

# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION MATERIALS & RESEARCH DIVISION MATURITY CURVE METHOD OF DEVELOPMENT-CERTIFICATION

### 1. SCOPE

1.1. The following method covers the procedure for developing a maturity curve Time-Temperature-Factor (TTF) for concrete applications.

## 2. SUMMARY OF DETERMINATION OF CONCRETE MATURITY

- 2.1. Estimating the in-place concrete strength is a two step procedure:
  - The first step is establishing a relationship between the maturity TTF and the concrete strength.
  - The second step is the temperature monitoring of the placed concrete.

## **3. SIGNIFICANCE AND USE**

3.1.The maturity TTF approach provides a simple and useful means of estimating the strength gain of concrete at early ages (generally less than 7 days). Its greatest benefit is that it allows engineers, inspectors and contractors to assess the in-place strength of concrete pavement or structure. This valuable information can then be used to help determine the appropriate time for opening pavement to traffic, sawing joints and stripping forms. It currently is used by NDOT for acceptance testing for pavement repairs and high early concrete.

#### 4. EQUIPMENT NEEDED TO DEVELOP A MATURITY CURVE

4.1. Equipment needed to develop a curve.

- 4x8 cylinder molds with lids (10 min. 14 max.)
- Scoop, rod and strike off
- Cure box, insulated blanket
- Type T thermocouple wire (24 gauge), mini connectors (blue), screwdriver, wire snips
- Maturity meter & plastic bag
- Concrete compression machine

#### 5. PROCEDURE FOR DEVEOLOPING MATURITY CURVE

- 5.1. A maturity curve can be developed at the ready mix plant or on the project. The fresh concrete test will be performed by the project inspector. The air and slump shall meet the required specifications for the concrete mix. Since there is a relationship between the w/c ratio and strength, the concrete used to develop the maturity-strength relationship should be at or near the maximum w/c ratio expected during production.
- 5.2. Cast a minimum of ten (4 in. x 8 in.) concrete cylinders as per ASTM C 31.
- 5.3. Embed a thermocouple wire in two separate cylinders to monitor the temperature, in case one wire fails. Embed each wire at approximately mid-depth of the cylinder. These cylinders will not be tested for compressive strength.



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5.4. Cure the cylinders accordingly at the test site to best represent the concrete placement. Cylinders cast for paving or structures may be cured in an insulated box, curing blankets, on grade, near the structure or in a trailer (Figure 1.). Cylinders cast for Pavement Repair (PR) and High Early (HE) concrete shall be cured in an insulated box until the time of compressive strength testing (Figure 2.).



Figure 1. Cylinders cast from paving



Figure 2. Cylinders cast from Patching

- 5.5. Immediately after the cylinders have been moved to their final location for curing there are two methods that can be used to calculate the TTF.
- 5.5.1. Maturity Meter

This is the preferred method for monitoring the concrete temperature. After the cylinders have been moved to their final location, connect the mini-connectors to Channel 1 (CH 1) and to Channel 2 (CH 2) on the maturity meter and start recording (*Maturity Meter datum temperature setting shall be set to -10 C*). The age to test the first set of cylinders is determined from when the maturity meter was started and the initial temperature taken. Temperature reading will be in Celsius and rounded up to the next whole number. For your own documentation, record the initial temperature and the time it was taken. Cylinders for PR concrete may be moved 2.5 hours after casting. Cylinders for HE and Paving concrete may be moved 8 hours after the concrete has reached final set. For reference, the following are approximate ages when to perform compressive strength testing on your first set of cylinders.

- PR concrete may begin at three or four hours depending on the time of year and the type of cement used.
- HE concrete may begin at twelve to twenty-four hours.
- Paving concrete may begin at twenty-four hours.

