Questions in this column were asked by users of ACI documents and have been answered by ACI staff or by a member or members of ACI technical committees. The answers do not represent the official position of an ACI committee. Only a published committee document represents the formal consensus of the committee and the Institute.

We invite comment on any of the questions and answers published in this column. Write to the Editor, Concrete International, 38800 Country Club Drive, Farmington Hills, MI 48331; contact us by fax at +1.248.848.3701; or e-mail Rex.Donahey@concrete.org.
Additional information on shrinkage of mixtures in relation to water-cementitious materials ratios \((w/cm)\), and shrinkage and cracking of concrete floor slabs can be found in References 7 and 8, respectively. Reference 9 also provides an extensive discussion of the causes of shrinkage cracking as well as mitigation measures such as shrinkage-reducing chemical admixtures and internal curing. Based on your question, the contractor is asking for change in the work (product substitution). If the contractor, owner, and you (as the architect’s representative) agree to the change in the concrete mixture, the resulting change order should include the agreed tests to determine the mitigation measures.

References
4. ACI Committee 224, “Control of Cracking of Concrete Structures (ACI 224R-01),” American Concrete Institute, Farmington Hills, MI, 2001, 45 pp.
7. “Concrete Q&A: Shrinkage and \(w/cm\),” *Concrete International*, V. 35, No. 7, July 2013, p. 64.

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