Benefits Summary

Why COMMANDbatch?

Quality You Can Count On
Superior Productivity & Performance
Advanced Administration & Integration
Remote Plant Monitoring & Tune Up
Remote Diagnostics & Troubleshooting
Remote Batching & Mix Design Changes
Migration Paths from Legacy Systems

Benefits of COMMANDbatch

• Automatic notification of batch "out of tolerance" with Plant Watcher, protects against out of specification loads from reaching the job site
• COMMANDbatch Freewheeling maximizes plant productivity and gets the first round in the morning out in less time
• Admix Designs (mix modifiers) reduce errors and QC mix maintenance time
• Remote Batching allows low volume plants to operate cost effectively
• Automated Remote Assistance, including online technician chat, keeps plant downtime to a minimum
• Early identification of plant batching issues or trends with Plant Performance Graphs
• Save time and reduce data entry errors by using the Mix Manager to adjust a large number of mixes at the same time
• Automatic data archiving and backup reduces plant shutdown tasks and time while safeguarding data
• Available with Precision Water System for precise water management

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Ready-Mixed Concrete Plant Automation

Command Alkon is proud to provide quality batch control systems and plant automation products that lead the industry in innovation and reliability.

COMMANDbatch
Plant Watcher
Precision Water System
Command Alkon Moisture Probe
COMMANDcallboard
Automatic Bin Fill System

COMMANDbatch is one component of an integrated suite of enterprise ready products offered by Command Alkon. Our goal is to enable the enterprise wide integration of systems to reduce or eliminate information and reporting gaps, render “double entry” of unnecessary information, aim for completely paperless transactions, and capture all billing and production data automatically. We do this all the while ensuring that key personnel are always up-to-date on the company’s operation.

Automatic Bin Fill System

provides a fast, automated, and cost-effective way to get materials from underground storage bunkers into overhead bins.

The system’s standard controls permit automatic monitoring and replenishment for up to six bins. The system allows priority-first replenishment if materials from one underground storage bunker are required more often than others.

The system is designed to:

- determine the need for a material
- rotate the turnhead or shuttle conveyor into the correct position
- turn on the feed belts as needed
- open the correct feed gate on the underground storage silo
- monitor the process until filling is complete

As the system sequences from one material to the next the Automatic Bin Fill system will:

- close the gate in use on the underground storage
- determine the turnhead positioning delay
- open the feed gate for the next material while ensuring the proper belt delay to prevent cross contamination of material bins

Any or all materials can be manually overridden at any time. An alarm indicator alerts the user to plant malfunctions. The emergency stop button halts all related plant motion in the event of a belt break or other hazard.

“Command Alkon’s Automatic Bin Fill System fulfills a critical role within Florida Rock’s Ready Mix production operations. The Automatic Bin Fill System consistently and reliably ensures the right materials are always available in the plant to meet our production needs. We own seven of them; more are sure to follow in the future.”

Terry Smith
Florida Rock Industries

Benefits of Automatic Bin Fill System

- Automates bin replenishment, allowing staff to concentrate on more important and time critical operations in the plant
- “Keep Full” ensures the batch plant bins remain full, preventing production delays
Conversions for AC2000, Eagle, and Spectrum to COMMANDbatch

Command Alkon is committed to extending the life of your investment. A modern, state-of-the-art batching system can be had for significantly less money and time than the “rip and replace” method using a migration pathway to COMMANDbatch. As Command Alkon continues to advance the technology and capabilities of COMMANDbatch, your company, through software upgrades, will be assured of keeping pace with future changes.

What types of systems are eligible for conversion to COMMANDbatch?
Those summarized below are eligible. Note that if you have maintained a Priority One Support Agreement on one of these Command Alkon batch controls, a discount is offered on the conversion to COMMANDbatch.

Am I required to replace all of my hardware?
No. Unnecessary components will be replaced with a single ‘plug compatible’ component, along with a new PC. In most cases, there are no changes to any plant wiring.

Can I add on extras that my current system does not have?
Yes. Any additional features and capabilities of COMMANDbatch can be included as part of the conversion. These features include items such as COMMANDassist, Remote Batching and Remote Client, Plant Watcher, Dispatch, Multiple Plant Setup, and more . . .

Do I need COMMANDbatch attached to a Network?
No. While COMMANDbatch does require a network connection between the operator PC and the system controls, connection to an office business network is not required. However, if you wish to take advantage of features such as COMMANDassist or Plant Watcher then a connection to the Internet is required.

What is the migration process?
Prior to conversion, Command Alkon requests a copy of the existing system data to prepare for the conversion. Our personnel will ensure that existing plant information (materials, mix designs, etc.) are converted and installed on the new operator PC before shipment. Command Alkon will prepare batch personnel for training by ensuring that they have the knowledge and skills needed to operate in a Windows environment. Once these preparations are made the conversion can be scheduled. The actual conversion includes installation of new hardware; set up of LAN connections; configuration of incoming links, remote client access and any new options; plus execution of test material drops. The Batch Support Specialist will also provide an introduction to COMMANDbatch Basic System Operations and assist with plant startup and performance tuning.

Command Alkon batch control systems and plant automation products are recognized worldwide for helping producers improve their operational efficiency, quality, and profitability.

- 3,500+ COMMANDBatch systems in operation around the world.
- 10,000+ Command Alkon Moisture Probes in use at ready-mixed plants worldwide.
- 200+ Automatic Bin Fill Systems in use at plants around the world.

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"We have converted four existing Spectrums to COMMANDbatch. With Command Alkon’s attention to preserving existing investments, the process was straightforward and cost effective. With these plants now converted to COMMANDbatch, we are using the advanced capabilities of this system, such as Remote Batching, to be more efficient and lower costs more than ever before."

Rob Hawn
All Ohio Ready Mix Concrete

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COMMANDbatch is the industry leading plant automation solution. COMMANDbatch delivers superb plant performance while being very simple to use.

Select tickets and fine-tune batches before they are started. Prepare the next load and change settings on-the-fly, all from the same screen. Standard reports are included so you can monitor inventory, material usage, and general lists of orders, tickets, and mix designs. Reports can be created and customized to fit your specific business needs or exported to Microsoft Excel for further evaluation.

