



CHEMICAL COMPOSITION OF PORTLAND CEMENT CLINKER

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ABSTRACT	KEYWORDS
A summary of research on the composition of Portland cement clinker.	portland cement, clinker, mineralogical composition, alite, belite, tricalcium aluminate, alumoferrite

INTRODUCTION

In the production of Portland cement clinker, carbonate rocks containing a lot of calcium carbonate and clays containing silicon oxide, aluminum oxide and iron oxide, as well as natural mixtures of clay and calcium carbonate (marls) are used as raw materials. In recent years, in order not to use clay completely or partially, sour and basic blast furnace slag, as well as nepheline waste, are used in the production of portland cement. Also, a complex technology for obtaining portland cement and SO₂ gas by mixing gypsum or anhydrite with clay has been developed. This technology has been introduced in countries where sulfuric acid production is low.

Nepheline sludge is produced as a waste product in the aluminum oxide industry. It contains 25...30% SiO₂, 2...5% Al₂O₃, 35% Fe₂O₃, 50...58% SaO and 3...8% other materials with 15...20% limestone. it is possible to prepare a mixture of raw materials for the production of shib and portland cement.

The use of nepheline slurry increases the efficiency of furnaces by 20...30% and reduces fuel consumption by 25%. Blast furnace slag containing up to 40...50% calcium oxide is also a valuable raw material for Portland cement production. Currently, they are not used in large quantities, but it is possible to organize large portland cement production enterprises based on them. Chemical composition: the quality of cement depends on the chemical composition of the raw material to be fired. Therefore, chemical analysis of clinker is a means of quality control. In this case, not only the most important oxides such as CaO, Al₂O₃, SiO₂, Fe₂O₃.Mg, but also MnO found in the composition of raw materials. The amount of secondary constituents such as Na₂O is also determined. Usually, the amount of these oxides in clinker is in the following limits:

The resulting amount of these is 95 97%.

Calcium oxide SaO is the main component of clinker. To obtain high-quality cement, SaO in it is not in the free state, but acidic oxides SiO₂. Al₂O₃ should be chemically bonded with Fe₂O₃. The amount of free SaO in the clinker should not exceed 1%, otherwise it will cause an uneven change in cement volume. During high-temperature burning, excess lime is burnt to a great extent. Due to this, its

fading occurs when the cement mass hardens, and not during solidification, when the mixture is soft. Due to the fact that the tensile strength of the mortar occurs in combination with the strong expansions in volume, these points generate stresses that cause cracks and failure of the concrete or mixture.

An increase in the amount of CaO (in its combination with acidic oxides) increases strength and accelerates the hardening process of cement, but decreases water resistance. Silica SiO_2 is one of the most important constituents of clinker, which, together with alumina Al_2O_3 and iron oxide Fe_2O_3 , ensures the combination of calcium oxide CaO and the formation of compounds with hydraulic hardening properties in portland cement. With the increase of SiO_2 in cement, the retention process slows down, the speed of the hardening process is even slower in the first periods. In the following periods, when the consistency increases sufficiently, its resistance to water and sulfate waters also increases.

Clay Al_2O_3 - when there is a large amount, portland cement sets and hardens much faster in the initial periods, but the subsequent process of cement strength increase is slowed down, cements are resistant to water, sulfates and cold.

Fe_2O_3 in iron oxide reduces the temperature of clinker. Cements rich in iron oxide are slow setting, long-hardening, and sulfate-resistant, even when clay content is low, even when silica is low.

In magnesium oxide, the amount of MgO in clinker should not exceed 5%. Because, a large part of magnesium oxide is explained by being in a free state in the form of periclase. It burns at a high temperature, combines (hydrates) very slowly with water during the hardening of the mixture and concrete. The excess amount, in turn, causes an uneven change in the volume of the cement and thus leads to distortions.

Titanium (IV) oxide TiO_2 is always present in clay and occurs in clinker in an amount of no more than 0.3%. Its presence in small amounts is beneficial because it helps to better crystallization of clinker minerals.

