



Dear Valued Customer

**RE: It's CRACKING SEASON again!**

As you are probably aware, the current weather forecast continues to be exceptionally hot, dry and windy this summer. In fact, there are reports that 2014/2015 will experience some of the worst conditions on record.

These conditions lead to defects in the concrete, and pavements are most at risk because they have a large surface area to volume ratio. The surface will bear the brunt of poor weather conditions, and yet, it is also the most important aspect of the finished structure – serving as the riding surface and, in many cases, the structure's visual appeal.

Problems caused by hot, dry and windy conditions can include shrinkage cracking, accelerated setting, dusting and other surface defects. So, we are writing to you to warn you of these potential problems with the aim of working with you to attempt to avoid or minimise them.

Vic Mix suggests the following precautions be considered:

- Dampen the subgrade and side forms prior to placement
- Shade and erect wind breaks to reduce high rates of surface evaporation. Also, consider the use of an evaporation retarder (such as aliphatic alcohol). We can help you source these products.
- Cure the concrete once the finishing operation is complete. Methods include: applying a commercially available curing compound, covering with plastic sheeting, applying a continuous water spray, using wet hessian, or ponding with water.
- Avoid adding excess water to concrete as this reduces ultimate strength and increases shrinkage.
- Install the jointing system as soon as possible to encourage shrinkage stresses to be relieved in a planned and controlled fashion. This avoids aesthetically displeasing cracks occurring in open sight.

We all want to avoid defects, particularly CRACKS, but we have to acknowledge that they are a consequence of the natural and inherent shrinkage of any product made from cement and factors such as weather need to be managed in order to produce the best possible result.

Yours sincerely,

On behalf of Vic Mix

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Pietrosanto".

Joe Pietrosanto

Technical Manager