Animated graphics show plant equipment weighing up and delivering material to the truck or mixer in real-time.

COMMANDbatch makes concrete production easier and saves your company money.

Make sure your staff know how to get the most out of the COMMANDbatch system. Command Alkon Training ensures that your staff is fully utilizing the purchased software and hardware features. Our training services include a well-designed curriculum of offerings both on-site and in our Learning Centers, as well as customized courses.

Training at Installation
Upon installation of your COMMANDbatch system, our batch support specialist will provide your operators with an introduction to COMMANDbatch and basic system operations.

Follow Up Training
Does your staff remember all of the options and flexibility available in the COMMANDbatch software? Most users experience only 30% retention during any training session, so employees can always benefit from refresher training. Plus, after your employees have been using our products for a while, they will have questions involving situations they have experienced and will better understand what they need to know to do their job well.

New Employee Training
Turnover is a reality in any industry. Command Alkon training for new employees allows them to receive the same benefits that were gained during the initial installation of your system. Training helps new employees to learn their jobs faster and to quickly contribute to your overall profitability.

Plant Site Training
Have no time to allocate for employees being away from the job for formal training? Command Alkon can schedule a batch support specialist on-site to perform user training during normal operations on basic operational functions and assist with plant performance issues.

Customized Courses
Our training staff can work with your team to design and execute a training course or entire curriculum that is tailored to the specific needs of your business and operations. This training can even include the use of a training copy of your existing database.

Visit us online at www.commandalkon.com/training.asp to review course descriptions, training schedules, training rates, and methods to register.

“COMMANDbatch is accurate, reliable, and easy-to-use. There's lots of information that can be determined at a glance. Our batch personnel can adjust mixes and materials on-the-fly and they know immediately when something is out of tolerance. With COMMANDbatch there’s no more guesswork.”

Billy Carroll
imi-Tennessee
**Auto Archive,** **COMMANDbatch** is capable of completing critical daily database maintenance “Behind the Scenes” throughout the business day, reducing the time required to perform end-of-business daily routines. **Auto-Archive** moves your valuable batching related data from the active to an archive database, allowing the system to operate at peak performance, while giving you the confidence that all of your batching records are permanently stored for access at a later date. **Auto-Archive** eliminates the need to maintain and manage paper tickets, as archived tickets can be previewed and reprinted.

**Auto Purge** maintains optimal system performance by purging obsolete information to manage the size of the database. Further, this minimizes the amount of storage required for long-term data backup.

With **Auto Backup** enabled, **COMMANDbatch** will automatically create a local and redundant off site backup of your database files every 24 hours. This feature will ensure that an up-to-date system backup can be used during the disaster recovery process. **COMMANDbatch Auto Backup** will ensure that business critical information, such as plant configuration, batching history, materials, mix designs, customers, and orders can be easily recovered, resulting in minimal plant down time and data loss.

**Access rights** can be defined for different classes of users to ensure business processes are enforced and that sensitive information is protected.

**Ticket output** generated by the batching process can be automatically saved in a text or PDF document and stored on a server. When combined with **Command Alkon’s Enterprise Content Management (ECM)** the ticket information, including actual batch-weights, are easily accessible by batching, dispatching, and back office personnel.

**Auto Telemetry**

- **4-6 Aggregates, 3 Cements, 2 Waters (metered), 8 Admixes (metered) - (model RM200)**
- **Additional Material and Scale Controls**
- **Multi-batch and Freewheel Batching Control**
- **Truck Charge Rate Adjustable On-The-Fly**
- **High Speed Weigh-Up Algorithm for Fast Plant Performance**
- **Automatic Scale Tolerance Checking**
- **Automatic Bin Switching**
- **Automatic Bin/Silo Vibrator Control**
- **Scale Rate of Discharge**
- **Scale Flow Control Dampening**
- **Continuous Batching / Continuous Discharge**
- **Communication with PLC Devices to Extend Reach of The System**
- **Central Mix Control**
- **Temperature Gun/Probe Interface**
- **Density Meter Interface**
- **State Certification Package (NY, CA, NJ, MN)**
- **Other Optional Automatic Plant Controls Including:**
  - Blower, Plant Dust Collector, Silo Shaker, Spray Bar, Conveyor Controls, Mixer Controls, Telescopic Boot, Recirculating Screw, Live Bottom Batcher, Dual Aggregate Discharge Gates, Bin Lamps, and Switches**
- **Remote Batch**
  - **Soft Manual Station (SMS)**
  - **Remote Batching and Mix Design Changes**
  - **Second Client Access**
- **Operator Controls**
  - **Audible Notification Alerts**
  - **On-Hand Inventory Available At-a-Glance**
  - **Low Inventory Notification to Prevent Load Start**
  - **Discharge, Weigh-Up, and Sequence Diagnostics**
  - **Training Mode, Online Help, Operator Manuals**
  - **17” or 19” Flat Screen Monitor(s)**
  - **Dust Proof Enclosure**
- **Plant Interlocks**
  - **Over/Under Tolerance Interlocks**
  - **Scale Zero and Bottle Empty Interlocks**
  - **Admix Pulse (Dual) Meter Crosscheck**
  - **Scale Motion Detection**

**Mix Design Control**

- **Mix Design Management**
- **Admix Designs (Mix Modifiers)**
- **Stump Tables**
- **Allowable Water Feature**
- **Slurry Compensation**

**Recordation**

- **Batch Weights Printing**
- **Manual Material Monitor Report**
- **Bar Code Printing**
- **Dot Matrix Printer, Laser Report Printer**

**Quality Control**

- **Material Blending Sequence by Mix Type**
- **Remote Access for Plant Monitoring and Tune Up**
- **Plant Performance Graphs**
- **Plant Watcher Automatic Notification System**
- **Moisture Probe Support**
- **Auto Consistency Slump Control**

**Order Management**

- **Order Entry**
- **Third-Party Dispatch one-way Interface**
- **COMMANDConcrete two-way Interface**

