# PRACTICAL USE OF CALCAEROUS FLY ASH IN PORTLAND-COMPOSITE CEMENT CEM II/B-M (V-W) 32,5R INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION

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## Abstract

Production of Portland clinker, main component of cement, is one of the most determining factor of cement production impact on environment. Use of non-clinker constituents in cement is the principal method of reduction influence of this process on environment. Extension of mineral additives for cement domestic base is important from ecological and economical point of view. Main thesis of this paper was to determine Portland-composite cements with calcareous fly ash addition properties. Results of own research proved that calcareous fly ash has labile chemical composition and physical properties. Positive results of cement mortars were confirmed by concrete tests. Based on laboratory test results, decision on production of Portland-composite cement CEM II/B-M (V-W) 32,5R on an industrial scale was made. Tests results allowed to state that Portland-composite cement CEM II/B-M (V-W) 32,5R has similar parameters to other cements available on the market. Concrete tests made with this new cement confirmed similar properties to reference concrete. Results obtained in the thesis give the permission to conclude that in suitable technological conditions (grinding, component selection) calcareous fly ash can be a valuable component of common use cements (CEM II, CEM IV).

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*Keywords:* Portland-composite cement, calcareous fly ash, industrial production.

**1. INTRODUCTION** 

Portland clinker production is a main element determining arduousness of cement fabrication for the environment. It is connected with natural resources (limestone, marl) and fossil fuels use (hard coal) spend and gases emission (mainly CO<sub>2</sub>) [1]. Application of mineral additives as cement main components is the way to decrease this arduousness. In Polish condition, ground granulated blast furnace slag (S), siliceous fly ash (V) and limestone (LL) lately often been used [2]. There were no tradition and experiences with calcareous fly ash application, which is brown coal burning by-product. Supplies of calcareous fly ash in Poland are estimated about 6 million tons per year. [3,4].

In present paper experiences with calcareous fly ash application in production of Portland-composite cement CEM II/B-M (V-W) 32,5R were presented. Decision about industrial production of this cement type was preceded by wide laboratory and half-industrial research in the realization of project POIG 01.01.02-24-005/09 "Innovative cement binders and concretes with use of calcareous fly ash" [4÷14].

# 2. CALCAREOUS FLY ASH CHARACTERISTIC

Fly ashes used in cement production are divided by reactive SiO<sub>2</sub> and CaO content on: siliceous – V (content of reactive SiO<sub>2</sub> more than 25 % and reactive CaO below than 10 %) or calcareous – W (content of reactive CaO more than 10 %) [15]. In comparison to siliceous fly ashes (V), generally used in cement and concrete, calcareous fly ash (W) grains are characterized by irregular shape and porous surface (fig. 1), which has negative influence on rheological properties of mortar and fresh concrete [16÷19].

The fineness, which is calculated as residue on 0.045 mm sieve, of unprocessed calcareous fly ash trends upwards in range since 35 % to 65 % [4]. This practically disqualifies the ash as an addition to concrete acc.to standards EN 450-1:2012 [21] and ASTM C 618-03 [22]. The common grinding of calcareous fly ash and Portland clinker in the cement mill reduces grains size, crush cenosphers and separates particles compacted as conglomerates (fig. 3). The effect of grinding process is also a higher activity of ground calcareous fly ash (fig. 4).



**Fig. 1:** Fly ash grains morphology: calcareous (W – left side) [19] and siliceous (V – right side) [18]

Chemical composition of fly ash is the result of incombustible remainders of carbon composition. The most often occurring components in fly ashes (calculated as oxides) are: SiO<sub>2</sub>; Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>; Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> and CaO. Depending on burnt carbon type the amount of SiO<sub>2</sub>+Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>+Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> is usually more than 70 % for siliceous fly ash, while in case of calcareous fly ash it contains  $10\div35$  % of CaO the sum of the three other oxides SiO<sub>2</sub> + Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> + Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> is from 50% to 70% [4], [16], [18]. The fig. 2 shows the area of chemical composition, in CaO–SiO<sub>2</sub>–Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> configuration, calcareous fly ashes in comparison to other cement main components.



