density

#### Testing our Foam Concrete mix designs for flaws

