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## Influence of recycled aggregates and high contents of fly ash on concrete fresh properties

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## Abstract:

This study presents the fresh properties of concrete with supplementary cementitious materials (SCM) and recycled concrete aggregates (RCA), with emphasis on the feasibility of using high volumes of fly ash (FA) in RCA concrete. For this purpose, two mix families (0% coarse RCA and 100% coarse RCA) were produced, both with and without superplasticizers (SP). The coarse natural aggregates (NA) were replaced with coarse RCA at 0% and 100%, respectively. For each of the mentioned families, three incorporation levels (0%, 50% and 100%) of fine RCA were used with 0%, 30% and 60% of FA, resulting in 28 compositions. Each mix was tested in the fresh state by means of slump, density and air content. The results of this study show that RCA decreased the slump of concrete mixes, but the required water content can be minimized by incorporation FA. Regardless of the water absorption of the aggregates, for a given fine RCA incorporation ratio and the same ratio of FA, no increase in water content is required to obtain the same target slump as in the reference concrete. On the other hand, for a given coarse RCA incorporation ratio, a five times lower FA ratio is enough to obtain the same target slump as in the reference concrete. Air voids in concrete mixes were more affected by the shape of the aggregates than by their water absorption. The air content of concrete mixes increased as the incorporation levels of FA and RCA increased. However, in comparison with the individual effects, the air content decreased by combining the incorporation of both FA and RCA. Moreover, the rate of reduction in fresh density by increasing the incorporation of RCA and FA was similar in concrete mixes with and without SP.

Keywords: Recycled aggregates, fly ash, concrete, fresh state, air content, fresh density.

**Acronyms list:** FA - fly ash; NA - natural aggregates; OPC - Ordinary Portland cement; RCA - recycled concrete aggregate; SCM - supplementary cementitious materials; SP - superplasticizers; w/b - water to binder (ratio); w/c - water to cement (ratio); SSD - saturated surface dry.

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