Sika® FerroGard®-903+
Surface Applied Corrosion Inhibitor for Reinforced Concrete
Corrosion in Reinforced Concrete Structures

Aggressive Influences on Reinforced Concrete

In reinforced concrete the steel is normally protected against corrosion by the passivating alkalinity of the cement matrix. Due to the ingress of aggressive environmental influences the steel can corrode. Three conditions must exist for reinforcing steel to corrode:

- The passivation of the steel must have been destroyed by chlorides or by carbonation
- The presence of moisture as an electrolyte
- The presence of oxygen

Carbonation
Carbon dioxide ingress causes carbonation of the cement matrix progressively reducing the passivating alkaline protection of the steel reinforcement to a level where corrosion can occur.

Chloride attack
Chloride ions from deicing salts or marine exposure are carried into the concrete in solution in water. At the steel surface, even in alkaline concrete, they attack and break down the passivating layer and then accelerate the steel corrosion process.

The Effect of the Aggressive Influences

Chlorides/Carbonation
As soon as sufficient chloride ions (from deicing salts or marine exposure) or the carbonation front have reached the steel surface, the passive layer is destroyed and corrosion accelerates.

Contact with water (moisture)
The original neutral iron will receive a negative charge as the positively loaded ions have the tendency to dissolve. The water film around the metal turns positive.

Contact with oxygen
The oxygen takes on the negative charge of the iron ions which have gone into solution. The result is iron hydroxide, the first stage of rust.

Corrosion Management with Sika® Ferrogard® Technology

Description
Sika® Ferrogard®-903® is a unique blend of non toxic, organic corrosion inhibitor based on amino alcohol and salts of amino alcohol technology, designed for use as an impregnation on hardened reinforced concrete. Sika® Ferrogard®-903® is a multifunctional inhibitor which controls the cathodic and anodic reactions. This dual action effect significantly retards both the onset and the rate of corrosion and increases the time to future maintenance. Sika® Ferrogard®-903® is normally applied as part of a corrosion management strategy. It is compatible and a component of all the Sika concrete repair and protection systems.

Performance and Durability
Sika® Ferrogard®-903® penetrates the concrete and forms an adsorbed protective film on the surface of the steel reinforcement. The protective adsorbed film of Sika® Ferrogard®-903® reduces the rate of corrosion in carbonated and chloride contaminated concrete. Many studies have been carried out on corrosion inhibitor technology around the world. Assessment of the technology has been investigated by Mott MacDonald and the Monarch University.

A more detailed investigation into the behaviour in carbonated concrete was done by the University of Cape Town and additionally with chloride contaminated concrete by the BRE, UK and the European project SAMARIS.

The Performance of Sika® Ferrogard®-903®

Protective layer
Sika® Ferrogard®-903® forms an adsorbed protective film on the reinforcement. The process of forming this protective film takes place even in carbonated concrete and even with the presence of chlorides in the concrete.

Delay of the corrosion process
- The dissolution of the iron in contact with water will be reduced thanks to this passivating protective film
- This film is also a barrier to the reduction of oxygen which will be prevented

Application
Sika® Ferrogard®-903® is applied as an impregnation by spray, roller or brush onto the surface of the concrete. The corrosion inhibitor penetrates into the concrete and protects the reinforcement by forming a protective film on the steel surface. Through this the onset of corrosion is delayed and the rate of corrosion reduced.

Sika® Ferrogard®-903® is a clear colourless liquid which does not itself normally alter the aspect of fair-faced concrete. (Check if used in conjunction with chemical cleaners)

Sika® Ferrogard®-903® penetrates to a depth of 25 to 40 mm in 1 month dependent on porosity of the concrete.