**Plant Management**

- **Truck Callboard Interface**

**Administration & Integration**

- **User Permissions for Configuration/Editing**
- **Recordation/Logs of Changes**
- **Auto Archive, Auto Purge, and Auto Backup**
- **Ticket and Material Records Export Utilities**
- **Microsoft Vista, XP, SQL Server Compatible**
- **Enterprise Content Management Option for Electronic Access to Tickets/Batchweight Files**
- **Custom Format Ticket File Export**
- **Multi-Plant Support**
- **Multi-Company Support**
- **QuickBooks Interface**

**Maintenance**

- **Remote Diagnostics and Troubleshooting**
- **COMMANDassist Automated Remote Assistant**
- **Maintenance Scheduling Feature**
- **Expendable Parts Kit and Plant Wiring Diagrams**
- **One Year Batch System and Software Priority One Support**

**Denotes Optional Feature**
Do you have a remote plant that doesn’t do the business of your high volume plants? With Remote Batching lower volume plants can be operated safely, reliably, and cost-effectively from a different location anytime. When a driver pulls through, the remote batcher can load the truck, then shut the plant back down. Soft Manual Station (SMS) controls allow operation of bins and hoppers, and manual controls such as air compressor, boot up/down, washout water, etc., from the remote location.

Remote Client allows up to three additional concurrent remote users to access the information contained in the COMMANDbatch database. This means that plant monitoring, tune up, mix design management, diagnostics, and troubleshooting are possible anywhere, anytime! Remote Client users can perform tasks without interfering with normal operation of the batching system. Data records can be created, updated, or deleted for customers, mixes, other products, pricing, orders, and etc. Plant automation can be modified including bin tuning, discharge tuning, and device sequencing/material blending. Troubleshooting of issues can occur using built-in tools such as Weigh-Up or Discharge Diagnostics, Sequence Tracer, Custom Equation Monitor, or Ticket Format Helper. Most reports can be previewed or printed remotely. With the addition of remote batching hardware and software, these additional clients can perform Remote Batching.

With the Remote Client and Mix Manager features used together, Quality Control personnel can update mix designs remotely and distribute them enterprise wide with a click of the mouse.

COMMANDbatch comes equipped with standardized reporting procedures common to all ready-mixed concrete plants. Standard Reports include: Yards Per Driver Hour, Consolidated Order, Ticket Summary, Materials Inventory, Tickets by Customer Summary, as well as many others. Many reports can be exported into Microsoft Excel for further analysis.

Remote Batching & Remote Client

The Mix Manager screen allows a group of mixes to be selected by a filter such as “Find all mixes starting with 250”. With a few clicks these mixes can have a material quantity adjustment (add or remove) or material substituted.

Plant Performance Graphs help you determine why a load took too long to complete or why it was out of tolerance. The Load Times Graph shows Weigh-Up and Discharge times for each load. A Deviations Graph shows tolerance information for each material batched. You can right-click on a load code and select “Productivity” to display Drop Times for each material.
COMMANDassist provides secure transmission of information to and from a Command Alkon service technician via a Virtual Private Network (VPN) connection made through the Internet.

COMMANDassist allows you to receive technical support via your existing high-speed Internet connection using our secure VPN support network. Once connected, users have the ability to create new support requests, modify existing support requests, and preview pending support requests. The included chat functionality allows you to communicate with our Command Alkon support personnel while continuing production and without tying up the production facility phone lines.

Using COMMANDassist, a service technician can troubleshoot batching issues without interrupting your plant’s batching operations, can answer your questions on specific topics, can manually download and assist with the installation of software updates, and can modify plant automation.

**Benefits of COMMANDassist**
- 128-bit encrypted data transmission using Public Key Infrastructure
- Point-to-Point connectivity only when requested
- Command Alkon only has access when you initiate a support request
- Command Alkon can only access the machine requesting support
- No need to provide Command Alkon with full access to your company network
- Only one firewall modification required
- All data travels outbound on port 1194 (Open VPN)
- No need for dial-up modem or dedicated analog phone line
- Uses your existing high-speed network connection
As a producer, you know the best place to achieve predictable and consistent quality concrete is at the plant. Meeting the requirements for high-performance concrete with the minimum amount of cost depends not only on the availability of the best raw materials but also on how these materials are introduced during the mixing process. COMMANDbatch provides tools unmatched by competitive systems to ensure that the proper mix constituents are specified and then combined in a manner to yield the maximum results.

Material Sequencing ensures consistent, reliable, and predictable concrete homogeneity load after load. Each class of mix (grout, low slump, flowable, etc.) can have a unique, specialized blending sequence to ensure the ingredients are added at the precise time and at the precise rate. Different sequences can be specified when charging a truck or a mixer.

Substantially reduce the number of mix designs while reducing potential errors using Admix Design (modifier mix) capabilities. A small number of “base” mixes can be customized on a per order basis using these modifier mixes. When the order is selected for batching, the mix will automatically be customized based upon the order. This provides for a wide variety of mix combinations without having to create a special mix for a customer. Adding hot water, calcium, or making the mix a bit easier to finish for that certain customer is no longer something that the operator has to remember. Since the mix modification is defined by the order, the concrete mix will be correct no matter how many plants are used to fulfill the order.

“Admix Design feature on COMMANDbatch allows us to downsize the number of mix designs and ensures that any changes made on-the-fly are billed accordingly. Admix Design allows us to limit the handling of changes made, resulting in fewer mistakes. Accounting is simplified and accuracy of inventory control is much better.”

John Miller
Tarneo/Titan America

**Benefits of COMMANDcallboard**

- Reduces lost in-yard time
- Helps to eliminate unnecessary truck traffic around the plant
- Truck drivers do not need to leave their trucks
- Truck drivers can now keep themselves in proper order
- Cuts down on radio traffic
- Automatically send messages to driver including:
  - Delivery Instructions
  - Lane Selection
  - Extra Product Information
  - Special Loading Instructions
  - Scrolling information messages serve as reminders
  - Wireless connection for ease of installation

“COMMANDcallboard has improved our fleet efficiency at the plants. They have also significantly reduced radio traffic related to truck staging. The callboards have been a worthwhile investment.”

Barb Bailey
Central Pre-Mix Concrete Co.
The Command Alkon Moisture Probe allows you to measure the moisture content of your fine aggregates as they flow into a batch.