Calcareous fly ashes (W) are characterized by more multiple mineral composition compared with siliceous fly ashes (V). Except typical for siliceous fly ash (V) components, such as: quartz, mullite and hematite, calcareous fly ashes (W) may contain additionally: anhydrite, larnite (C<sub>2</sub>S), C<sub>3</sub>A, gehlenite, anortite, free CaO, melilite, merwinite, peryclaise, tenardite and sodalite. Some of these components are reactive to water and they determine the hydraulic activity. Amorphous phase of calcareous fly ashes (alumina-quartzcalcium glass) contains more calcium compounds in compare to amorphous phase of siliceous fly ashes (alumina-quartz glass), which also affects fly ashes reactivity [4], [16÷19].



**Fig. 3:** Morphology of calcareous fly ash grains: unprocessed (left side) and grounded (right side) [19]

Taking into account the chemical and phase composition of calcareous fly ash can be stated that this is a pozzolanhydraulic activity component of cement. This fact was confirmed by many results, which also proved that its activity expressly increased after grinding (fig. 4) [8 $\div$ 10], [16], [24 $\div$ 27].



# 3. INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION OF PORTLAND-COMPOSITE CEMENT CEM II/B-

#### M 32,5R

In the industrial production of Portland-composite cement CEM II/B-M (V-W) 32,5R was used calcareous fly ash (W), of which standard properties were shown in table 1.

Table 1 Standard	l propertie	s of calcareous	fly ash	(W)	[4]
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Dronorty	Values	Requiremen ts acc. to		
Property	Minimu	Averag	Maximu	EN 197-
	m	e	m	1:2012
Loss of				0 ÷ 5
ignition	1,7	3,7	7,2	$0 \div 7$
[%]				0 ÷ 9

Descrit	Values	Requiremen ts acc. to		
Property	Minimu	Averag	Maximu	EN 197-
	m	e	m	1:2012
Reactive	18.0	21.0	28.0	> 10.0
CaO [%]	18,0	21,0	28,0	≥ 10,0
Reactive	25.0	21.0	25.0	> 25.0 *
SiO <sub>2</sub> [%]	23,0	51,0	55,0	≥ 23,0 °
Soundness	0	2	5	< 10
[mm]	0	2	5	<u> </u>
Compressi				
ve strength	25	35	65	> 10.0 **
of fly ash	2,5	5,5	0,5	> 10,0
binder				

\* – relate to fly ash which has reactive CaO content in range 10÷15 %

\*\* – relate to fly ash which has reactive CaO more than 15 %

Results presented in table 1, allow to affirm that applied in cement production calcareous fly ash, fulfills the requirements of standard EN 197-1:2012. Compressive strength of fly ash mortar indeed do not reach requirement of 10 MPa, however in author's opinion, with regard to high content of reactive CaO and SiO<sub>2</sub>, it should not be disqualifying factor to use this fly ash in cement production. Of key significance is the content of reactive SiO<sub>2</sub>, which was above 25%. High content of reactive CaO more than 15% can be treat as extra factor which is favorable for the activity.

Portland-composite cement CEM II/B-M (V-W) 32,5R was produced in Górażdże cement plant, 140 thousand tons of this cement was placed on the market.

To reduce the negative impact of fly ash on the rheological properties of calcareous cement decided that:

- calcareous fly ash was be ground together with Portland clinker and setting controller,
- content of calcareous fly ash (W) was limited to approximately 15%
- the second non-clinker cement constituent was siliceous fly ash (V), which was given after milling but before separator (fig. 5).

Combine all components (clinker, fly ashes W and V, setting controller), cement was pneumatically transported to separator, which separates thick grains (over-grain) from final product, the over-sized grains were transferred back to milling (closed cycle). Adequately milled cement was transported to final product silo.



Fig 5: CEM II/B-M (V-W) 32,5R production diagram

In the table 2 the composition of Portland-composite cement CEM II/B-M (V-W) 32,5R was shown and in the table 3 chemical composition of this cement components.

Fable 2 Com	position	of CEM	II/B-M	(V-W	) 32,5R
					/ /

Component	Content [%]
Portland clinker	62,3
Setting controller	3,8
Siliceous fly ash (V)	19,5
Calcareous fly ash (W)	14,4

Table 3 Chemical composition of Portland-composite cement CEM II/B-M (V-W) 32,5R components

	Cement component					
Chemical component	Portland clinker	Setting controller	Siliceous fly ash (V)	Calcareous fly ash (W)		
Loss of ignition	0,2		2,0	2,8		
SiO <sub>2</sub>	21,7	0,9	53,2	39,3		
$Al_2O_3$	5,7	0,2	25,1	21,8		
Fe <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub>	2,9	0,2	6,6	5,5		
CaO	66,2	31,6	3,9	24,1		
Free CaO			0,04	1,5		
MgO	1,4	0,4	2,8	1,7		
SO <sub>3</sub>	0,5	44,2	0,4	3,2		
Na <sub>2</sub> O	0,2	0,1	1,1	0,2		
K <sub>2</sub> O	0,8	0,0	3,2	0,2		
Cl	0,044	0,012	0,008	0,010		

Portland-composite cement CEM II/B-M (V-W) 32,5R produced on an industrial scale was characterized by properties shown in table 4 and 5.

