Fifth International Conference on Sustainable Construction Materials and Technologies. <u>http://www.claisse.info/Proceedings.htm</u>

SELECTED PROPERTIES OF CONCRETE CONTAINING MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE INCINERATION BOTTOM ASH (MSWI-BA)

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ABSTRACT

Nowadays, remarkable achievements towards the sustainability of our environment. These include the use of recyclable materials to improve the greenness of the concrete by incorporating them in the concrete industry. One of the main concerns for researchers when using new material in concrete is its engineering and durability properties. This study was conducted to investigate the mechanical properties and the durability of concrete when using Municipal Solid Waste Incineration Bottom Ash (MSWIBA) as a replacement for fine aggregate to produce green and sustainable concrete. Two percentages for sand replacement 25% and 50% were used to evaluate the effect of incorporating this material on the concrete compressive strength, density, UPV, total water absorption, and capillary water absorption properties. The water to cement ratio used was 0.45, and the specimens were tested at 7,14, and 28 days. A comparison for the results of concrete specimens with and without MSWI-BA was performed. The results showed that replacing 25% of sand with MSWI-BA has no harmful effect on the compressive strength of the concrete that encourages this strategy. However, using higher replacement percentage 50% decreases sharply the strengths to about 50%. On the other hand, water absorption by total immersion and by capillary increased when replacing sand was with 25% and 50% MSWI-BA. In summary, using 25 % of MSWI-BA as sand replacement is an effective strategy to produce eco-friendly concrete in that it would produce concrete material that has less embodied energy to produce.

Keywords: Absorption, Concrete, Capillarity, Municipal Solid Waste Incineration Bottom Ash, Sustainability, Waste.

INTRODUCTION

Sustainable development is a goal that most nations in the world are striving towards. Reusing and recycling will be a key to achieving this goal. Central to this is the utilization of waste products in construction activities. For example, recycled and waste materials can be used to replace either the aggregate or cement in the production of concrete [Black 2016, El-Darwish et al. 1997, Hadjsadok et al. 2012, Herki and Khatib 2016, Khatib 2009, Khatib 2014, Khatib et al. 2006, Khatib et al. 2008, Khatib et al. 2013a, Khatib et al. 2013b, Khatib et al. 2014, Khatib et al. 2016, Kurdi et al. 1996, Menadi et al. 2014, Morales-Hernandez et al. 2005, Owens et al. 2016, Wright et al. 2016, Zhansaya 2014].

In Lebanon, one of the big problems that facing the country is Municipal Solid Waste that results up mainly from residential apartments. These solid wastes form a major harmful problem that affect the Lebanese society and global in general. Municipal solid waste can be used to generate energy. Several technologies have been developed that make the processing of MSW for energy generation cleaner and more economical than ever before [Dovi 2009]. One of the most common solution of these Municipal Solid Waste is by incinerating it and reuse it in construction products or materials as sand replacement in the concrete production depending on the size of granules resulted from the incineration tank that contains bottom and fly ashes. These ashes could be potentially used in concrete, road pavements, embankments, ceramics, and glasses. MSWI bottom ash if treated appropriately has no negative or harmful effect on humans or life beings so we can use it in any space of work. Thus, using MSWI bottom ash in construction helps in one way to reduce pollution problem and in other way can help in saving materials and money for construction [Liu 2015]. In addition, Using the waste material from the Incineration plants in concrete production will open new market opportunities in sustainability development [Nikbin 2016].

Li et al. [Li 2016] showed that the technology of MSWI is playing an important role around the world nowadays and continue in growing, for example in china the number of plants that uses the incineration technology increased from 69 plants in year 2006 to 188 plants in 2014 providing a huge amount of bottom ash as a waste material was produced that is cheap and can be used in construction field. In fourteen European countries there are more than 200 waste-to-energy plants in 2006 and the number in increase, these plants managing about 23% of MSW of these countries. In US more than 89 waste-to energy plants operating in 27 states [Ornebjerg et al. 2006]. One of the main concerns is the effect of using these materials on the mechanical properties and durability of the concrete. Many researchers in several countries investigate these effects. A study carried out by M. Salvo et. al in 2015 used ashes from three different power plants in Sweden declared that one of these products may successfully could be used as a supplementary cementing material that result a concrete with properties close to that with ground granulated slag [Salvo 2015]. Another study observed that concrete strength improved significantly when replacing 30% of Portland cement with MSWI-BA and the permeability of the concrete decreases [Bertolini 2005]. Aggarwal &

Gupta in 2007 investigate the effect of replacing from 0% to 50% of fine aggregate by MSWI-BA on the workability, compressive, flexural, and splitting tensile strength of concrete. The results showed decrease in the workability with the increase of BA percentage, decrease in strengths at 28 days, however strength gain continue to 91 days where concrete strength reach more than 90% control mix and more than 110% compared to 28 days of control mix. In summary, strength of concrete is acceptable for most structural concrete applications since it is compressive strength more than 20 Mpa at 28 days [Aggarwal 2007]. Finally, using MSWI-BA as a partial replacement to fine aggregate in concrete from 10% to 50% decrease density from 93% to 89%, compressive strength from 96% to 43%, and an increase in the absorption capacity especially for a replacement higher than 30% [Tang 2017].

