

Mortar admixtures —

Part 1: Specification for air-entraining (plasticizing) admixtures

UDC 666.971.16

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- Brick Development Association
- British Aggregate Construction Materials Industries
- British Ceramic Research Association
- British Precast Concrete Federation
- British Ready Mixed Concrete Association
- Building Employers Confederation
- Cement Admixtures Association
- Cement and Concrete Association
- Cement Makers' Federation
- Concrete Society
- County Surveyor's Society
- Department of the Environment (Building Research Establishment)
- Department of Transport (Highways)
- Electricity Supply Industry in England and Wales
- Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors
- Institution of Civil Engineers
- Institution of Structural Engineers
- Mortar Producers Association
- Plasterers' Craft Guild
- Society of Chemical Industry

This British Standard, having been prepared under the direction of the Cement, Gypsum, Aggregates and Quarry Products Standards Committee, was published under the authority of the Board of BSI and comes into effect on 28 February 1986

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First published, as BS 4887, May 1973
First revision, as BS 4887-1, February 1986

The following BSI references relate to the work on this standard:
Committee reference CAB/3
Draft for comment 85/10195 DC

ISBN 0 580 14943 9

Amendments issued since publication

Amd. No.	Date of issue	Comments

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Foreword

This Part of BS 4887 has been prepared under the direction of the Cement, Gypsum, Aggregates and Quarry Products Standards Committee and supersedes BS 4887:1973 “*Mortar plasticizers*” which is withdrawn. It is intended to prepare, under the general title “*Mortar admixtures*”, further Parts to cover other admixtures now in use in building mortars.

The admixtures specified in the 1973 edition of this standard were then called “*mortar plasticizers*” to indicate the main purpose for their use. A plasticizer of the type specified acts to improve workability by entraining air as small bubbles during mixing and so its name has been changed to “*air-entraining (plasticizing) mortar admixture*” to indicate how the admixture operates. Air-entrainment can confer other beneficial properties, such as improved frost resistance.

Mortar admixtures are used in building mortars in small quantities to improve specific properties of the mortar. They may also affect other properties so it is necessary to demonstrate that these effects are not adverse. The test methods included cover those properties of mortars likely to be important when they are used in bedding masonry units, plastering and rendering. All test methods have been taken from BS 4551; details of procedure are given in Appendix B and Appendix C.

To reduce the effects of different raw materials on test results, most test methods use a control mix and a mix containing the admixture. In this Part of BS 4887, only one mortar type and designation has been included to keep the amount of testing to a minimum. Evidence available to the committee indicates that there is no significant difference in the performance of those admixtures covered by this Part when the mortar includes lime.

It is known that the properties of different raw materials as well as the use of different mixes can change the required dosage of an admixture. It is important that the user checks the properties of the mixes to be used on site.

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Summary of pages

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This standard has been updated (see copyright date) and may have had amendments incorporated. This will be indicated in the amendment table on the inside front cover.