**Table 4** Properties of CEM II/B-M (V-W) 32,5R accordingto standard EN 197-1:2012 requirements

Property	Tests results	EN 197-1:2012	
riopenty	resus results	requirements	
Soundness [mm]	0,5	≤ 10,0	
Setting time – initial [min]	235	≥ 75	

Compressive strength after 2 days [MPa]	19,0	≥ 10,0
Compressive strength after 28 days [MPa]	49,3	≥ 32,5 ≤ 52,5
Sulphate content [%]	2,6	≤ 3,5
Chloride content [%]	0,07	≤ 0,10

Comparison of results of physical testing of cement CEM II/B-M (V-W) 32,5R with other types of industrially produced cements, showed that this cement, beyond increased water demand, not distinguished by anything in particular. However, it was found that this higher water demand did not affect the consistency of mortars prepared with this cement. (table 5).

Table 5 Properties of different cements

Cen type	nent e	Water dema nd [%]	Setti ng time – initia 1 [min]	Soun d- ness [mm]	Densi ty [g/cm <sup>3</sup> ]	Specific surfac e acc. to Blain e [cm <sup>2</sup> / g]	Flow of mort ar [mm ]
-V) M	mi n.	35,6	305	1	2,86	4460	193
11/B-1 2.5R	ave r.	31,1	235	0,6	2,90	4000	184
CEM W) 32	ma x.	29,0	195	0	2,93	3600	175
CEN II/B 32,5	M 5-V 5R	28,0	275	0,3	2,85	3340	188
CEN II/B 32,5	M 5-S 5R	27,5	190	0,5	3,04	3510	190
CEN III// 32,5	M A 5N	30,4	200	0,6	3,00	3940	200
CEN III// 42,5	M A 5R	32,6	200	0,2	3,00	4380	190
CEN V/B V) 32,5	M 8 (S- 5N	32,0	290	0,2	2,85	4270	185

Consistency of mortar (flow) with cement CEM II/B-M (V-W) 32,5Rwas similar to consistency of mortar with Portland cement CEM I 42,5R (fig. 6). The difference between minimum and maximum value did not exceed 20 mm.



Fig 6: Changes of cement consistency in time.

Compressive strength of Portland-composite cement CEM II/B-M (V-W) 32,5R was, in primary time of hardening, (after 2 and 28 days) similar to Portland-slag cement CEM II/B-S 32,5R. After a longer period of time (28 days and more) its compressive strength was similar to Portland cement CEM I 42,5R (fig. 7).



in comparison to other cements

# 4. PROPERTIES OF CONCRETE WITH PORTLAND-COMPOSITE CEMENT CEM II/B-M 32,5R

On the basis of cement CEM II/B-M (V-W) 32,5R concrete mixture was prepared. Composition of this mixture fulfills

the requirements acc. to exposition class XF4 after EN 206-1:2000 (table 6).

Table 6 Concrete mixture composition

Component	Content [kg/m <sup>3</sup> ]
CEM II/B-M (V-W) 32,5R	340
Water	153
Sand 0-2 mm	665
Gravel 2-8 mm	510
Gravel 8-16 mm	720
water/compart natio - 0.45	

water/cement ratio = 0,45

As a comparison, properties of fresh and hardened concrete with Portland-slag cement CEM II/B-S 32,5R (very popular cement on the domestic market) was accepted.

The air content in both mixtures was the same -1.8 %.

Established consistency class S4 (slump  $160\div210 \text{ mm}$ ) for the mixtures was achieved by adding superplastisizer in amount of 1,0 % of cement mass. The consistency was kept at the same level for 90 minutes (fig. 8).



Fig 8: Changes of fresh concretes consistency in time

In relation to mechanical properties, the concrete made with Portland-composite cement CEM II/B-M (V-W) 32,5R has similar parameters to concrete with Portland-slag cement CEM II/B-S 32,5R (tab. 7).