The TTF is computed by the maturity meter. The TTF is read from the maturity meter at the same age the cylinders are tested for compressive strength. There is a correlation between the TTF and cylinder strength. The age of tests shall be spaced, so the cylinders tested are performed at somewhat consistent intervals. This data is then entered into the NDOT Maturity Method Form, other forms are allowed. (Appendix A-1)



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5.5.2. Hand Calculated Method

An alternative method for monitoring the temperature of the concrete is by the digital hand held thermometer. Connect the mini connectors one at a time to a digital hand held thermometer and designate them as Channel 1 (CH 1) and Channel 2 (CH 2) then take the initial temperature. Record the time the initial temperature was taken for each designated channel. The temperature reading will be in Celsius and rounded up to the next whole number. This method of calculating the TTF by hand shall be performed at each age that a set of cylinders are tested. The Nurse-Saul Equation (Equation 1) is used by NDOT for calculating the TTF by hand calculation (Example 1) or by Field Data Spreadsheet (Figure 3). Both the TTF and cylinder strength will be reported in the NDOT Maturity Method Form or other suitable form. (Appendix A-1).

$T_a$ = Average temperature of the concrete during time interval $\Delta t$ $T_o$ = Datum temperature (-10° C) $\Delta t$ = A time interval (Hours)	$T_o$ = Datum temperature (-1	f the concrete during time interval $\Delta t$ .0° C)
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Equation 1. Nurse – Saul Equation

Example 1: The initial temperature of concrete is 20° C when placed, and 3 hours later it was 50° C.

- $T_a = (20 + 50) / 2 = 35$
- $T_o =$  always add 10 to the average. When subtracting a negative number add it.
- $\Delta t$  = elapsed time is 3 hours since the initial temperature was taken

M (TTF) = Σ (35 + 10) x 3  
M (TTF) = 
$$135$$

The Field Data Spreadsheet (Figure 3) is a tool used by NDOT that can be used to generate the TTF. Enter the project information at the top of the spreadsheet then proceed to enter the date, time, age in hours and temperature. The spreadsheet will generate the Sum TTF by using the Nurse-Saul Equation. The sum TTF shall correspond with a set of cylinders at an age tested. This data will be reported in the NDOT Maturity Method Form or other suitable form.(Appendix A-1).



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			MAI			DA TA SHEET		
					EXAMPLE			
Pr	oject :	EACNH-30-5	(121) Columb	us East		Mat	turity Curve #:	1
Control #:				Contract #:			Date Placed:	10/10/200
Contractor:			1				Mix:	PR1-3500
						Targ	et TTF Value :	
		2 						
		Section	of Pavemer	nt to Open O	R Structura	l Unit for Fon	n Removal o	r Loading
		From Station:				To Station:		
				Age	Temp	TTF	Sum	Air Temp
		Date	Time	(hours)	(deq C)	at age	TTF	(deq C)
						(deg C-hr)	(deg C-hr)	
Probe #	1	10/02/01	11:00 AM	0.00	21		0	
		10/02/01	01:00 PM	2.00	33	74	74	
		10/02/01	02:00 PM	3.00	42	47.5	122	
		10/02/01	03:00 PM	4.00	49	55.5	177	
		10/02/01	03:30 PM	4.50	53	30.5	208	
		10/02/01	04:00 PM	5.00	56	32.25	240	
		10/02/01	04:30 PM	5.50	57	33.25	273	
		10/02/01	05:00 PM	6.00	58	33.75	307	
						0	0	

Figure 3. Field Data Spreadsheet - Link: located in the Appendix

#### **6.0 STEPS FOR PLOTTING THE MATURITY CURVE**

The following steps are for entering the data into the NDOT Maturity Method Form (Appendix A-1).

- 6.1 NDOT Maturity Method Form information.
- 6.1.1 Required Project information:
  - Project number and description
  - Control Number
  - Contract Number
  - Contractor performing the work
  - Date maturity curve developed
  - Curve number \*(The curve number is identified for project use): EXAMPLES
    - PR Concrete Curve No.:
      1- Open (This will represent 3000 psi) Refer to Appendix A-2
      1- Acceptance (This will represent 3500 psi) Refer to Appendix A-3
    - Paving/HE Curve No.:
      1- Acceptance (This will represent 3500 psi)
    - Structures Curve No.:
      1– (This will represent the required strength)
    - (\*) For each additional curve developed for a project, number the curves in ascending order. For example; 2-Open, 3-Open, etc.



