SIKA FERROGARD
CORROSION INHIBITORS

DONADIO MICHEL
SIKA SERVICES AG / TM REFURBISHMENT
MOTHER NATURE’S RULES

Dig up Iron ore (various oxides)
MOTHER NATURE’S RULES

Spend 1000 kW’s of energy to produce steel
MOTHER NATURE’S RULES

Spend the rest of its time converting back to rust (various oxides)
MOTHER NATURE IS GIVEN SOME HELP!!...
CHLORIDE INDUCED CORROSION
CARBONATION INDUCED CORROSION
PASSIVATION OF STEEL IN THE CONCRETE

The alkaline environment protects the reinforcement steel from corrosion
STEEL CORROSION

Natural oxide protector

Iron ore

Rust

Volume, cm$^3$

Fe
Fe O
Fe$_3$O$_4$
Fe$_2$O$_3$
Fe (OH)$_2$
Fe (OH)$_3$
Fe (OH)$_3$ 3H$_2$O
CORROSION CONDITIONS

Anode

Fe(OH)_2 → FeOOH

Cathode

O_2 + 2H_2O + 4e^- = 4 OH^-

Electrolytic conductivity of concrete

Fe(OH)_2 → FeOOH

electrons, e^-
CORROSION INDUCED BY CARBONATION

Concrete: pH-value approx. 13

Carbonation

Hydrogen carbonate:
Ca(HCO$_3$)$_2$  pH-value approx. 9.5
Na(HCO$_3$)  pH-value approx. 8.5

lower pH-value = lower OH$^-$ concentration

- Oxides on steel surface not stable
- Passivation film becomes porous and permeable
CORROSION INDUCED BY CARBONATION

Steel corrosion speed: $\approx \frac{2}{100}$ to $\frac{2}{10}$ mm per year
PINHOLE CORROSION INDUCED BY CHLORIDES

Fig. 2. Schematic illustration of chloride induced pitting corrosion and reaction steps:
PINHOLE-CORROSION INDUCED BY CHLORIDES

Steel corrosion speed: \( \approx 1 \) to 10 mm per year!!

Steel corrosion speed (by carbonation): \( \approx 2/100 \) to 2/10 mm per year
INDEX

- INTRODUCTION
- CORROSION MECHANISM
- INHIBITOR DEFINITIONS
- SAMARIS PROJECT
- ADMIXED INHIBITORS
- CARBONATION INDUCED CORROSION – UCT TESTING
- BRE PREVENTIVE MEASURE (CHLORIDE INDUCED CORROSION)
- COMPARISON OF TECHNOLOGIES
  - Admixed Inhibitors
- SUMMARY/CONCLUSION
WHAT IS A CORROSION INHIBITOR?

**Definition corrosion inhibitor**
A corrosion inhibitor is a chemical substance that, when added in small concentration to an environment, effectively decreases the corrosion rate or/and delay the onset of corrosion

**Inhibitor efficiency**
The efficiency of an inhibitor is expressed by a measure of this improvement:

\[
\text{Inhibitor efficiency} \ [%] = 100 \cdot \left( \frac{CR_{\text{uninhibited}} - CR_{\text{inhibited}}}{CR_{\text{uninhibited}}} \right)
\]

where:

- \( CR_{\text{uninhibited}} \) = corrosion rate of the uninhibited system
- \( CR_{\text{inhibited}} \) = corrosion rate of the inhibited system

Excellent corrosion inhibitors show efficiencies >90%
Typical corrosion inhibitor effect: >65%
TERMINOLOGY OF CORROSION INHIBITORS

Active systems

- Chemical reaction between steel and inhibitor resulting in the formation of a protective film
- Adsorption on the steel surface resulting in a protective layer
- Scavenger system – depletion of availability of oxygen (e.g. ammonium bisulfite)

Passive systems

- Inhibition is achieved by reducing chloride ingress (chloride screening)

Passive-active systems

- Combination of the two
TERMINOLOGY OF CORROSION INHIBITORS

Cathodic corrosion inhibitors

- Suppress the cathodic reaction: Cathodic poisons, cathodic precipitates (e.g. zinc oxide, magnesium oxide) and oxygen scavengers.

Anodic corrosion inhibitors

- Suppresses the anodic reaction (e.g. calcium nitrite)

Multifunctional or mixed corrosion inhibitors

- Suppresses both the anodic and cathodic reactions (e.g. amino alcohol)
TERMINOLOGY OF CORROSION INHIBITORS

**Anodic corrosion inhibitors – considered as tricky**
- Too little of the corrosion inhibitor fails to protect all anodic sites. Therefore, cathode/anode area ratio increases causing increased corrosion at remaining anodic sites.

**Cathodic corrosion inhibitors – considered as “safe” corrosion inhibitors**
- Reduces corrosion rate at low “dosage”
- Not as efficient as anodic inhibitors

**Multifunctional or mixed corrosion inhibitors**
- Synergistic effect
- Inhibitor provides protection to both cathodic and anodic sites even at relatively low concentrations
# Chloride Level

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chloride State</th>
<th>Indicative Free Chloride Ion at Level at Reinforcement</th>
<th>Possible Consequence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>$\leq 0.5%$ Chlorides by mass of cement</td>
<td>Corrosion inhibitor potentially viable as a preventive maintenance strategy before any significant active corrosion takes place.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>$\leq 1%$ Chlorides by mass of cement</td>
<td>Corrosion inhibitor may be effective if a satisfactory inhibitor to chloride ion concentration ratio is achieved – much depends on existing degree of corrosion. Protective measures to prevent further chloride build up are recommended in chloride-rich environments.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# CHLORIDE LEVEL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chloride State</th>
<th>Indicative Free Chloride Ion at Level at Reinforcement</th>
<th>Possible Consequence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>1 – 2 % Chlorides by mass of cement</td>
<td>Corrosion inhibitor dosage level may have to be increased beyond typical manufacturer’s recommendation and additional protective measures required. May take the technique beyond its recommended effectiveness window, introducing higher risk.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very high</td>
<td>&gt; 2 % Chlorides by mass of cement</td>
<td>High dosages of the Corrosion inhibitor are recommended to protect the steel. A durable structure can only be the combination of low chloride migration and the use of inhibitors. Corrosion inhibitor unlikely to be a successful component of the repair strategy.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
INDEX

