

QUALITY CONTROL FOR CONCRETE PRODUCERS

By Gordon Leaman, P. Eng.

Members of APRMCA's Technical Committee working with the New Brunswick producer members have developed a concrete quality control program for use by producer members.

The draft end result specification for concrete construction proposed by New Brunswick's Department of Transportation required concrete be produced and delivered under an industry recognized quality control program. APRMCA's Concrete Production Facilities Certification Program is the basis for the quality concrete control program to ensure producer members have the ability and equipment to produce concrete.

The concrete quality control program also incorporates the Concrete Mix Data Submission Form developed by the Canadian Ready Mixed Concrete Association (CRMCA) and the Canadian Construction Association. The Concrete Mix Data Submission Form summarizes all of the specified properties of the concrete, confirming the ready mixed concrete producer understands the specified properties and will produce the concrete to meet these requirements.

By using the form, the ready mixed concrete producer protects the intellectual property and investment made in their concrete mixture designs. The form contains a usage guide that explains the intent or impact of the information provided. For the purposes of the APRMCA concrete quality control program,

the Mix Data Submission Form was further edited to suit our needs in Atlantic Canada. These changes were recently ratified by CRMCA during their Fall meeting October 20 in Kelowna, B.C.

The program identifies the construction team members and establishes the roles and responsibilities of the construction team. Depending on the project requirements, the program identifies the items required for submission, including the Concrete Mix Data Submission Form, defines the qualification of concrete testing personnel, testing procedures for acceptance of the concrete, the tests required and the distribution of test results.

The concrete quality control program includes a guide for a preconstruction conference so that the roles and responsibilities of the construction team members are discussed and issues are resolved prior to construction. The concrete quality control plan requires the general contractor to sign off on the plan to further gain acceptance of the process to be implemented by the ready mixed concrete producer.

While the concrete quality control program was developed to address a specific issue with a specifying authority, it could be generically applied to any project where a quality control plan is required. Of course, not all projects require a quality control plan, but when required, the intent of the APRMCA quality control plan is to guide the producer member through the process so the appropriate measures are established and implement-

ed to suit the project requirements.

It should be noted the concrete quality control program refers to the manufacture and delivery of ready mixed concrete and will form only part of a contractor's more comprehensive project quality control plan.

The Concrete Quality Control Plan will be available in the Member's Only section of APRMCA's Web site at www.aprmca.com.

Gordon Leaman, P. Eng., is a senior materials engineer with Jacques Whitford Limited, Dartmouth, N.S. He's an experienced concrete

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The Canadian Ready Mixed Concrete Association met in Kelowna, B.C. on Okanagan Lake from October 20 to 21, 2006. All member associations were well represented for discussions about national standards, advocacy and education programs and marketing initiatives. In attendance were (l to r): Dale Dennis, RMCAO; Ed Kalis, ARMCA; Ron Schimpf, President, CRMCA; Wally Rooke, MRMCA; Pierre Boucher, President, Cement Association of Canada; John Hull, RMCAO; Manuel Sousa, RMCAO; Andy Suurallik, ARMCA; Sharon Daly, CAC; Julien Halde, ABQ; Irv Lenz, BCMCA; Carolyn Campbell, BCMCA; Darryl Rempel, MRMCA; Louis Carol Duchesne, ABQ; Ken Nichols, SRMCA; Bob Callander, SRMCA; Joe Dubovsky, ARMCA; John Connely, APRMCA.

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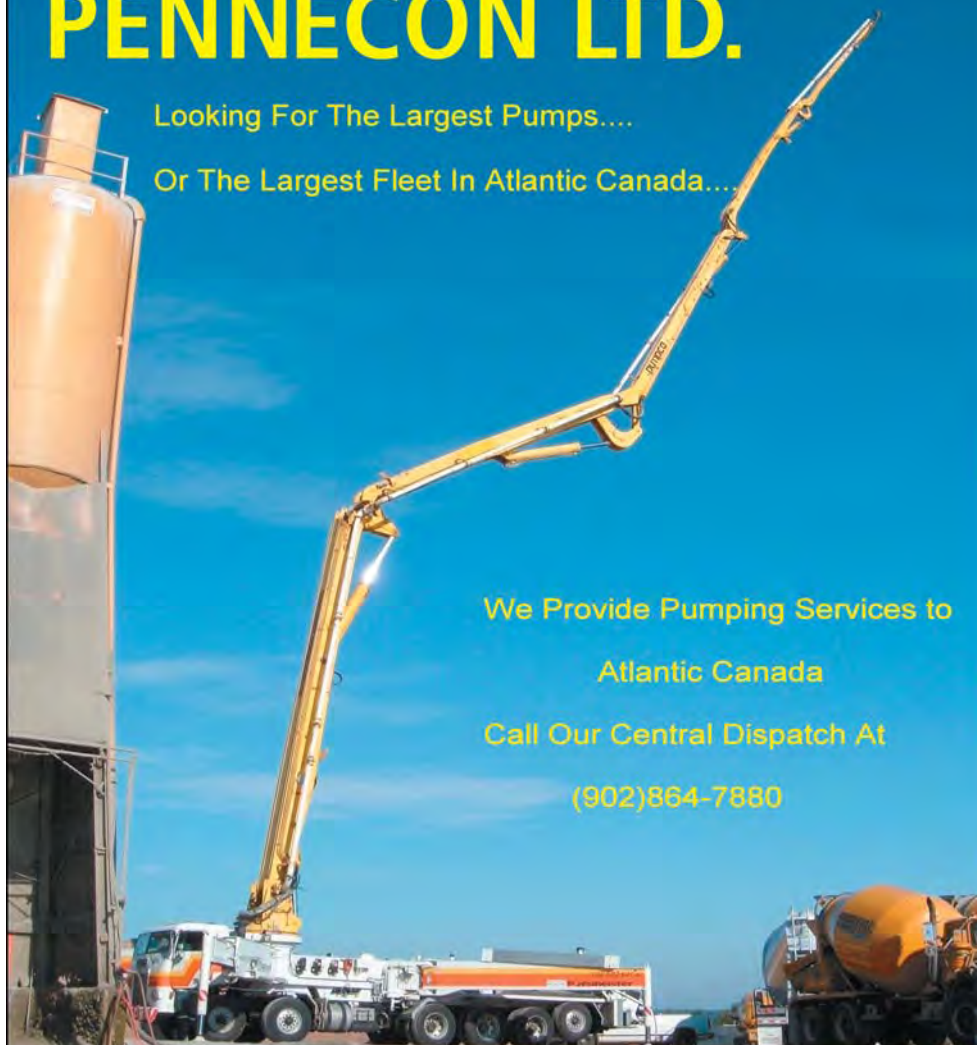
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