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- Load at break (Total machine load in lbs)
- Length (in)
- Diameter (in)
- Age at break (Hrs)
- TTF CH 1 & TTF CH 2 (Values from maturity meter or hand calculated method)
- Cylinder Temperature Average (Not necessary to enter)

## 6.1.3 Required Mix Information \*

- Mix (Class of Concrete)
- Air (Percent)
- Method of Development (Curing method)
- DESIRED COMPRESSIVE STRENGTH (psi)\*\*

(\*) Additional mix information may be entered if available (\*\*) REQUIRED MINIMUM TTF (This corresponds with the desired compressive strength)

#### 6.1.4 Required Comments

- Weather conditions
- Any pertinent information (Additional admixtures, water, etc.)
- Enter sitemanager sample identification information

#### 6.1.5 Signatures

- Certified Representative & Company Name <u>Required</u>
- 6.2 Distribution of the developed Maturity Curve

After NDOT or Consultant have developed the maturity curve it is then submitted by email to the Project Engineer (PE), Field Inspectors and NDOT PCC Manager (If applicable).

• The Maturity Curve spreadsheets must be uploaded in Onbase to the AWP sample ID for the concrete placement.

# 7.0 STEPS FOR VALIDATING MATURITY CURVE

7.1. Curve Validation

The validation tests shall be conducted to determine if the concrete strength is being represented by the current maturity curve. The following criteria and steps are for validating the maturity curve:

• Curve validation shall be performed approximately every 4 to 6 weeks during normal plant production. Validation is also needed when the original mix design changes and any time.



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- NDOT PCC Manager or Consultant will schedule the validation date with the PE and Field Inspectors.
- The Field Inspectors will be requested to make 4 to 5 cylinders on the validation scheduled date.
- The Field Inspector will need to embed two thermocouple wires into 1 or 2 concrete cylinders.
- The certified personnel will request that the Field Inspector document the time the cylinders were cast and the initial temperature of the cylinders. This will be used to generate the TTF as stated in (5.5.1) or (5.5.2) in this document at the age requested.
- Cure the cylinders as stated in (5.4) of this document.
- Test three cylinders as close as possible to the Required Minimum TTF that is from the most current maturity curve being used.

# 7.1.1 Steps for Plotting Validation of Maturity Curve

The following steps are for entering the data into the NDOT Validation of the Maturity Curve – Compressive Strength Development Form. (Appendix A-4)

## 7.1.2 Required Project information:

- Project number and description
- Control Number
- Contract Number
- Contractor performing the work
- Date maturity curve developed
- Curve number \*(The curve number is identified for project use): EXAMPLE
  - 1– Validate
  - (\*) For each additional validation curve developed for a project, number the curves in ascending order. For example; 2-Validate, 3-Validate, etc.

#### 7.1.3 Required Cylinders & TTF data entry

- Load at break (Total Machine load in lbs.)
- Length (in)
- Diameter (in)
- Age at break (Hrs)
- TTF CH 1 & TTF CH 2 (Values from maturity meter (5.5.1) or hand calculated method (5.5.2))

#### 7.1.4 Required Mix Information

- Mix (Class of Concrete)
- Air (Percent)
- Slump <u>Not Required</u>
- METHOD OF DEVELOPMENT (Curing method)
- Maximum Difference Allowed (psi)



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- PR and Paving Concrete: If the average calculated strength value at the TTF is within the range of <u>+</u> 350 psi (10% of design strength) of the original curve, the original curve shall be validated. As shown in the Validation Curve graph and represented by the validation dot displayed between upper and lower limit. However:
  - If the average of the calculated strength value at the TTF falls below the Lower Limit represented by the Validation Curve graph a new curve *shall* be developed.
  - If the average of the calculated strength value at the TTF falls above the Upper Limit represented by the Validation Curve graph a new curve *may* be developed.
- Concrete Structures: The range will depend on the mix design strength. This may vary depending on the work performed. If the average calculated strength value at the TTF is within the range of <u>+</u> 10% of the original curve, the original curve shall be validated, as shown in the Validation Curve graph and represented by the validation dot displayed between upper and lower limit. However:
  - If the average of the calculated strength value at the TTF falls below the Lower Limit represented by the Validation Curve graph a new curve *shall* be developed.
  - If the average of the calculated strength value at the TTF falls above the Upper Limit represented by the Validation Curve graph a new curve *may* be developed.