The Command Alkon Moisture Probe has been proven to measurably increase product quality and finish, and reduce overall batching times and material waste, resulting in increased customer satisfaction and profitability.

Our moisture probe is unique in that it can continuously adjust the load water as the material flows over the probe, a method that ensures consistent slump predictability in high specification concrete and concrete product manufacturing. You will always know your moisture value because this probe is consistently accurate to within ±0.3%. The probe achieves this consistency through innovative self-adjusting circuitry that detects and corrects changes caused by time and temperature.

The probe is housed in a one-piece stainless steel casing with increased steel thickness in the heaviest wear areas. Mounted directly above the feed gate, the specially designed probe collar makes it unnecessary to drain the bin, and the simple design eliminates any need to fabricate complicated mounting brackets or pipe assemblies. The smaller ceramic faceplate further reduces vulnerability from accidental impact damage.

The probe can be installed and calibrated to the material in a matter of hours. A “one-knob” adjustment based on the results of a simple bake-out procedure has the probe ready to provide accurate moisture measurement, batch, after batch, after batch.

Thousands of truckloads attest to the fact that the Command Alkon Moisture Probe can virtually eliminate “load doctoring” by delivering accurate and consistent slumps every time.

“Command Alkon’s Moisture Probe is a proven performer. The probe is easy to install, easy to calibrate, and most importantly, provides reliable moisture measurements without further calibration load after load.”

Cliff Morgan
Potomac Construction Industries

Specifications
- Size: 75 mm (3”) dia. x 60 cm (23.25”) long
- Weight: 7.25 kg (16 lbs.)
- Body Material: Stainless steel
- Face Material: High strength ceramic
- Measurement Range: Depends on material composition
- Operating Temperature: 2° - 49° C (35° - 120° F)
- Typical Accuracy: +/- 0.3%
- Connection: 6-pin type PT06 waterproof connector
- Cable: 6 conductor, 24 gauge, shielded

Our organization depends on Plant Watcher to help us manage and protect our business. We thought for sure we knew how our plants were running, but the information provided by Plant Watcher highlighted new opportunities for efficiency and cost savings. The real-time notification by Plant Watcher of an out of specification load for a critical pour alerts our QC department, day or night, to step in and prevent that load from being placed. For companies who wish to be proactive about Quality Control, Plant Watcher is a meaningful and cost-effective addition.”

Steve Wagener
Kuhlman Corporation

Benefits of Plant Watcher Notification System
- Plant ‘Dashboard’ provides near real-time view of plant activities
- Automatic notification of “out of tolerance” protects against out of specification loads from reaching the job site
- Guaranteed delivery via e-mail ensures notification after a network or other outage once the network is restored
- Plant profiles assure notification of the right individual for the right event
- Automatic delivery of key production, inventory, efficiency, and other reports keeps you informed about your business while allowing the plant operator to focus on production and quality
- Instant notification of mix design changes or material substitutions by any plant allows interception of a bad or incorrect load before it leaves the plant

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Precision Water System

is a fully integrated water management system that provides a new set of tools to simplify and automate the management of moisture compensation.

Production of high strength, architectural, or self-consolidating concrete mixes requires precise management of the total water in the mix to achieve specified performance results. While there are a variety of moisture sensors offered to measure this moisture, typically these are managed by a separate, standalone program or require manual calculations or a spreadsheet to calibrate.

The Precision Water System gives you the ability to calibrate and simultaneously measure up to 12 probes. The system allows you to capture sample moisture readings with the click of a button, provides an easy and accurate calibration process, and supports multiple bin-material-probe combinations. With the Precision Water System, you will reduce or eliminate time-consuming, costly, and manual processes involved in sampling and calibrating probes or adjusting water content.

Why continue to struggle with loads that are not produced at the desired slump, increasing your costs and potentially damaging your reputation and customer satisfaction? With the Precision Water System you are on your way to more consistent loads, better yield management, lower costs, and more satisfied customers.

**How does the Precision Water System work?**

The PWS provides for the automatic capture of a moisture sample with the click of a button. Multiple samples for different materials can be captured at a time and the sample information automatically stored in the PWS application. Once bake-out values are available, results are entered into the PWS. The PWS automatically takes each bake-out pair and calculates the moisture, compensating for absorption, performs an out-of-bounds check, and then stores the test values permanently in the PWS database. As more and more bake-outs are accumulated, the program adjusts the probe calibration to reflect the new data, resulting in a very accurate calibration. Once calibrated, the system operates independently with no operator intervention required.

**Features**

- Provides calibrated readings of up to 12 moisture probes on a variety of materials up to 1" coarse aggregates. (Contact us regarding larger aggregates.)
- Stores a distinct calibration for each probe-bin-material combination.
- Stores unlimited moisture sample and bake-out pairs for each probe-bin-material combination.
- PWS Dashboard allows operator to review value of each moisture probe in a variety of views: Active Calibration View, Current Moisture View, Calibration History View.
- Operator can choose whether or not to recalibrate based on visual analysis of probe readings.
- "Lock and Load" sample mode for automatic capture of probe readings for the next bake-out.
- Automatic and manual modes.
- System available in optional standalone configuration for non-COMMANDbatch systems.
- Includes default calibrations for a range of materials that allow for immediate use of the system until bake-outs and final calibration occurs.
- Replacement probes can be calibrated with one bake-out.

**Benefits of Precision Water System**

- Expanding the number of measured materials with PWS reduces unknown sources of slump variability in a load. This diminishes or eliminates the need to overdesign mixes to compensate for unmanaged water.
- You can use a single bin for a variety of materials. When the operator informs COMMANDbatch that a different material is now in a bin, the system instantly and automatically reconfigures itself to the correct material moisture calibration profile.
- Easy and accurate probe calibration.
- Moisture sample capture at the click of a button.
- Save time and money by reducing frequency of bake-outs.
- Reduces time spent adding water to batches.

**What are the basic components?**

The Precision Water System (PWS) includes:
- PWS Software Module
- PWS Moisture Interface Controller Junction Box (MIC) with support for up to 12 Moisture Probes, in multiples of two

Additional equipment purchased separately:
- Moisture Probes
- Cables to connect Moisture Probes to MIC
- Windows-based PC where PWS Software Module will reside (PC must have network support for configuration and calibration)

**Features**

- Moisture Interface Controller
  - Junction Box (MIC)
- Additional equipment purchased separately:
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Overview

Moisture Interface Controller Junction Box (MIC)

How does the Precision Water System work?