Manganese oxide also contains MnO up to 1.5% in clinker and even more when blast furnace slag is used. Na_2O K_2O alkalis are present in clinker from 0.5% to 1% and K_2O is more than Na_2O . The presence of alkalis is undesirable due to the fact that it is the cause of stabilization of the retention time of cement and the occurrence of nausea in cement products. SO_3 gold match anhydrite gypsum is required to control the retention time of the cement.

The main minerals of clinker are: alite, belite, tricalcium aluminate and aluminoferrite.

Alite $3\text{CaO} \cdot \text{SiO}_2$ is the most important mineral that determines the setting speed, strength and other properties of clinker in portland cement and is present in clinker in the amount of 45-60%. It consists of tricalcium silicate and a solid mixture of small (2-4%) MgO, Al_2O_3 , P_2O_5 , Sr_2O_3 and other impurities that can greatly affect its structure and properties. Alite occurs in three polymorphic modifications. The strength and properties of cement are affected by the size, appearance, and degree of crystallization of alite crystals.

Belite $2\text{CaO} \cdot \text{SiO}_2$ is the second silicate mineral in importance and quantity (1530%) of clinker. It hardens slowly, but when Portland cement hardens for a long time, great strength is achieved. There are four polymorphic modifications of belite; a- C_2S , a'- C_2S , b- C_2S , g- C_2S .

The transition of b- C_2S to g- C_2S occurs with an increase in absolute volume of about 10%, as a result, the particles of the substance are divided and turn into day g- C_2S does not react with water at a temperature of 1000 C and has binding properties won't be. The hydraulic activity of belite depends on the structure of the crystals, for example, if the crystals are densely rounded, the cements have high

strength. β -C₂S and a small (1-3%) amount of Al₂O₃ Fe₂O₃. MgO. is a solid mixture of Sr₂O₃. During the cooling of clinker below 5250 C, β -C₂S, γ -C₂S can transition, and the transition is accompanied by an increase in the basic distance, that is, a softening of the molecular structure of belite. Due to the fact that the density of β -C₂S is greater than the density of γ -C₂S, the polymorphic transition leads to the expansion of the absolute volume of the belite by about 10%, and as a result, the clinker grains (granules) are dispersed as powder. Self-dispersion facilitates the crushing of clinker, but γ -C₂S powder practically does not react with water at a temperature of 1000 C, that is, it does not have binding properties. Because of this, it is necessary to prevent the transition of the belite to the γ - form. Some impurities (1-3%) in the amount of Al₂O₃ for the recovery of β -C₂S. Fe₂O₃. MgO. Sg₂O₃ also helps in rapid cooling of clinker in chillers. In this case, a clinker containing dense crystals of rounded belite is obtained.

Approximate chemical and mineralogical composition of clinker

Kn	n _s	Mineral composition by weight %					
		C ₄ A ₃ S̄	C ₄ AF	C ₂ S	C ₅ S ₂ S̄	C ₃ S _{cb}	C ₃ S
0,667	1,0	14,51	5,38	---	77,73	---	---
	1,5	13,10	4,84	---	69,29	10,06	---
	2,0	11,91	4,44	---	63,10	18,07	---
0,75	1,0	14,61	5,39	---	59,05	---	18,49
	1,5	13,48	4,99	---	54,43	7,71	17,21
	2,0	12,48	4,66	---	50,26	14,31	16,10
0,80	1,0	14,62	5,42	---	47,53	---	30,01
	1,5	13,79	5,20	---	48,32	5,37	25,11
	2,0	12,84	4,84	---	42,03	11,76	26,37

The amount of silicate minerals in Portland cement clinker is estimated to be 75-82%, while the remaining 18-25% are volume-filling intermediates between alite and belite crystals. These substances consist of crystals of tricalcium aluminate C³A and aluminoferrite calcium S⁴AF, glass and secondary crystals, etc. C³A - tricalcium aluminate - is present in clinker in the amount of 3-15%. Although it occurs in the form of S⁵A³, it forms solid mixtures with a complex composition of 12SaO 7Al₂O₃, but it does not have such great strength. It is the cause of sulfate corrosion of concrete.

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