# PRINCIPLES OF GROUTING CRITICAL EQUIPMENT





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# CHRIS HARDY DISTRICT MANAGER

# INTRODUCTION

20 years of industrial and commercial concrete experience

Concentration in civil construction, grouting, and infrastructure repair/restoration

# COAST MASTER® BUILDERS SOLUTIONS

struc'tur'al

A Structural Group Company

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# **SIKA GROUT HISTORY & COMMITMENT**

- Over 100 years of experience, innovation, & expertise
- A dedicated team supporting a full range of solutions to the Power and Industrial Sector
- Inventor of non-shrink cementitious grout and epoxy grout
  - Developed first non-shrink, cement grout in the 1920's
  - Introduction of MasterFlow epoxy grouts in the 1950's laid the foundation for stable equipment infrastructure





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# **DISCUSSION TOPICS / AGENDA**

What is Grout?	
Why is Grout Used?	
Types of Grouts	
The Equipment Foundation System (the elements and how they wor	rk together)
Grout Selection & Properties	
Preparation, Proper Mixing, Installation, & Testing of Grout	
Case Studies	



#### WHAT IS GROUT?



• Grout (governed by ASTM C1107) is defined as a material composed of hydraulic cement, fine aggregate, and other ingredients intended to be used **under an applied load where changes in height below the initial placement height are to be avoided.** 



#### WHY IS GROUT USED?

# Why not drill and fix plates directly to concrete foundations?

- Uniformly transfer load to foundation
- Resist applied forces
- Irregularities between foundation and plate
- Fill voids, keep them full, remain durable



Uneven concrete foundation leads to poor support and probable failure due to extreme loads at contact points



# CAUSES OF EXCESSIVE VIBRATION IN EQUIPMENT

#### Misalignment and induced vibration:

- Poor alignment during install
- Misalignment from wear and excess vibration of internal components (unbalanced/high pulsation)
- Grout (or lack thereof) induced misalignment

#### Types:

- Parallel
- Angular
- Axial





#### **EXCESS VIBRATION**





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#### **EXCESS VIBRATION**





#### WHY IS VIBRATION IMPORTANT TO AN OWNER?

- Excess vibration can cause premature wearing of critical components and reduce MTBF
- Safety
- Facility Maintenance strategies
- Set up based on two types of costs:
  - Repair costs
  - Production downtime costs





#### **TYPES OF GROUT**

- Precision Non-Shrink Grout
  - Cement based grout, volume change well defined, versatile Use
- Metallic Aggregate Grouts
  - Cement based grout, impact resistant, high temps, steel mills
- Hybrid Grouts
  - Cement based, very high strength
- Epoxy Grouts
  - Developed in the 1960's, dynamic loading and vibration damping



#### EQUIPMENT FOUNDATION SYSTEM

Transfer static/dynamic loads, vibration, impact and rotational torque from equipment, through the grout and into the foundation to maintain alignment and limit wear and tear on machinery parts





#### THE FOUNDATION



**Reinforced Concrete Foundation Block** 

**Concrete Footing / Piles / Mat** 

Soil



#### ANCHOR BOLT PURPOSE

- Attach equipment firmly to the foundation
  - Stretched elastically like a spring
- Transmit loads from equipment to the foundation
  - Just as important as grout
  - Grout prevents downward movement
  - Bolt prevents upward movement

#### Resist horizontal forces

- Must be placed under sufficient tension (thru stretching of bolts) to resist horizontal forces acting against the bolt
- Anchor bolt "system"
  - Bolt or stud, nuts and washers
- Technology improvements
  - GMRC Research





#### THE VITAL LINK

"Bridging Structural Engineering with Mechanical Engineering"



**Equipment (Mechanical Engineering)** 

Foundation (Structural Engineering)



#### **GROUT PURPOSE**

- Fills space between equipment and concrete foundation
  - Fills irregularities / voids between concrete and plate
- Maintains proper original alignment over life of machine (20+ years)
- Contains or absorbs unbalanced forces into foundation without excessive equipment movement
  - Concrete alone cannot transmit forces
- Minimizes machinery wear