- INTRODUCTION
- CORROSION MECHANISM
- INHIBITOR DEFINITIONS
- ADMIXED INHIBITORS
- BRE PREVENTIVE MEASURE (CHLORIDE INDUCED CORROSION)
- SUMMARY/CONCLUSION
OPTIONS FOR CORROSION CONTROL

- Properly designed concrete
- Cathodic protection
- Epoxy coated steel
- Galvanised steel
- Stainless steel
- Corrosion inhibitor Sika FerroGard-901
- Surface sealer / hydrophobic impregnation

Or combination of the options above
Sika FerroGard-901

- Reduction of corrosion risk / extending service life of reinforced concrete structures
- No adverse effects when under-dosed
- No or only little influence on fresh and hardened concrete properties
- Environmentally sound / not toxicity rated
STEEL COUPON CORROSION TEST

without corrosion inhibitor  
2.5 % corrosion inhibitor  
4.5 % corrosion inhibitor

test conditions: pH 12 / 0.02 M sodium chloride / 4 days at 25°C
CRACKED CONCRETE BEAM CORROSION TEST
CRACKED CONCRETE BEAM CORROSION TEST

- Beams 150 mm x 150 nun x 750 mm with three embedded rebars 12 mm Ø
- Two rebars are placed 38 mm from the bottom of the beam, the third rebar 43 mm below the top surface of the beam.
- Artificial cracking: 0.25 mm wide shimmed crack
- Cycles: 2 weeks of ponding with a 3.0% sodium chloride solution, followed by 2 weeks of air drying.
- Modeled to simulate a cracked concrete bridge deck, with the top layer of reinforcement directly exposed to sodium chloride solutions through cracks and indirectly by diffusion through the concrete.
- The top rebar is monitored (corrosion potentials silver/silver chloride and voltage measured across a resistor)
CRACKED CONCRETE BEAM CORROSION TEST

Cracked Concrete Beam Test [Series 2] : Integral Corrosion Currents

(integral corrosion currents : average values of cracked concrete beam specimens)
CONCRETE PROPERTIES

- Testing of the influence of Sika FerroGard-901 on fresh concrete properties:
- European wide test series: Mix design EN-104
- 9 Countries, 14 type I and 2 type V cements
- Corrosion inhibitor alone or in combination with 20 important superplasticizers or plasticizers
- Effectiveness of air entrainers on mixes of Sika FerroGard-901 and different superplasticizer
- Freeze-thaw testing
CONCRETE PROPERTIES

Worldwide concrete experiments with corrosion inhibitors based on amino alcohols:

- No to little effect on workability of concrete
- No to little effect on setting times
- No to little effect on 1 day compressive strength
- No effect on 28 days compressive strength
- No effect on air void system
- Air entrainment is assured (freeze-thaw resistance!)
SIKA FERROGARD-901 SUMMARY

The addition of Sika FerroGard-901 to concrete provides:

- Lower corrosion potentials - less risk of damage
- Larger passive range
- Extended service life of structures
- Delay of onset of corrosion, even in case of cracked concrete
- Reduction of corrosion rate by at least 50 % under severe conditions (cracked beam corrosion tests)
- Same or better performance than nitrite based inhibitors at comparable dosage (in the case of moderate chloride content)
- Environmentally sound
- No negative effects on fresh and hardened concrete properties - no stiffening, no acceleration
INTRODUCTION

CORROSION MECHANISM

INHIBITOR DEFINITIONS

SAMARIS PROJECT

ADMIXED INHIBITORS

CARBONATION INDUCED CORROSION – UCT TESTING

BRE PREVENTIVE MEASURE (CHLORIDE INDUCED CORROSION)

COMPARISON OF TECHNOLOGIES

- Admixed Inhibitors

SUMMARY/CONCLUSION
SUMMARY CARBONATION-INDUCED CORROSION

SURFACE-APPLIED CORROSION INHIBITORS:
- Technique at its best:
  - Generally concrete of lower quality (although denser due to the carbonation process)
  - Lower cover
  - Low corrosion rate

ADMIXED CORROSION INHIBITORS:
- Generally not required
  - Too expensive
SURFACE APPLIED INHIBITORS:

- Some limitations:
  - Issue of concrete quality – marine structure using CEM III with low water cement ratio
  - Issue of concrete cover (combined with denser structure)
  - Issue of presence of chloride
  - Issue of rate of corrosion

- Potentially considered if:
  - Lower concrete cover
  - Pro-active maintenance – inhibitor placed before significant amount of chlorides have reached the rebars
  - In renovation; low to medium chloride content at rebar level
SUMMARY CHLORIDE INDUCED CORROSION

ADmixed INHIBITOR:

- Calcium nitrite:
  - Good efficiency, especially in the presence of higher chloride concentrations
  - Some health and safety issues in some countries
  - Concrete mix to be adjusted

- Amino alcohol based:
  - Good efficiency in moderate chloride concentration
  - No health and safety issues
  - No adjustment of mix design required
CORROSION INHIBITOR TECHNIQUE CAN BE USED ON MANY DIFFERENT JOB SITES,
But Don’t Overestimate it......!