Sika® Ferrogard®-903® reaches the surface of the steel through different transport mechanisms:
- During application of Sika® Ferrogard®-903® transportation is mainly by capillary suction-like water
- Sika® Ferrogard®-903® is later carried in solution by the penetration of water-like chlorides
- Sika® Ferrogard®-903® also travels by gas diffusion-like carbon dioxide
**Existing Conditions and Aggressive Influences on the Structure**

**New Construction**
- New building/new concrete e.g. high quality architectural concrete without protective coating.
- The steel reinforcement is protected by the passivating alkalinity of the cement matrix, pH 12.5 to 13.5.
- With the ingress of aggressive environmental influences, steel reinforcement can corrode. The concrete will be carbonated or passivation broken down by penetrating chlorides.

**Well Advanced Corrosion Risk but no Visible Corrosion Damage**
- Concrete façade or civil engineering structure without protective coating.
- Steel reinforcement in a carbonated environment
- Perhaps light corrosion already exists
- No visible corrosion damage

**Visible Corrosion Damage. Concrete Repair Necessary**
- Concrete surface (façade or civil engineering structure) without coating but with visible corrosion damage.
- e.g. spalling concrete, cracks, etc., concrete repair is necessary.

**Objectives and Requirements**
- Increasing service life of structure
- Preservation of architectural aspects
- Preserving protection to reinforcement
- No protective coatings

**Reinforcement Protection Principles Using Sika® FerroGard®-903+**

**Principles Based on Remediation Techniques According to EN 1504-9**
- Corrosion protection will be increased by Sika® FerroGard®-903+ from the beginning, even to concrete surfaces with cracks or inadequate concrete to cover over the reinforcement.
- Principles:
  - Cathodic control
  - Anodic control

**Performance and Durability**
- Increased corrosion protection
- Up to double the service life of the structure compared to unprotected structure
- Concrete properties and aspects will not be changed

**Limit of Service Life**
- Visible damage
- Limit of service life
- No visible damage
- No further treatment

**No Visible Damage**
- Average concrete quality without protective coating
- Average concrete quality with Sika® FerroGard®-903+ steel protection

**Reinforced Concrete with Sika® FerroGard®-903+ steel protection**
- After application of Sikagard® hydrophobic impregnation or protective coating

**Résumé**
- This is the last opportunity to protect reinforcement
- Corrosion process is retarded
- Increased corrosion protection
- Protection against water/moisture ingress (coatings/hydrophobic impregnations)

**Principles:**
- Cathodic control
- Anodic control

**Steps of Protection**
1. Application of Sika® FerroGard®-903+ to protect reinforcement
2. Application of a Sikagard® hydrophobic impregnation or protective coating
3. Concrete repair using Sika® MonoTop® system

**Steps of Maintenance**
1. Concrete repair using Sika® FerroGard®-903+ to protect reinforcement
2. Application of a Sikagard® hydrophobic impregnation or protective coating
3. Repair of damaged structure
4. Reinstateement and protection of concrete surface
5. Protection against latent damages
6. Improved appearance

**Limit of Service Life**
- Visible damage
- Limit of service life
- No visible damage

**Advantages**
- Doubling of the service life of the structure compared to unprotected areas
- Increased corrosion protection
- Protection against water/moisture ingress (coatings/hydrophobic impregnations)

**Notes**
- Repair of damaged structure
- Reinstateement and protection of concrete surface
- Protection against latent damages
- Improved appearance
- No visible damage
- Average concrete quality without protective coating
- Average concrete quality with Sika® FerroGard®-903+ steel protection
- Sika® FerroGard®-903+ application
- Sikagard® application
- Visible damage
- Limit of service life
- No visible damage
- Increased corrosion protection
- Protection against water/moisture ingress (coatings/hydrophobic impregnations)

**Figures**
- New construction
- Well advanced corrosion risk but no visible corrosion damage
- Visible corrosion damage. Concrete repair necessary
Reinforced Corrosion Controls of Bridge

Structure/Condition:
- Reinforced concrete bridge structure
- Chloride induced corrosion to internal and external deck surfaces
- Localised concrete damage
- Low concrete cover to reinforcement

Requirements:
- Reduce active corrosion rates and maintain passive corrosion levels
- Control corrosion by anodic and cathodic principles
- Provide up to 10 years additional protection before next maintenance