# 7.1.5 Required Comments

- Weather conditions
- Any pertinent information (Additional admixtures, water, etc.)
- Enter AWP sample identification information

#### 7.1.6 Signatures

- Certified Representative & Company Name <u>Required</u>
- 7.1.7 Distribution of the developed Validation of Maturity Curve

After NDOT or Consultant have developed the validation of the maturity curve it is then submitted by email to the Project Engineer (PE), Field Inspectors and NDOT PCC Manager (If applicable).

• The Validation Maturity Curve spreadsheets must be uploaded in Onbase to the AWP sample ID for the concrete placement and in the project file.



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# APPENDIX

Documents for Maturity Method can be found at the following Location:

NDOTAPP\FCAC\Forms\M&R Forms

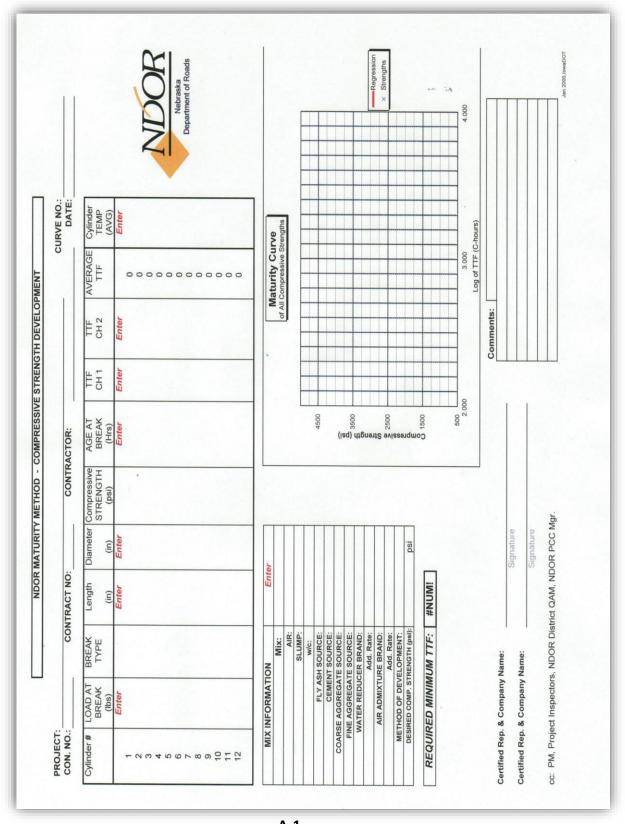
\*Consultants must have a LAN Account

Document Titles:

- NDOT Maturity Method Compressive Strength Development
- NDOT Validation of Maturity Curve Compressive Strength Development
- Maturity Method Field Data Spreadsheet



