Fast-Tube 3.0: The Future of Concrete Column Forms

A lightweight, waterproof fabric with ultra-low stretch.

What is Fast-Tube® "3.0"? The Problem… the Solution



Fast-Tube® is manufactured from a high density polyethylene fabric. However, under high concrete pressure, at the bottom of the column, the fabric stretches.

In November 2021, Fab-Form and Hagihara Industries, Japan, entered into a Fabric Development Agreement with the purpose of developing an all new fabric with a very high modulus so that stretching would be minimized.

In June of2026, Fab-Form received samples from Hagihara which achieved the specifications we were looking for. Hagihara is now producing larger samples for our testing.

Advantages of "3.0 Fabric"

Hagihara's new fabric is uncoated. This means that any excess water in the concrete will bleed out through the fabric scrim with the following advantages:

1. The concrete goes 'hard' in about 12 minutes. The excess water leaves the mix, so that the concrete behaves like a sandcastle. Forms can be poured faster and safer.
2. Excess water in the concrete mix leads to a weak concrete. Our testing of using uncoated fabric resulted in concrete that was 12 to 15% stronger in compressive strength. This is significant.
3. As the coating is about 40% of the weight of the fabric, using an uncoated fabric will reduce the fabric costs significantly.
4. The current fabric is manufactured into a tube by heat welding the coating of the fabric. So, the strength of the weld is only as good as the bond between the coating and the scrim. The new fabric eliminates this risk as we will be gluing the scrim to itself using a special auger to inject the adhesive between the overlap.
5. The modulus of elasticity is significantly higher than our current fabric thereby ensuring that the larger commercial tubes have minimal stretch.