

SEPIOLITE – A NATURAL ADDITIVE IN AIR CURED HATSCHECK PROCESS

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ABSTRACT

Sepiolite is an hydrated magnesium silicate belonging to the phyllosilicates group of clays, naturally formed by sedimentation during myocene periods.

Worldwide known largest deposits of Sepiolite, in terms of extension and purity, are located in Madrid-Toledo (Spain) basins. Through a selective mining, special purification process and milling techniques, it is possible to profit of the rheological and pseudoplastic properties of Sepiolite, by dissagglomeration in its elemental particles (microfibers of 2 μ length).

Consequent products of Sepiolite can then be used as thickening/and suspending additives in diverses industries as cement mortars, asphalts or coatings.

In fibercement air-cured Hatschek process benefits as smooth surface finishing, interlaminar adhesion or fines solids retention are widely reported by final users.

An introduction of this natural clay, additives made with it, and a practical way to use it in air cured Hatscheck processes, will be briefly related.