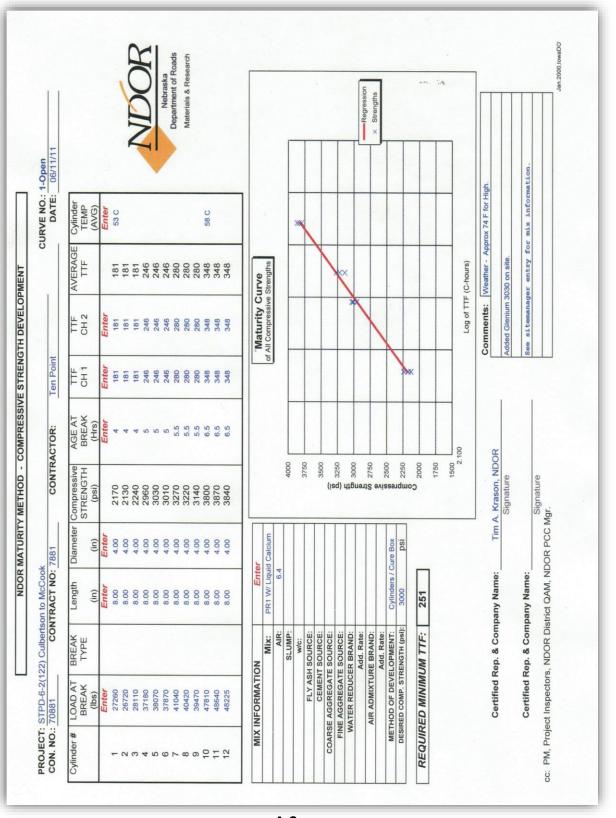
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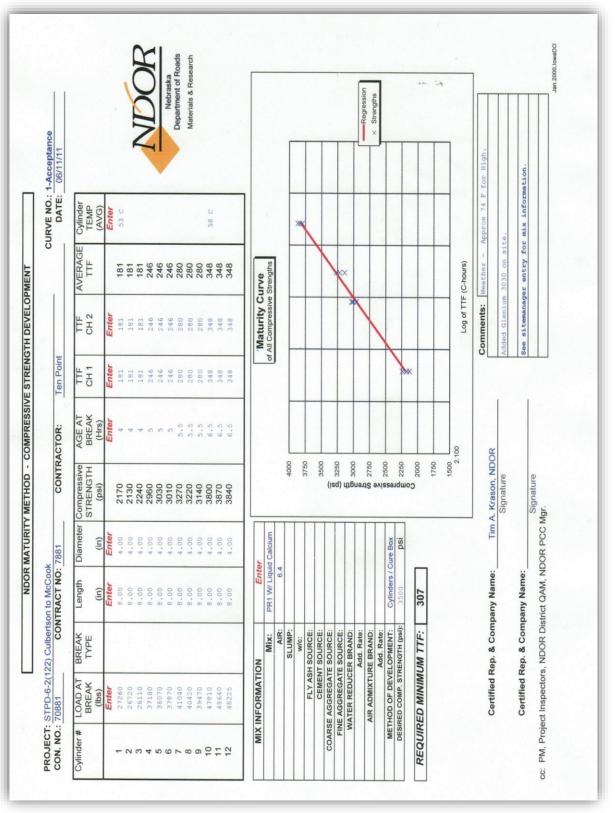


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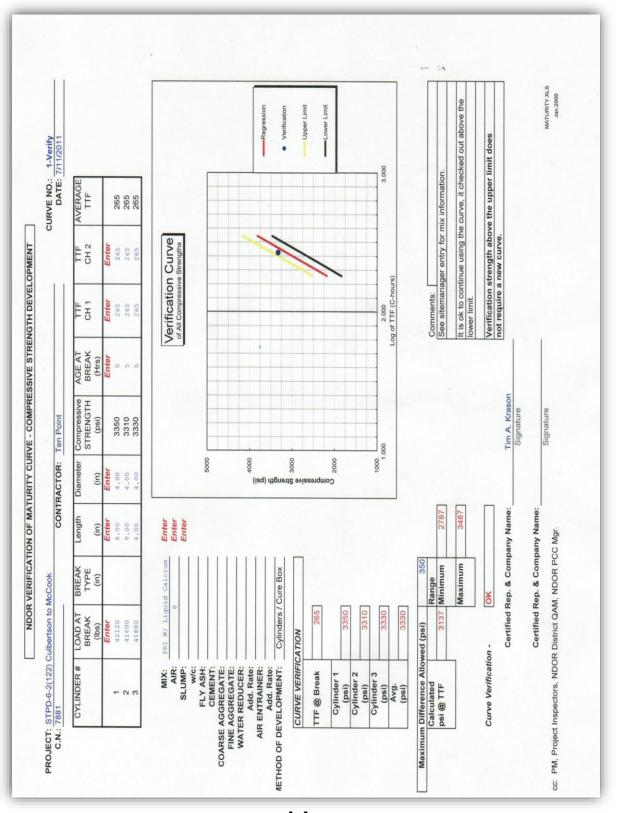


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