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Additional equipment purchased separately:

- Moisture Probes
- Cables to connect Moisture Probes to MIC
- Windows-based PC where PWS Software Module will reside (PC must have network support for configuration and calibration)

Calibration and Bake-Out Screen (All absorptions have been set to zero)

Benefits of Precision Water System

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- System available in optional standalone configuration for non-COMMANDbatch systems.
- Includes default calibrations for a range of materials that allow for immediate use of the system until bake-outs and final calibration occurs.
- Replacement probes can be calibrated with one bake-out.

Features

- Reduces time spent adding water to batches.
- Saves time and money by reducing frequency of bake-outs.
- Moisture sample capture at the click of a button.
- Easy and accurate probe calibration.
- Operator can choose whether or not to recalibrate based on visual analysis of probe readings.
- Automatic and manual modes.
- System available in optional standalone configuration for non-COMMANDbatch systems.
- Includes default calibrations for a range of materials that allow for immediate use of the system until bake-outs and final calibration occurs.
- Replacement probes can be calibrated with one bake-out.

Additional equipment purchased separately:

- Moisture Probes
- Cables to connect Moisture Probes to MIC
- Windows-based PC where PWS Software Module will reside (PC must have network support for configuration and calibration)

Overview

Moisture Interface Controller Junction Box (MIC)

How does the Precision Water System work?

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The Precision Water System (PWS) includes:

- PWS Software Module
- PWS Moisture Interface Controller Junction Box (MIC) with support for up to 12 Moisture Probes, in multiples of two

Additional equipment purchased separately:

- Moisture Probes
- Cables to connect Moisture Probes to MIC
- Windows-based PC where PWS Software Module will reside (PC must have network support for configuration and calibration)

Benefits of Precision Water System

- Expanding the number of measured materials with PWS reduces unknown sources of slump variability in a load. This diminishes or eliminates the need to overdesign mixes to compensate for unmanaged water.
- You can use a single bin for a variety of materials. When the operator informs COMMANDbatch that a different material is now in a bin, the system instantly and automatically reconfigures itself to the correct material moisture calibration profile.
- Easy and accurate probe calibration.
- Moisture sample capture at the click of a button.
- Save time and money by reducing frequency of bake-outs.
- Reduces time spent adding water to batches.
The Command Alkon

Moisture Probe

allows you to measure the moisture content of your fine aggregates as they flow into a batch.

The Command Alkon Moisture Probe has been proven to measurably increase product quality and finish, and reduce overall batching times and material waste, resulting in increased customer satisfaction and profitability.

Our moisture probe is unique in that it can continuously adjust the load water as the material flows over the probe, a method that ensures consistent slump predictability in high specification concrete and concrete product manufacturing. You will always know your moisture value because this probe is consistently accurate to within ±0.3%. The probe achieves this consistency through innovative self-adjusting circuitry that detects and corrects changes caused by time and temperature.

The probe is housed in a one-piece stainless steel casing with increased steel thickness in the heaviest wear areas. Mounted directly above the feed gate, the specially designed probe collar makes it unnecessary to drain the bin, and the simple design eliminates any need to fabricate complicated mounting brackets or pipe assemblies. The smaller ceramic faceplate further reduces vulnerability from accidental impact damage.

The probe can be installed and calibrated to the material in a matter of hours. A "one-knob" adjustment based on the results of a simple bake-out procedure has the probe ready to provide accurate moisture measurement, batch, after batch, after batch.

Thousands of truckloads attest to the fact that the Command Alkon Moisture Probe can virtually eliminate "load doctoring" by delivering accurate and consistent slumps every time.

Specifications

- Size: 76 mm (3") dia. x 60 cm (23.25") long
- Weight: 7.25 kg (16 lbs.)
- Body Material: Stainless steel
- Face Material: High strength ceramic
- Measurement Range: Depends on material composition
- Operating Temperature: 2° - 49° C (35° - 120° F)
- Typical Accuracy: +/- 0.3%
- Connection: 6-pin type PT06 waterproof connector
- Cable: 6 conductor, 24 gauge, shielded

"Command Alkon’s Moisture Probe is a proven performer. The probe is easy to install, easy to calibrate, and most importantly, provides reliable moisture measurements without further calibration load after load."

Cliff Morgan
Potomac Construction Industries

Plant Watcher Notification System

gives you visibility into all of your plant operations via e-mail. Receive real-time Event Notifications for out of tolerance situations, mix design changes, and material changes.

Schedule Production, Efficiency, and Inventory Reports to be automatically collected and e-mailed at the same time every day, freeing the operator from having to manually print and fax this information.

The system uses Profiles, created for each batch plant to be monitored, to store information about Sites, Events, E-mail Recipients, and Plant Performance Data. When an event occurs at a monitored plant that satisfies the criteria defined in a Profile, an e-mail alert describing the event is dispatched to all defined recipients. E-mail alerts are delivered only once to each requester and delivery is guaranteed in the event of network or other outages once the network is restored.

The system is comprised of the Plant Watcher Server and the Plant Watcher Configuration Utility. The Plant Watcher Server houses the Plant Watcher database, monitors events at designated plants, and sends e-mail alerts to the designated recipients. A Diagnostics Console is used for configuring and troubleshooting the server. The Plant Watcher Configuration Utility can run on any workstation. It allows the system to be configured for SMTP server identification and authentication, and Site, Profile, Recipient, and e-mail Setups, from a remote location.

"Our organization depends on Plant Watcher to help us manage and protect our business. We thought for sure we knew how our plants were running, but the information provided by Plant Watcher highlighted new opportunities for efficiency and cost savings. The real-time notification by Plant Watcher of an out of specification load for a critical pour alerts our QC department, day or night, to step in and prevent that load from being placed! For companies who wish to be proactive about Quality Control, Plant Watcher is a meaningful and cost-effective addition."

