

DAREX® AEA EH Air-entraining admixture ASTM C260

Product Description

Darex® AEA EH is an air-entraining admixture which generates a highly stable air void system for increased protection against damage from freezing and thawing, severe weathering, or de-icer chemicals. Darex AEA EH is a complex mixture of organic acid salts in an aqueous solution specifically formulated for use as an air-entraining admixture for concrete and is manufactured under rigid control which provides uniform, predictable performance. It is supplied ready-to-use and does not require pre-mixing with water. One gallon of Darex AEA EH weighs 8.5 lbs (one liter weighs 1.02 kg). Darex AEA EH complies to ASTM C260 *Standard Specifications for Air-Entraining Admixtures for Concrete*.

Uses

Darex AEA EH is used in ready-mix, block, and concrete products plants to improve air entrainment stability. Darex AEA EH performs well in conventional concrete and is effective in plasticizing mixes with slag, lightweight, or manufactured aggregates which tend to produce harsh concrete.

Darex AEA EH entrains air effectively with microsilica concrete and with fly ash concrete.

Product Advantages

- Air stability makes it particularly useful for longer transit times
- Functions well across a wide range of concrete materials
- Economical to use in concretes which are typically difficult to air entrain

Performance

Air is incorporated into the concrete by the mechanics of mixing and stabilized into millions of discrete semi-microscopic bubbles in the presence of a specifically designed air-entraining admixture such as Darex AEA EH. These air bubbles act much like flexible ball bearings increasing the mobility, or plasticity and workability of the concrete. This can permit a reduction in mixing water with no loss of slump. Placeability is improved. Bleeding, plastic shrinkage and segregation are minimized.

Through the purposeful entrainment of air, Darex AEA EH markedly increases the durability of concrete to severe exposures particularly to freezing and thawing. It has also demonstrated a remarkable ability to impart resistance to the action of frost and de-icing salts as well as sulfate, sea and alkaline waters.

Addition Rates

There is no standard addition rate for Darex AEA EH air-entraining admixture. The amount to be used will depend upon the amount of air required for job conditions,



usually in the range of 4 to 8%. Typical factors which might influence the amount of air-entraining admixture required are, temperature, cement, sand gradation, and the use of extra fine materials such as fly ash and microsilica. Typical Darex AEA EH addition rates generally range from ½ to 5 fl oz/100 lbs (30 to 320 mL/100 kg) of cement.

The air-entraining efficiency of Darex AEA EH becomes even greater when used with water-reducing and set-retarding agents. This may allow a reduction of up to ⅔ in the amount of Darex AEA EH required for the specified air content.

Mix Adjustment

Entrained air results in increased yields with a consequent decrease in the cement content of the placed concrete. This condition calls for a mix adjustment, usually accomplished by reducing the fine aggregate content. This is in addition to the reduction in water content brought about by the increase in plasticity.

Compatibility with Other Admixtures and Batch Sequencing

Darex AEA EH is compatible with most Grace admixtures as long as they are added separately to the concrete mix. In general, it is recommended that Darex AEA EH be added to the concrete mix near the beginning of the batch sequence for optimum performance, preferably by “dribbling” on the sand. Different sequencing may be used if local testing shows better performance. Please see Grace Technical Bulletin TB-0110, *Admixture Dispenser Discharge Line Location and Sequencing for Concrete Batching Operations* for further recommendations. Darex AEA EH should not be added directly to heated water.

Pretesting of the concrete mix should be performed before use, and as conditions and materials change in order to assure compatibility, and to optimize dosage rates, addition times in the batch sequencing and concrete performance. Please consult your Grace representative for guidance.

Packaging & Handling

Darex AEA EH is available in bulk, delivered by metered tank trucks and in 55 gal (210 L) drums. Darex AEA EH contains no flammable ingredients. Darex AEA EH will freeze at about 30°F (-1°C), but its air-entraining properties are completely restored by thawing and thorough mechanical agitation.

Dispensing Equipment

A complete line of accurate dispensing equipment is available. These dispensers can be located to discharge into the water line, the mixer, or on the sand.

Specifications

Concrete shall be air entrained concrete, containing 4 to 8% entrained air. The air contents in the concrete shall be determined by the pressure method (ASTM Designation C231), gravimetric method (ASTM Designation C138) or volume metric method (ASTM Designation C173). The air-entraining admixture shall be Darex AEA EH as manufactured by Grace Construction Products, or equal. The air-entraining admixture shall be added at the concrete mixer or batching plant at approximately ½ to 5 fl oz/100 lbs (30 to 320 mL/100 kg) of cement, or in such quantities as to give the specified air contents.

www.graceconstruction.com

North American Customer Service: 1-877-4AD-MIX1 (1-877-423-6491)

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