The aim of this study is to investigate the effect of adding MSWI-BA to concrete as a partial replacement to sand on the concrete properties. The water cement ratio used in this study is 0.45. Two partial replacement for sand are used in this study; for that three mixes were prepared, the first one without bottom ash as a control mix; the used replacements are 25% and 50%. To evaluate the effect of replacement, five tests for concrete properties at 7,14, and 28 days were applied. The test investigated are density, UPV, Compressive strength, Total water absorption, and finally capillary water absorption.

MATERIALS AND MIX PROPORTIONS

Materials

Natural sand and coarse aggregate from the mountain of Lebanon was used as aggregate. Both aggregates were sieved and graded according to the ASTM C33 and C136 requirements. The physical properties for fine and coarse aggregates are shown in Table 1. The cement used is PA-L 42.5, Conforms to EN 197 European norms (CEM II/A-L) and to Lebanese standards (LIBNOR). MSWI-BA was obtained from an incineration plant located in the Bekaa Valley and was oven dried at 100C for 24 hours before use in the concrete mix.

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Aggregate	Type	S.G.	Absorption %	FM
Fine Aggregate	Natural sand	2.51	1.56 %	2.7
Coarse Aggregate	Crushed stone	2.60	1.35 %	

Table 1 Coarse and Fine Aggregates' Properties

Mix Proportions

Three Concrete mixes were prepared to study the effect of using Municipal Solid Waste Incineration Bottom Ash (MSWIBA) as replacement of fine aggregate on the compressive strength, density, UPV, total and capillary water absorption. The replacement of fine aggregate was 0, 25 and 50% for mixes M1, M2 and M3 respectively.

Table 2. Detail of Mixes (weights in Kg)

Mix	% of BA	Cement	Water	Sand	C.A	B.A
Mix 1	0%	460	234	900.5	1065	0

Mix 2	25%	460	242	675.5	1065	225
Mix 3	50%	460	247.5	450	1065	450

EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAM

Durability Study

Permeability of concrete represent the capacity of water to penetrate the concrete which is mainly related to the concrete durability. High permeability reduces the durability of the concrete where it allows harmful materials to penetrate the concrete that react and destroy its chemical stability [Khatib 1998]. Moreover. low permeability of concrete can improve resistance to the penetration of water, sulphate ions, chloride ions, alkali ions, and other harmful substances which caused chemical attack [Alhozaimy 1996]. Permeability can be evaluated and represented using total water absorption test, capillary water absorption test and sorptivity test [Tasdemir 2003]. Martys and Ferraris have shown that improving the sorptivity coefficient may improve the concrete performance and durability and it is essential to predict the service life of concrete [Martys 1997]. To explain, sorptivity is an index of moisture transport in to unsaturated specimens, and recently it has also been recognized as an important index of concrete durability [Rehman 2016].

Specimen Preparation and Curing Conditions

All specimens were prepared in the Beirut Arab University construction material lab. Cubes of dimension 100*100*100 mm are use in this investigation for all tests. Specimens were demolded and cured in water at the room temperature to the date of testing.

Test Methods

For the compressive strength tests, The Universal crushing machine was used in the compression strength test according to ASTM C 31, C 39, C 192, & C 617. For the density of fresh concrete, the ASTM C138 was applied to determine the fresh unit weight of the concrete after mixing. For the UPV, Ultrasonic pulse velocity testing of concrete is based on the pulse velocity method to provide information on the uniformity of concrete, cavities, cracks and defects, presence of voids, honeycombing or other discontinuities. Table 3 shows the guidelines for qualitative assessment of concrete based on UPV test results [ASTM 2012, ASTM 2013, ASTM 2016].

Pulse Velocity	Concrete Quality	
>4.0 km/s	Very good to excellent	
3.5 - 4.0 km/s	Good to very good, slight porosity may exist	
3.0 – 3.5 km/s	Satisfactory but loss of integrity is suspected	
<3.0 km/s	Poor and loss of integrity exist.	

Table 3. Quality of Concrete Based on UPV Value

For the total water absorption test, the specimens were casted, demolded, and then cured in water at room temperature to the date of testing. In the days of testing, specimens were removed from water, dried in the oven for 48 hours at 80° until specimens reach a constant weight. At this time, the weight registered as dry weight

assigned by **A** (dry weight). After that, the specimens have been immersed totally in the water for 5 minutes then removed, wiped with a towel to remove any excess water at the concrete surface. At this point, the specimen weight is registered to get the first reading at 5 minutes assigned by **B** (wet weight) then the specimens were re-immersed in water directly and the procedure are repeated at 10 min, 20 min, 60 min, 120 min, 240 min, 1 day, and finally 2 days. The increase in the weight of the specimens at different time intervals indicates water absorption represented by the percentage of total water absorption = (**B-A**)/**A*100**.