Steve Wagenen
Kuhlman Corporation

Benefits of Plant Watcher Notification System

- Plant 'Dashboard' provides near real-time view of plant activities
- Automatic notification of "out of tolerance" protects against out of specification loads from reaching the job site
- Guaranteed delivery via e-mail ensures notification after a network or other outage once the network is restored
- Plant profiles assure notification of the right individual for the right event
- Automatic delivery of key production, inventory, efficiency, and other reports keeps you informed of your business while allowing the plant operator to focus on production and quality
- Instant notification of mix design changes or material substitutions by any plant allows interception of a bad or incorrect load before it leaves the plant

Commandbatch Quality You Can Count On
The Admix Design feature on COMMANDbatch allows us to downsize the number of mix designs and ensures that any changes made on-the-fly are billed accordingly. Admix Design allows us to limit the handling of changes made, resulting in fewer mistakes. Accounting is simplified and accuracy of inventory control is much better.

John Miller  
Tarmac/Titan America

Material Sequencing ensures consistent, reliable, and predictable concrete homogeneity load after load. Each class of mix (grout, low slump, flowable, etc.) can have a unique, specialized blending sequence to ensure the ingredients are added at the precise time and at the precise rate. Different sequences can be specified when charging a truck or a mixer.

“Admix Design is needed to expedite traffic flow around the batch plant.”

Barb Bailey  
Central Pre-Mix Concrete Co.

Benefits of COMMANDcallboard

- Reduces lost in-yard time
- Helps to eliminate unnecessary truck traffic around the plant
- Truck drivers do not need to leave their trucks
- Truck drivers can now keep themselves in proper order
- Cuts down on radio traffic
- Automatically send messages to driver including:
  - Delivery Instructions
  - Lane Selection
  - Extra Product Information
  - Special Loading Instructions
  - Scrolling information messages serve as reminders
  - Wireless connection for ease of installation

“The truck callboards have improved our fleet efficiency at the plants. They have also significantly reduced radio traffic related to truck staging. The callboards have been a worthwhile investment.”

Barb Bailey  
Central Pre-Mix Concrete Co.
COMMANDassistant provides secure transmission of information to and from a Command Alkon service technician via a Virtual Private Network (VPN) connection made through the Internet. COMMANDassistant allows you to receive technical support via your existing high-speed Internet connection using our secure VPN support network. Once connected, users have the ability to create new support requests, modify existing support requests, and preview pending support requests. The included chat functionality allows you to communicate with our Command Alkon support personnel while continuing production and without tying up the production facility phone lines.

Using COMMANDassistant, a service technician can troubleshoot batching issues without interrupting your plant’s batching operations, can answer your questions on specific topics, can manually download and assist with the installation of software updates, and can modify plant automation.

Benefits of COMMANDassistant
- 128-bit encrypted data transmission using Public Key Infrastructure
- Point-to-Point connectivity only when requested
- Command Alkon only has access when you initiate a support request
- Command Alkon can only access the machine requesting support
- No need to provide Command Alkon with full access to your company network
- Only one firewall modification required
- All data travels outbound on port 1194 (Open VPN)
- No need for dial-up modem or dedicated analog phone line
- Uses your existing high-speed network connection
Remote Client allows up to three additional concurrent remote users to access the information contained in the COMMANDbatch database. This means that plant monitoring, tune up, mix design management, diagnostics, and troubleshooting are possible anywhere, anytime! Remote Client users can perform tasks without interfering with normal operation of the batching system. Data records can be created, updated, or deleted for customers, mixes, other products, pricing, orders, and etc. Plant automation can be modified including bin tuning, discharge tuning, and device sequencing/material blending. Troubleshooting of issues can occur using built-in tools such as Weigh-Up or Discharge Diagnostics, Sequence Tracer, Custom Equation Monitor, or Ticket Format Helper. Most reports can be previewed or printed remotely. With the addition of remote batching hardware and software, these additional clients can perform Remote Batching.

With the Remote Client and Mix Manager features used together, Quality Control personnel can update mix designs remotely and distribute them enterprise wide with a click of the mouse.

The Mix Manager screen allows a group of mixes to be selected by a filter such as “Find all mixes starting with 250". With a few clicks these mixes can have a material quantity adjustment (add or remove) or material substituted.

Plant Performance Graphs help you determine why a load took too long to complete or why it was out of tolerance. The Load Times Graph shows Weigh-Up and Discharge times for each load. A Deviations Graph shows tolerance information for each material batched. You can right-click on a load code and select “Productivity” to display Drop Times for each material.

COMMANDbatch comes equipped with standardized reporting procedures common to all ready-mixed concrete plants. Standard Reports include: Yards Per Driver Hour, Consolidated Order, Ticket Summary, Materials Inventory, Tickets by Customer Summary, as well as many others. Many reports can be exported into Microsoft Excel for further analysis.
**COMMANDbatch**

**Administration & Integration**

With **Auto Archive**, COMMANDbatch is capable of completing critical daily database maintenance “Behind the Scenes” throughout the business day, reducing the time required to perform end-of-business daily routines. Auto-Archive moves your valuable batching related data from the active to an archive database, allowing the system to operate at peak performance, while giving you the confidence that all of your batching records are permanently stored for access at a later date. Auto-Archive eliminates the need to maintain and manage paper tickets, as archived tickets can be previewed and reprinted.

**Auto Purge** maintains optimal system performance by purging obsolete information to manage the size of the database. Further, this minimizes the amount of storage required for long-term data backup.

With **Auto Backup** enabled, COMMANDbatch will automatically create a local and redundant off-site backup of your database files every 24 hours. This feature will ensure that an up-to-date system backup can be used during the disaster recovery process. COMMANDbatch Auto Backup will ensure that business critical information, such as plant configuration, batching history, materials, mix designs, customers, and orders can be easily recovered, resulting in minimal plant down time and data loss.