Shrinkage of concrete, tested according to procedure from PN-B-06714-23:1984 [38], made with Portland-composite cement CEM II/B-M (V-W) 32,5R was smaller than concrete with Portland-slag cement CEM II/B-S 32,5R (fig. 9).

Table 7. Mechanical properties of concretes

	Concrete with	Concrete with			
Properties	CEM II/B-M	CEM II/B-S			
-	(V-W) 32,5R	32,5R			
Compressive					
strength [MPa]					
after:					
<ul> <li>2 days</li> </ul>	27,1	26,0			
- 7 days	42,0	43,7			
<ul> <li>28 days</li> </ul>	56,9	59,3			
- 90 days	73,1	71,2			
Flexural strength					
[MPa] after:					
<ul> <li>28 days</li> </ul>	6,2	7,0			
- 90 days	7,5	7,5			
Static elasticity					
module (E-module)					
[GPa] after:					
- 28 days	32,7	33,4			
- 90 days	36,9	37,1			





Analysis of durability test results (water penetration depth, chloride permeability, carbonation, frost resistance) shows that concrete with Portland-composite cement CEM II/B-M (V-W) 32,5R has similar durableness to concrete with Portland-slag cement CEM II/B-S 32,5R. However both concrete mixtures which were tested on freezing-thawing in the presence of de-icing salt have been aerated to 5.5% air content in concrete mix. (tab. 8).

Properties	Concrete with CEM II/B-M (V-W) 32,5R	Concrete with CEM II/B-S 32,5R
Water penetration		
depth [mm] after:		
- 28 days	20	19
- 90 days	17	15
Chloride ion		
permeability [C]		
after:		
- 28 days	2320	2080

Properties	Concrete with CEM II/B-M (V-W) 32,5R	Concrete with CEM II/B-S 32,5R
- 90 days	670	940
Carbonation depth [mm]	2,5	3,0
Compressive strength loss (150 cycles freezing- thawing) [%] after:		
<ul> <li>28 days</li> </ul>	9,1	6,5
- 90 days	1,5	2,3
Slab test (scaling) [kg/m <sup>2</sup> ] after:		
- 28 days	0,3	0,2
- 90 days	0,2	0,0

# 5. POSSIBILITIES OF USE PORTLAND-

# COMPOSITE CEMENT CEM II/B-M 32,5R IN CIVIL ENGENEERING

In support of presented researches and other works [4],  $[6\div8]$ , [14],  $[33\div37]$ , related with project POIG 01.01.02-24-005/09 "Innovative cement binders and concretes with use of calcareous fly ash", an author proposed the area of use Portland-composite cement CEM II/B-M (V-W) 32,5R in concrete acc. to exposition class from EN 206-1:2000 (tab. 9).

Table 9 The scope of the use of cement CEM II/B-M (V-W)32.5R

Exposition class		Use		
Corrosion induced by carbonation	XC1	+		
	XC2	+		
	XC3	+		
	XC4	+		
Corrosion induced by chlorides other than from sea water	XD1	+		
	XD2	+		
	XD3	+		
Corrosion induced by chlorides from the sea water	XS1	+		
	XS2	+		
	XS3	+		
Freeze/thaw attack with or without de- icing agents	XF1	+		
	XF2	?		
	XF3	?		
	XF4	?		
Chemical attack	XA1	??		
	XA2	??		
	XA3	??		

+ - recommended;

? – proper air content in the mixture;

?? - on condition of sulfate resistance cement tests

The scope mentioned above (tab. 9) is only a proposal and should be verified after practical use of this cement in civil engineering.

#### 6. CONCLUSIONS

The results of conducted tests permit to place following conclusions:

- produced in industrial conditions Portlandcomposite cement CEM II/B-M (V-W) 32,5R characterized by properties comparable to other cements Portland-composite cements CEM II/B available on the market;
- the properties of the fresh and hardened concrete with Portland-composite cement CEM II/B-M (V-W) 32,5R were similar to concrete with slag Portland cement CEM II / BS 32.5 R;
- in keeping with appropriate technological conditions (grinding, proper composition) calcareous fly ash (W) can be used as fully valued component of cement and so are: siliceous fly ash (V), limestone (L, LL) or ground granulated blast-furnace slag (S).

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Research founded partially by project POIG 01.01.02-24-005/09 "Innovative cement binders and concretes with use of calcareous fly ash"

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