Sika Solution:
- Testing to prove penetration of Sika® FerroGard®-903+ to depth of reinforcement
- Clean concrete surfaces
- Concrete repairs using e.g. Sika® MonoTop®-612 or SikaCem® 133 Gunite
- Application of e.g. Sikagard® 700 S Hydrophobic Impregnation

Repair and Protection of Building Facades

Structure/Condition:
- External precast cladding panels carbonated with local concrete damage
- Chloride contamined internal stairwells with local concrete damage
- Low cover to reinforcement. Defective waterproof joints between panels

Requirements:
- Reduce high and low corrosion rates by anodic, cathodic control and concrete resistivity principles
- Repair cracked and delaminated concrete and protect from future chlorides and carbonation
- Controlled concrete breakout
- Minimum 10 years to next maintenance
- Cost effective solution

Sika Solution:
- Clean concrete surfaces
- Application of Sika® FerroGard®-903+
- Concrete repair with e.g. Sika® MonoTop®-615
- Application of e.g. Sika® MonoTop®-620 Levelling mortar
- Application of e.g. Sikaflex® AT Facade for movement joints
- Embedded probes for maintenance monitoring

Sika® FerroGard®-903+ Examples of Uses

Repair and Protection – Multi Storey Car Park

Structure/Condition:
- Reinforced concrete decks with cracked and spalling concrete
- Corrosion of reinforcement in carbonated and chloride contaminated concrete

Requirements:
- Reduce high and low corrosion rates by anodic, cathodic control and concrete resistivity principles
- Repair cracked and delaminated concrete and protect from future chlorides and carbonation
- Controlled concrete breakout
- Minimum 10 years to next maintenance
- Cost effective solution

Sika Solution:
- Clean concrete surfaces
- Application of Sika® FerroGard®-903+
- Concrete repairs and reprofiling with e.g. Sika® Rapid Repair Mortar
- Application of Protective Sika® Deck Coating System
- Application of e.g. Sikagard®-675 W carbonation protective coating to soffits

Repair and Protection – Concrete Silos

Structure/Condition:
- Cracked and spalled concrete cladding panels with low concrete cover to reinforcement
- Defective waterproof joints between panels
- Corrosion of reinforcement in carbonated and chloride contaminated concrete

Requirements:
- Limit noise and dust around building
- Repair, control corrosion, enhance and protect
- Up to 15 years maintenance free period
- Maintenance monitoring system
- Re-sealing of cladding joints
- Up to 15 years maintenance free period
- Re-sealing of cladding joints

Sika Solution:
- Testing to prove penetration of Sika® FerroGard®-903+ to depth of reinforcement
- Clean concrete surfaces
- Application of Sika® FerroGard®-903+
- Concrete repairs with e.g. Sika® MonoTop®-615
- Application of e.g. Sikaflex® AT-Connection for construction joints
- Embedded probes for maintenance monitoring
- Depth of penetration and permeability assessment trials to prove suitability of Sika® FerroGard®-903+
- Clean concrete surfaces
- Application of Sikaflex® AT-Connection for construction joints
- Embedded probes for maintenance monitoring

The Sika Qualitative Colour Test Kit for Penetration Depth testing

Corrosion Rate Maintenance Monitoring System

Horizontal application

Permeability Testing of Concrete
The information, and, in particular, the recommendations relating to the application and end use of Sika® products, are given in good faith based on Sika’s current knowledge and experience of the products when properly stored, handled and applied under normal conditions. In practice, the differences in materials, substrates and actual site conditions are such that no warranty in respect of merchantability or of fitness for a particular purpose, nor any liability arising out of any legal relationship whatsoever, can be inferred either from this information, or from any written recommendations, or from any other advice offered. The proprietary rights of third parties must be observed. All orders are accepted subject to our current terms of sale and delivery. Users should always refer to the most recent issue of the Product Data Sheet for the product concerned, copies of which will be supplied on request.