For the capillary water absorption, cubes 100*100*100 were used in this test. The cubes cured for the same ages as before then dried. On the other hand, after removing the specimen from the oven, the cubes were sealed at their four sides to prevent absorption other from the bottom sides that is in contact with water as shown in Figure 1. The sealing was higher 3 to 5 mm from the bottom as ASTM C1585 specify. Weight of the specimen was recorded and assigned as **W1** (dry weight). The specimens were put in a bottle filled with water to cover the concrete sides from 3 to 5 mm as shown in figure. After 1 minute from immersion, the cubes were removed, wiped, and weighted to record the first weight at 1 minute with water absorbed by capillarity and assigned as **W2**. The procedure repeated at minutes 3,5,10,30,60, then 1 day, and finally 2 days. From these results, the capillary water absorption at each reading was obtained by dividing the cumulative water absorption over the surface area of the cube through which water penetrates as shown in the following relationship:

$$I (\text{mm}) = \frac{\Delta W}{\text{A.d}} = \frac{W_2 - W_1 (\text{in grams})}{\text{A.d}} \text{ where,}$$

A = surface area of the cube through which water penetrates (mm²) d = density of water (g/mm³)



Figure 1. The Schematic Diagram of Capillary Absorption

To determine the sorptivity, using strategies from ASTM 1585, Standard Test Method for Measurement of Rate of Absorption of Water by Hydraulic-Cement Concretes, this test method is used to determine the rate of absorption (sorptivity) of water in hydraulic cement concrete by measuring the increase in the mass of a specimen resulting from absorption of water as a function of time when only one surface of the specimen is exposed to water. The sorptivity that was obtained is the initial slope for the curve between I the cumulative absorbed volume of water per unit area of inflow surface and the square root of time in minutes. In short, sorptivity is based on the rate of absorption, which is proportional to the surface area exposed to moisture and time. The sorptivity can be calculated from the following relationship:

$I = S.\sqrt{t}$ where,

- I = the cumulative water absorption over the surface area in mm.
- t = time of taking the weight in minutes.
- S = sorptivity in mm/ \sqrt{t}

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Compressive Strength

The compressive strength results are shown in Figure 2 At 7days, the concrete strengths were 32.3 MPa, 33.41 MPa, 19.2 MPa for 0%, 25%, and 50% of MSWI-BA fine aggregate replacement respectively. The results show that replacing 25% of fine aggregate with Bottom Ash maintain the concrete strength with a slight increase about 1%. In contrary, replacing 50% decreases sharply the concrete strength. The decrease in the concrete compressive strength at 7 days was about 40%.



Figure 2. The Effect of Using MSWI-BA on the Concrete Compressive Strength at 7,14, and 28 Days of Curing

The results showed the same behavior at 14 and 28 days. As shown in figure, the compressive strength at 28 days were 45.2 MPa, 46.4 MPa, and 23 MPa for 0%, 25%, and 50% of MSWI-BA replacement respectively. The decrease in strength at 28 days was 50% for 50% MSWI-BA replacement. In addition, the gaining in strength from 7 to 28 days also was affected by the MSWI-BA percentage of replacement. The percentages of strength increase from day 7 to day 28 were 40%, 39%, and 20% for 0%, 25%, and 50% of MSWI-BA fine aggregate replacement respectively. The results showed that using the percentage of 50% in the fine aggregate replacement with MSWI-BA reduces the gain of strength at 28 days to 50%. In summary, using 25% of MSWI-BA as partial replacement of fine aggregate maintain the concrete strength and strength gain at 28 days.

Density

The density of bottom ash is lower than that of natural sand. For that, as many researchers reported when using bottom ash as partial replacement for fine aggregate, using MSWI-BA as partial replacement of sand decrease the density of the concrete.

Figure 3 shows the results for the concrete density for 0, 25% and 50% of BA replacement at 7,14, and 28 days of curing. The densities of concrete are 2364 Kg/m³, 2315 Kg/m³, and 2269 Kg/m³ for 0, 25%, 50% MSWI-BA replacement after 28 days of curing in water respectively. As shown in figure, when using 25% and 50% of sand were replaced with BA, the density of the concrete decreased 2% and 4% respectively for the results obtained at 28 days.



Figure 3. The Effect of Using MSWI-BA on the Density at 7,14, and 28 Days.