Equipment, grout, foundation, earth = one <u>system</u>



#### **GROUT SELECTION – BALANCE OF PROPERTIES**





## COMPRESSIVE STRENGTH COMPARISONS

#### Good ductility = good cube shape under testing; doesn't shatter or fracture; not too brittle











# HIGH MODULUS / LOW MODULUS

- ASTM C 580
- Measures the ability of the grout to resist deflection under load
- Lower modulus than concrete
- Ability to withstand dynamic loads
- Too low of a modulus can result in a higher potential for creep





#### CREEP

- ASTM C1181
  - Measure the total compressive deflection under a sustained load
- Creep is defined as a permanent deformation occurring at a stress less than the yield stress.
- Comparisons can only be made under same load and temperature conditions
  - Specifications should include both
- Critical performance indicator
  - High creep can cause deflection in baseplate, affecting machinery alignment and premature failure of rotating parts



#### FLOWABILITY, BEARING AREA

- ASTM C1339 (flow box testing) Flowability and Bearing Area
  - Measures flow time and ability to flow under and across full dimension of equipment
    - Using aggregate content specified by manufacturer per test results
    - Note: Bearing area is compromised when contractors remove aggregate in field to provide better flow
- Estimated 10-15% of vibration issues are due to poor grout bonding





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# GROUT BOX FLOW TEST VIDEO





#### FLOW BOX VIDEO – GROUT COMPARISONS





#### BEARING AREA – GROUT COMPARISONS

 Visual bearing area after 16 hours in mold after flow test – shows what is hidden in the field under steel!





#### **BEARING AREA – QUANTIFIABLE TEST METHOD**

- Remove plexiglass plate
- Wire brush grout sample
- Dust surface with white talc powder
- Photograph and scan
- Computerized histogram
- Covert scan to black and white
- Calculate percentage of light vs. dark areas
- MasterFlow 648 > 95% contact (best performance of any material tested)
  - % of grout actually supporting the baseplate







#### **BEARING ARE ISSUES**

- Large aggregate at top of grout cap can serve as barrier between epoxy and steel
  - Causing poor bonding
- Voids can be caused by material, mixing, placement, excessive flow
  - Outgassing evident in red photo
  - Air migrates to grout surface
- A highly flowable grout may have higher polymer content and reduced aggregate
  - Could cause shrinking, cracking because aggregate serves as heat sink and stabilizer
  - Less aggregate reduces ultimate strength of cured grout foundation





#### COEFFICIENT OF THERMAL EXPANSION

- ASTM C 531
  - Standard Test Method for Linear Shrinkage and CTE of Polymer Grouts
- Measures the volume change of a material
  - Shrinkage or expansion after hardening or as in-service temperatures increase and decrease
- Grout, baseplate, and concrete have different CTE values and volume changes
  - Shear stress near the concrete / grout interface exceeds the tensile strength of the concrete
  - Can cause cracking, curling (edgelifting), loss of bond

Concrete	Steel	MasterFlow 648	Other Grouts
5.9	6.1	19	>28



#### **CTE's of different materials**

5.9



Coefficients of Linear Thermal Expansion (x10<sup>-6</sup> in./in. °F)



#### PEAK EXOTHERMIC REACTION

- Maximum temperature that grout reaches during cure
- Differences between peak exotherm and foundation, ambient temperatures:
  - Localized stress at bolts and bond lines, causing cracks
- High and fast reaching peak exotherm of material can lead to brittle material and stresses
  - Vertical cracking, Edge-lifting

Desired: Grout with low PE and gradual temperature increase, rather than rapid temperature spike allows for the dissipation of stresses that occur during curing







#### PROPER MIXING, INSTALLATION, & TESTING

#### Temperature Conditioning

- Material, foundation, and equipment ideally at 60°F to 80°F for 48 hours prior to and after grouting (per API 686)
- Too cool affects grout flowability, strength gain
- Too hot increases cure, material working time

#### Protective cover

- Wind, rain, temperature
- Humidity, ambient and material temperatures can affect stresses locked into grout during curing







#### FOUNDATION PREPARATION FOR GROUT

- Clean, non-contaminated surface
  - Surface profile per API guidelines
  - Exposed, fractured coarse aggregate
  - Removed oil-soaked, damaged concrete
    - Preferred chipping tools
  - Unlike concrete, epoxy won't bond well to a wet surface
- Chamfered perimeter of concrete
  - And/or use of anchors, wickets to resist edge lifting
- Properly cleaned / coated baseplate







