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Influence of additives & CO₂ injection on practical properties of excelsior cement boards

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(Received 2005 May 29, Accepted 2006 July 9)

Abstract

In order to examine the effect of additives and as well the injection of CO_2 on excelsior cement boards, excelsior produced from poplar (*Poplus sp*) and the Portland cement type 2, and two additives, $CaCl_2$ (calcium chloride) and $Al_2(So_4)_3$ (aluminum sulfate) with 3% & 5% concentrations was used. The results showed that the board containing 5% of $CaCl_2$ have better mechanical properties that may be attributed to effective neutralization of inhibitory agents of cement originated from wood and better cement hydration. CO_2 injection in mat prior the pressing had negative effect on the board properties which is considered as consequence of chemical reaction between cement and CO_2 , significant increase in hydration temperature in this stage and presetting of cement before press that result in improper cement bonding. Analyzing physical & mechanical properties of produced boards showed that excelsior-cement boards treated with $CaCl_2$ have acceptable properties and higher bending strength and internal bonding as compared to ordinary excelsior-cement board. Therefore appropriate condition to manufacture these boards is the application of $CaCl_2$ 5% as an additive without CO_2 injection before pressing the excelsior-cement cake.

Keywords: cement, excelsior cement board, additives, co_2 injection, thickness swilling, internal bonding, bending strength