Ultra Pulse Velocity (UPV). The effect of fine aggregate replacement with bottom ash in concrete mix on the pulse velocity was shown in Figure 4. The results of UPV tests are 3.84, 3.1, 2.49 Km/s at 7 days: 3.86, 3.16, 2.54 Km/s at 14 days: 3.78, 2.94, 2.42 Km/s at 28 days for MSWI-BA replacement of 0, 25%, and 50% respectively. According to Table 3 for the quality of concrete based on UPV value, using 25% of BA result satisfactory quality of concrete. Although, using 50% of BA result poor concrete quality and loss of integrity in the new product.



Figure 4. UPV Results for Different Concrete Mixes at 7,14, and 28 Days

Total Water Absorption

Figure 6 shows the average of the total water absorption for the concrete specimens after 28 days of curing for different mixes depending on the percentage of Bottom ash replacements. The specimens were totally immersed in water for 48 hours and the readings recorded at time intervals as specified previously. The results show that replacing sand with bottom ash in the concrete mix increases the rate of total absorption with time. At square root of time in sec for number 60 (at time 60 minutes), the percentages of absorption were 1.14%, 1.25%, and 1.42% for the concrete specimens with 0% (control), 25%, and 50% of MSWI-BA replacement respectively. It was noted the replacing 25% and 50% of sand with BA increases the total water absorption to approximately 10% and 25% respectively for absorbed water after one hour of water immersion for concrete cured 28 days in water.After 48 hours of immersion in water ($\sqrt{t} = 415.7$), replacing 0%, 25% and 50% of sand with BA recorded for 14 days of curing age 2.87%, 3.07%, and 3.36% for the total water absorption respectively as shown in Figure 7.



Figure 6. The Effect of Using BA on the Total Water Absorption After 28 Days



Figure 7. The Effect of Using BA on the Total Water Absorption of Concrete

For 28 days of curing, the total water absorptions are 2.02%, 2.15%, and 2.33% respectively. Consequently, the Increase in the percentage of total water absorption to about 6% when replacing 25% of sand with BA decreases slightly the durability of the concrete.

Capillary Water Absorption & Sorptivity

Figure 8 Shows the curve recorded from the capillary water absorption at different time intervals until 48 hours with the square root of time in seconds after 28 days of curing. The capillary water absorption records are 0.404, 0.428, and 0.459 mm for mixes with 0%, 25%, and 50% of BA replacement respectively. Adding 25% and 50% MSWI-BA as a replacement of natural sand increase the capillarity of the concrete 9% and 12% respectively.



Figure 8. The Effect of BA on the Capillary Water Absorption After 28 Days

Figure 9 shows the slope of the capillary water absorption for the first 60 minutes that represent the sorptivity. The results are recorded and plotted for two curing ages 14 and 28 days. The results show that the sorptivity slightly decreased with time with curing for the control mix (0 % BA) and when replacing 25% of sand with BA, but for 50% BA replacement the sorptivity increased 20%.



Figure 9. Sorptivity Results After 14 and 28 Days of Curing.

The sorptivity recorded are 1.87, 187, and 1.85 mm/Sqrt(sec) after 14 days of curing for mixes with 0%, 25%, and 50% of MSWI-BA partial sand replacement respectively. After 28 days, the sorptivity results are 1.82, 1.93, and 2.28 mm/Sqrt(sec) as shown in figure. The results show that replacing 25% of sand with BA slightly increases the sorptivity about 6%, where using 50% of BA increased the sorptivity 25%.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMANDATIONS

The Experimental program applied in this research to investigate the effect of using MSWI-bottom ash from Lebanese incineration plant as partial replacement for fine aggregate on a series of concrete properties. Compressive strength, density, UPV, total water absorption, and capillarity of concrete with 25% and 50% of BA replacement were investigated and compared to the control mix. Based on the experimental results obtained, replacement of 25% of fine aggregate with BA maintain the compressive strength of concrete at 7, 14, and 28 days, where the strength decreased to about 50% at 28 days when using 50% BA. The density slightly reduced to about 2% and 4% for 25% and 50% partial replacement respectively. In addition, the UPV decreased 21% for 25% replacement even that the classification of concrete stay in the satisfactory classification but decreases to 36% for 50% replacement and classified as poor concrete. Absorption increased about 6% and 15% for the 25% and 50% replacement. Consequently, sorptivity increased about 6% and 25% for the 25% and 50% replacement after 28 days of specimens curing. In summary, replacing 25% of fine aggregate with BA is an encouraging strategy that reduce the landfill materials and the fine aggregate consumption to produce more ecofriendly concrete taking into consideration that replacing 50% BA resulted serious reduction in most of the concrete properties.

For further researches, it is recommended to investigate other percentage replacements such as 20,25,30, and 35%. In addition, mix design could be adjusted to

improve the absorption and sorptivity by reducing the water cement ratio. More durability tests should be applied to evaluate the new product.

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