#### EDGE OF SLAB DETAIL

- Avoid placing grout to edge of slab when possible
- Limit shoulder to 2" width and apply protective coating per API 686 Chapter 5, Section 3.15.6
- If grout shoulder extends at or beyond the top mat of the horizontal and vertical rebar of the foundation:
  - Chamfer the edge of the concrete 2" at 45 degrees
  - Install wickets using #3 bar with a 5" hoop every 12" on-center embedded 3" – 4" below and behind the top mat of the horizontal and vertical bar
  - ¾" minimum clearance under wicket hoop with minimum 1" of epoxy grout cover







#### CONCRETE SURFACE PROFILE - INTERNATIONAL CONCRETE REPAIR INSTITUTE (ICRI)





#### FOUNDATION – API 686 SURFACE PREP

- Clean, dry, sound
- 1" (25mm) CSP
- No bush hammers













## LIQUID SURFACE ETCHANT







## LIQUID SURFACE ETCHANT





#### **GROUT TERMINATION DETAILS**



#### Large Shoulders

 Large shoulder width pinning or use of wickets to secure epoxy grout



#### **Small Shoulders**

 Dimension X less than Y, shoulder width less than epoxy grout depth



## **BASEPLATE & SOLEPLATE PREPARATION**

- Proper radius on outside corners
  - Prevent cracking due to stress concentration
- Machined top surfaces
- Sandblasted bottom surface if exposure time to elements is short
  - Otherwise, epoxy primer approved by grout manufacturer can be used, but surface should be roughened and wiped with solvent before grouting
- Pre-grouted baseplates are acceptable for pumps but they add weight
  - Acceptable depending on base size and accessibility





#### EQUIPMENT BASES – API 610

- Equipment shall be designed and constructed for a minimum service life of 20 years and at least 3 years of uninterrupted operation
- Excluding normal wear parts, i.e. wear rings, shaft sleeve, gaskets
- Single-piece drain-rim or drain-pan shall be furnished for all horizontal pumps
- Baseplate shall extend under the pump and drive-train components so that any leakage is contained within the baseplate





#### EQUIPMENT BASES – API 610

- All baseplates shall be provided with at least one grout hole having:
  - Clearing area of 125 cm<sup>2</sup>(19 in<sup>2</sup>)
  - No dimension less than 75 mm (3 in) in each bulkhead section
- Grout holes shall be located to permit filling entire cavity under the baseplate without creating air pockets
- If practical, holes shall be accessible for grouting with pump and drive installed on the baseplate
- Grout holes in drip-pan area shall have 13 mm (1/2") diameter raised lip





#### EQUIPMENT BASES – API 610

- Vendor shall commercially sand-blast all grout contact surfaces of the baseplate, and coat those with a primer compatible with the grout
  - Inorganic zinc coatings are at times applied too thick, which can make them brittle and leads to chipping, scuffing and separation
- If specified, the baseplate shall be supplied without a deck plate, i.e. open skid design





#### ANCHORING

- Anchor bolt sleeves are clean, dry, fill with nonbonding material
- Anchor bolt threads should be covered to:
  - Keep them clean
  - Prevent damage
  - Prevent grout from adhering
- Assure anchors are aligned with bolt pattern
  - Lateral movement for alignment purposes shall next exceed ¼"
- Shims and wedges are not to be used





#### **EXPANSION JOINTS**

- Incorporated into large epoxy grout pours to reduce the potential of cracking
- Reduce epoxy grout volume which reduces exothermic reaction temperature
- Breaks up the epoxy grout pour into smaller pours:
  - Reduce epoxy grout volume which reduces exothermic reaction temperature
  - Increased likelihood of successful grout installation





#### **EXPANSION JOINTS**

- Closed-cell neoprene foam ½" (13mm) to 1" (25mm) wide
- Placed every 4' (1.2 meters) to 6' (1.8 meters) intervals
- Placed ½ (13mm)" to 1" (25mm) to either side of the cross members
- Away from anchor bolts
- Glued into position with epoxy adhesive or RTV silicone
- Sealed after grout has cured with epoxy seam sealant or RTV silicone





#### **EXPANSION JOINTS**







#### **GROUT PLACEMENT FORMWORK**

- Sturdy and suitable materials
  - Well braced to resist grout pressure
  - Accessible, watertight, non-absorptive
- Sufficient clearance (2"-3") from baseplate
  - For grout placement, air escape
- Bond breaker for epoxy grouts
  - To prevent grout bonding to forms
- Sealed to prevent grout leakage
- Chamfered shoulders, corners
  - 1" at 45° to remove weak edges prone to cracking







