There is no "standard" for the amount of emulsion in a "semi". The amount varies from adobe yard to adobe yard and is up to the judgement of the *adobero*. It might be 2% by weight or maybe 3%. So, the amount of emulsion in a "semi" varies and is there to protect the adobe maker from loss, which also protects you from loss.

A stack of "semi's" might be O.K. for a few light rain storms, but don't count on semi-stabilized Adobes to hold up to heavy rains or submersion in mud puddles. By code, a "semi" is not considered to be truly stabilized and finished walls should be protected.

2. **Fully-stabilized Adobe** (and mud mortar). Provides water protection through the life of the structure. Does not have to be covered when stabilized to code. A fully stabilized Adobe must meet the code requirement for this category of earthen material. This requirement is called out in the New Mexico code under **14.7.4.10 Classes of Adobe.**

14.7.4.10 Paragraph **A.** says:

The term "stabilized" is defined to mean water-resistant adobe made of soil to which certain admixtures are added in the manufacturing process in order to limit water absorption into the adobe. Exterior walls constructed of stabilized adobe and mortar requires no additional protection. Cement stucco or other waterproof coating is not required. The test required is that a dried four (4) inch cube cut from a sample unit shall not gain more than 2.5% in weight when placed upon a constantly water-saturated porous surface for seven (7) days. An adobe unit that meets this specification shall be considered "stabilized".

Going through a typical stabilization procedure: