Topic: Cemplaster Fiberstucco
Control Joint Option

The practice of control jointing is listed in ASTM C1063. Section 7.10.1.4 specifically states that for a control joint the lath shall not be continuous through control joints but shall be stopped and tied at each side. Control joints are used to control stucco thermal/shrinkage movement and to provide a leveling guide for stucco application.

Control joints are not expansion joints. Where structural movement occurs back-to-back casing bead and a true expansion joint is required.

At first blush, the standard is straightforward but in practical use it does present some problems:

- If both sides are wire tied the control joints can tend to move or bulge depending on their location, especially without support framing.
- If structural securement is needed, additional framing needs to be provided.
- The additional framing should be located by the architect or designer, meaning if it is not provided there will usually be a change order.
- The full depth control joints are placed directly against the water barrier.

Surface Mounted Control Joint

The lathing sequence is slightly different; once the weep screed is placed, casing beads and lath are applied, a control joint is wire tied to the lath per the plans. This control joint has slightly less depth (or ground) than the full depth control joint but would perform the same function. It also offers the following benefits:

- No need for additional framing.
- No fastened attachment points so less points for water entry.
- A small amount of stucco is behind the control joint making it more consistent with the rest of the wall construction.

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Industry Support
This type application is endorsed by the following trade groups:

SCWCPA/TLPCA in their publication.
TSIB in their publication.

In addition, the practice of limited depth control joints is recognized in concrete slabs by these groups:

ACI in their publication.
NRMCA in their publication.

In these publications, the concrete reinforcement is run continuously.

Master Wall Support
Ultimately, it is up to the designer or field engineer to determine if executing a policy in strict compliance with ASTM C1063 suits their needs. From Master Wall Inc’s perspective, the use of the control joint accessory over the lath will not affect our product warranty.

While the calculated thermal stress at the control joint is practically nil, keep in mind that all stucco can crack whether the ASTM or optional detail is used. We have developed a Technical Bulletin outlining some crack reducing strategies.

Please reference the enclosed Special Detail for consideration.
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