



Introduction

1. AASHTO T 152 and ASTM C231 require the aggregate correction factor to be determined and applied to the test results, but the standard test methods do not provide clarification regarding how this is accomplished in practice.
2. This policy describes the AASHTO Accreditation Program's expectations for how a laboratory addresses the aggregate correction factor requirement in practice and when resolving a nonconformity in an assessment report.
3. The ASTM C09.60 subcommittee is willing to consider a change to ASTM C231 to address this concern. However, until this change is made directly in the standards, this policy and guidance document shall apply for laboratories that maintain AASHTO Accreditation for ASTM C231 and AASHTO T 152.

Policy

1. In ASTM C231, Section 6 (AASHTO T 152, Section 7) describes the procedure for determining the aggregate correction factor, and the results of the determination are to be subtracted from the air content result according to Section 9 (AASHTO T 152, Section 10) and reported according to Section 10 (AASHTO T 152, Section 11).
2. This correction factor shall be determined when the mix design is created or at some point before the concrete is placed.
3. The evidence of a completed aggregate correction factor shall include a completed test record or producer-supplied value (ideally from the mix design or batch ticket). Verbal confirmation of a value is not an acceptable record, but it may be emailed.
4. The laboratory shall request the aggregate to be used in the mix design from the supplier before concrete placement begins so that it can determine the aggregate correction factor.
5. If determination of the aggregate correction factor is not possible, the testing agency shall make a reasonable effort to acquire an aggregate correction factor from the concrete producer or another testing firm.
6. If the testing agency cannot determine the aggregate correction factor before concrete placement and cannot acquire an aggregate correction factor result from the producer, the testing agency shall report that the aggregate correction factor was unknown, and the results were determined without applying an aggregate correction factor. Unknown correction factors shall not be recorded as being known to be 0%.
7. The testing agency shall not automatically include a statement about not knowing or not determining the aggregate correction factor in its test records and reports.
8. If a laboratory is resolving a nonconformity in an assessment that indicates the aggregate correction factor was not determined, the laboratory shall resolve the nonconformity in one of two ways.
 - 8.1. The laboratory shall present evidence that shows that it has either determined the aggregate correction factor and applied it to their air content results; or
 - 8.2. The laboratory shall present evidence that they have collected the producer-determined aggregate correction factor and have applied it to their air content results.