**Features**

**Automatic Plant Control:**
- 4-6 Aggregates, 3 Cements, 2 Waters (metered), 8 Admixes (metered) - (model RM200)
- Additional Material and Scale Controls**
- Multi-batch and Freewheel Batching Control
- Truck Charge Rate Adjustable On-The-Fly
- High Speed Weigh-Up Algorithm for Fast Plant Performance
- Automatic Scale Tolerance Checking
- Automatic Bin Switching
- Automatic Bin/Silo Vibrator Control
- Scale Rate of Discharge
- Scale Flow Control Dampening
- Continuous Batching / Continuous Discharge
- Communication with PLC Devices to Extend Reach of The System
- Central Mix Control**
- Temperature Gun/Probe Interface**
- Density Meter Interface**
- Stage Certification Package (NY, CA, NJ, MN)**
- Other Optional Automatic Plant Controls including: Blower, Plant Dust Collector, Silo Shaker, Spray Bar, Conveyor Controls, Mixer Controls, Telescopic Boot, Recirculating Screw, Live Bottom Batcher, Dual Aggregate Discharge Gates, Bin Lamps, and Switches**

**Remote Batch:**
- Soft Manual Station (SMS)
- Remote Batching and Mix Design Changes**
- Second Client Access**

**Operator Controls:**
- Audible Notification Alerts
- On-Hand Inventory Available At-a-Glance
- Low Inventory Notification to Prevent Load Start
- Discharge, Weigh-Up, and Sequence Diagnostics
- Training Mode, Online Help, Operator Manuals
- 17” or 19”** Flat Screen Monitor(s)
- Dust Proof Enclosure**

**Plant Interlocks:**
- Over/Under Tolerance Interlocks
- Scale Zero and Bottle Empty Interlocks
- Admix Pulse (Dual) Meter Crosscheck
- Scale Motion Detection

**Mix Design Control:**
- Mix Design Management
- Admix Designs (Mix Modifiers)
- Stump Tables
- Allowable Water Feature
- Slurry Compensation**

**Recordation:**
- Batch Weights Printing
- Manual Material Monitor Report
- Bar Code Printing**
- Dot Matrix Printer, Laser Report Printer**

**Quality Control:**
- Material Blending Sequence by Mix Type
- Remote Access for Plant Monitoring and Tune Up
- Plant Performance Graphs
- Plant Watcher Automatic Notification System**
- Moisture Probe Support**
- Auto Consistency Slump Control**

**Order Management:**
- Order Entry**
- Third-Party Dispatch one-way Interface**
- COMMANDConcrete two-way Interface**

**Plant Management:**
- Truck Callboard Interface**

**Administration & Integration:**
- User Permissions for Configuration/Editing
- Recordation/Logs of Changes
- Auto Archive, Auto Purge, and Auto Backup
- Ticket and Material Records Export Utilities
- Microsoft Vista, XP, SQL Server Compatible
- Enterprise Content Management Option for Electronic Access to Tickets/Batchweight Files**
- Custom Format Ticket File Export**
- Multi-Plant Support**
- Multi-Company Support**
- QuickBooks Interface**

**Maintenance:**
- Remote Diagnostics and Troubleshooting
- COMMANDAssist Automated Remote Assistant
- Maintenance Scheduling Feature
- Expendable Parts Kit and Plant Wiring Diagrams
- One Year Batch System and Software Priority One Support

**Access rights** can be defined for different classes of users to ensure business processes are enforced and that sensitive information is protected.

**Ticket output** generated by the batching process can be automatically saved in a text or PDF document and stored on a server. When combined with Command Aikon’s **Enterprise Content Management (ECM)** the ticket information, including actual batch-weights, are easily accessible by batching, dispatching, and back office personnel.

**Denotes Optional Feature**

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**Ticket Types:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ticket Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Auto-Purge</td>
<td>Automatically created local and redundant off-site backup of database files every 24 hours.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auto-Backup</td>
<td>Automatically creates a local and redundant off-site backup of database files every 24 hours.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Access Rights:**

- Read/Write
- Read-Only
- No Access

**Support:**

- One Year Batch System and Software Priority One
- Expendable Parts Kit and Plant Wiring Diagrams
- Remote Diagnostics and Troubleshooting

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**www.commandalkon.com**
COMMANDbatch is the industry leading plant automation solution. COMMANDbatch delivers superb plant performance while being very simple to use.

Select tickets and fine-tune batches before they are started. Prepare the next load and change settings on-the-fly, all from the same screen. Standard reports are included so you can monitor inventory, material usage, and general lists of orders, tickets, and mix designs. Reports can be created and customized to fit your specific business needs or exported to Microsoft Excel for further evaluation.

Animated graphics show plant equipment weighing up and delivering material to the truck or mixer in real-time.

COMMANDbatch makes concrete production easier and saves your company money.

Make sure your staff know how to get the most out of the COMMANDbatch system. Command Alkon Training ensures that your staff is fully utilizing the purchased software and hardware features. Our training services include a well-designed curriculum of offerings both on-site and in our Learning Centers, as well as customized courses.

**Training at Installation**
Upon installation of your COMMANDbatch system, our batch support specialist will provide your operators with an introduction to COMMANDbatch and basic system operations.

**Follow Up Training**
Does your staff remember all of the options and flexibility available in the COMMANDbatch software? Most users experience only 30% retention during any training session, so employees can always benefit from refresher training. Plus, after your employees have been using our products for a while, they will have questions involving situations they have experienced and will better understand what they need to know to do their job well.

**New Employee Training**
Turnover is a reality in any industry. Command Alkon training for new employees allows them to receive the same benefits that were gained during the initial installation of your system. Training helps new employees to learn their jobs faster and to quickly contribute to your overall profitability.

**Plant Site Training**
Have no time to allocate for employees being away from the job for formal training? Command Alkon can schedule a batch support specialist on-site to perform user training during normal operations on basic operational functions and assist with plant performance issues.

**Customized Courses**
Our training staff can work with your team to design and execute a training course or entire curriculum that is tailored to the specific needs of your business and operations. This training can even include the use of a training copy of your existing database.

Visit us online at [www.commandalkon.com/training.asp](http://www.commandalkon.com/training.asp) to review course descriptions, training schedules, training rates, and methods to register.

"COMMANDbatch is accurate, reliable, and easy-to-use. There’s lots of information that can be determined at a glance. Our batch personnel can adjust mixes and materials on-the-fly and they know immediately when something is out of tolerance. With COMMANDbatch there’s no more guesswork."