#### **GROUT PLACEMENT PREPARATION**

- Proper equipment and sequence of operations is critical to success
  - Mixing equipment / time
  - Transportation and filling methods
  - Movement tools
  - Avoidance of air bubbles
  - Flow direction / rate, head pressure
    - Pour from one side to other, or from middle in both directions
    - Maintain continuous head pressure
  - Temperatures
    - Ambient, material, water, plate, foundation







#### MIXING – API 686

- No partial units of epoxy, resin, hardener, OR aggregate are to be used
  - Fully loaded aggregate grout systems only
- Resin and hardener are to be mixed with a jiffy mixer
- Mortar mixer used to blend epoxy and full bags of aggregate
- Aggregate must be mixed until completely wet-out
- Do NOT use free fall tumble mixers









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#### **GROUT MIXING**





#### INSTALLATION



- Place from one side or from the middle out
- Maintain continuous head pressure
- Do not pour around the perimeter of the mounting plate



#### PUMPING PRECISION GROUTS







- Equipment:
  - Piston
  - Rotor Stator
  - Peristaltic



## PUMPING MASTERFLOW GROUTS





## PUMPING MASTERFLOW GROUTS





## LARGE SKID GROUTING WITH DEEP CAVITIES

- Lock-in skid to the foundation with initial pour
- Subsequent lifts can be placed after grout has reached peak exothermic reaction
- Overfill skid to account for any settlement





#### LARGE SKID GROUTING WITH DEEP CAVITIES





## COMPRESSIVE STRENGTH TESTING

- ASTM C 579, Method B, Load Rate II
- 2" Cubes
- Brass Molds or Steel Molds
- Ductility = measure of material's ability to undergo appreciable plastic deformation before fracture
- MF648 high early and ultimate compressive strengths for early commissioning
  - Ductile, not brittle







#### COMPRESSIVE STRENGTH – CASTING OF GROUT CUBES









## SAMPLE FABRICATION – ASTM C-109 TAMPER PATTERN

#### Tamping pattern repeated for each of two lifts

1	5	
2	6	
3	7	
4	8	

S	9	7	$\infty$
1	2	C	4



#### LOAD CUBES IN TEST MACHINE

- Verify that:
  - Spherical seat moves freely
  - Cube will be loaded on two parallel molded faces (not the rough top surface)
  - Upper & Lower loading platens are clean, and perfectly aligned
  - Test machine has capacity to break at expected strengths
  - ASTM C579 Method B, load rate II





#### BREAK CUBES & RECORD DATA

- Cube is set with cast top surface on side
- Load at a constant rate between 200 400 lbs/sec for cementitious grouts
- Crosshead speed of 0.20 0.25 in/min for epoxy grouts (2" cubes)
- Load rate will drop as cube begins to yield near failure; do not adjust it
- Continue applying load until cube fails
- Properly prepared & loaded cubes will have an "apple core" failure pattern





## WHAT CAN CONTRIBUTE TO LOW STRENGTHS?

Identifying the likely causes for low compressive strength test results





#### POST GROUTING COATING API 686

- Entire top surface of machinery foundation shall be painted with grout- compatible non-skid protective coating
- Protect foundation cap from oil and weathering
- Coating shall extend down from the top of the foundation at least 18"





#### FILLING OF GROUT VOIDS – API 686

- After grout has cured, check for voids by sounding the top deck
- Grout voids should not be accepted as "normal"
- Mark the void areas
- Void areas are to be filled by drilling NPT 1/8" holes in opposite corners of each void area
- One hole in each void is to be tapped for installation of a NPT 1/8" grease fitting - the other holes serve as vents
- Grout is then pumped into each void with a grease gun until the grout emerges from the vent holes









# FILLING OF GROUT VOIDS





#### METHANOL PLANT IN GULF COAST



Included 6 Flowserve compressors grouted with MasterFlow 678



#### MASTERFLOW 678 LOW DUST AGGREGATE COMPARISON





#### PETROCHEMICAL PLANT EXPANSION – GULF COAST





#### MASTERFLOW 648 LOW DUST COMPETITIVE FLOW BOX VIDEO





#### MASTERFLOW 648 LOW DUST & COMPETITOR AGGREGATE COMPARISON





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