Billy Carroll
imi-Tennessee
Conversions for AC2000, Eagle, and Spectrum to COMMANDbatch

Command Alkon is committed to extending the life of your investment. A modern, state-of-the-art batching system can be had for significantly less money and time than the “rip and replace” method using a migration pathway to COMMANDbatch. As Command Alkon continues to advance the technology and capabilities of COMMANDbatch, your company, through software upgrades, will be assured of keeping pace with future changes.

What types of systems are eligible for conversion to COMMANDbatch?

Those summarized below are eligible. Note that if you have maintained a Priority One Support Agreement on one of these Command Alkon batch controls, a discount is offered on the conversion to COMMANDbatch.

**Spectrum, Sprint I**
- **Hardware**: Spectrum, Sprint I
- **Software**: Version 6, Version 4

**AC2000**
- **Hardware**: AC2000
- **Software**: Version 2

**Eagle, Eagle Plus, Eagle Jr., Enhanced Eagle, Enhanced Eagle Jr.**
- **Software**: Level 8, Level 7, Level 6, Level 5, Level 1
- **Hardware**: Version 4

**EZ-Cal**
- **Software**: Version 6, Version 4
- **Hardware**: Version 6, Version 4

Am I required to replace all of my hardware?

No. Unnecessary components will be replaced with a single ‘plug compatible’ component, along with a new PC. In most cases, there are no changes to any plant wiring.

Can I add on extras that my current system does not have?

Yes. Any additional features and capabilities of COMMANDbatch can be included as part of the conversion. These features include items such as COMMANDassist, Remote Batching and Remote Client, Plant Watcher, Dispatch, Multiple Plant Setup, and more . . .

Do I need COMMANDbatch attached to a Network?

No. While COMMANDbatch does require a network connection between the operator PC and the system controls, connection to an office business network is not required. However, if you wish to take advantage of features such as COMMANDassist or Plant Watcher then a connection to the Internet is required.

What is the migration process?

Prior to conversion, Command Alkon requests a copy of the existing system data to prepare for the conversion. Our personnel will ensure that existing plant information (materials, mix designs, etc.) are converted and installed on the new operator PC before shipment. Command Alkon will prepare batch personnel for training by ensuring that they have the knowledge and skills needed to operate in a Windows environment. Once these preparations are made the conversion can be scheduled. The actual conversion includes installation of new hardware; set up of LAN connections; configuration of incoming links, remote client access and any new options; plus execution of test material drops. The Batch Support Specialist will also provide an introduction to COMMANDbatch Basic System Operations and assist with plant startup and performance tuning.

“We have converted four existing Spectrums to COMMANDbatch. With Command Alkon’s attention to preserving existing investments, the process was straightforward and cost effective. With these plants now converted to COMMANDbatch, we are using the advanced capabilities of this system, such as Remote Batching, to be more efficient and lower costs more than ever before.”

Rob Hawn
All Ohio Ready Mix Concrete

3,500+ COMMANDbatch systems in operation around the world.
10,000+ Command Alkon Moisture Probes in use at ready-mixed plants worldwide.
200+ Automatic Bin Fill Systems in use at plants around the world.
Ready-Mixed Concrete Plant Automation

Command Alkon is proud to provide quality batch control systems and plant automation products that lead the industry in innovation and reliability.

COMMANDbatch
Plant Watcher
Precision Water System
Command Alkon Moisture Probe
COMMANDcallboard
Automatic Bin Fill System

COMMANDbatch is one component of an integrated suite of enterprise ready products offered by Command Alkon. Our goal is to enable the enterprise wide integration of systems to reduce or eliminate information and reporting gaps, render “double entry” of unnecessary information, aim for completely paperless transactions, and capture all billing and production data automatically. We do this all the while ensuring that key personnel are always up-to-date on the company’s operation.

Automatic Bin Fill System

provides a fast, automated, and cost-effective way to get materials from underground storage bunkers into overhead bins.

The system’s standard controls permit automatic monitoring and replenishment for up to six bins. The system allows priority-first replenishment if materials from one underground storage bunker are required more often than others.

The system is designed to:

- determine the need for a material
- rotate the turnhead or shuttle conveyor into the correct position
- turn on the feed belts as needed
- open the correct feed gate on the underground storage silo
- monitor the process until filling is complete

As the system sequences from one material to the next the Automatic Bin Fill system will:

- close the gate in use on the underground storage
- determine the turnhead positioning delay
- open the feed gate for the next material while ensuring the proper belt delay to prevent cross contamination of material bins

Any or all materials can be manually overridden at any time. An alarm indicator alerts the user to plant malfunctions. The emergency stop button halts all related plant motion in the event of a belt break or other hazard.

“Command Alkon’s Automatic Bin Fill System fulfills a critical role within Florida Rock’s Ready Mix production operations. The Automatic Bin Fill System consistently and reliably ensures the right materials are always available in the plant to meet our production needs. We own seven of them; more are sure to follow in the future.”

Terry Smith
Florida Rock Industries

Benefits of Automatic Bin Fill System

- Automates bin replenishment, allowing staff to concentrate on more important and time critical operations in the plant
- “Keep Full” ensures the batch plant bins remain full, preventing production delays
Benefits Summary
Why COMMANDbatch?

Quality You Can Count On
Superior Productivity & Performance
Advanced Administration & Integration
Remote Plant Monitoring & Tune Up
Remote Diagnostics & Troubleshooting
Remote Batching & Mix Design Changes
Migration Paths from Legacy Systems

Benefits of COMMANDbatch
- Automatic notification of batch "out of tolerance" with Plant Watcher, protects against out of specification loads from reaching the job site
- COMMANDbatch Freewheeling maximizes plant productivity and gets the first round in the morning out in less time
- Admix Designs (mix modifiers) reduce errors and QC mix maintenance time
- Remote Batching allows low volume plants to operate cost effectively
- Automated Remote Assistance, including online technician chat, keeps plant downtime to a minimum
- Early identification of plant batching issues or trends with Plant Performance Graphs
- Save time and reduce data entry errors by using the Mix Manager to adjust a large number of mixes at the same time
- Automatic data archiving and backup reduces plant shutdown tasks and time while safeguarding data
- Available with Precision Water System for precise water management

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