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Position Statement – Concrete Field Testing

The Canadian Ready-Mixed Concrete Association (CRMCA) recognizes that the inspection and testing of concrete are an integral part of concrete construction industry. The concrete production industry across Canada views itself as a partner with the concrete inspection and testing industry. Continued high standards in the concrete industry also require high standards associated with concrete inspection and testing.

The proper testing of concrete, following CSA A23.1 and A23.2 Standards and Test Methods, is necessary to provide an accurate assessment of the product's expected performance and safety. The results from proper concrete testing are also the primary indicator of the quality of an installation.

If concrete testing is performed with strict adherence to the conformance standards, the benefits to the consumer go far beyond the initial cost of the service contracted from the inspection and testing agency. Properly executed, concrete inspection and testing services ensure competitive pricing for the product that meets the needs of the project under construction. The employment by the concrete consumer of a certified, industry endorsed, independent inspection and testing agency will assure the consumers return on investment and concrete quality.

CRMCA also recognizes that a portion of the concrete inspection and testing performed in Canada is not in conformance with CSA A23.1/.2. This substandard concrete inspection and testing causes a significant negative impact on the concrete construction industry.

Those concrete inspection and testing service providers that do not strictly adhere to the industry standards result in costs to the construction industry which are unnecessary, and ultimately could reduce the competitiveness of concrete as a construction material.

When the effects of improper inspection and testing are quantified, the amount calculated as losses to the project are staggering.

When concrete testing is performed properly the ramifications to the cost of the project and to the ready mixed concrete producer are extensive:

- ❖ *The need for product over-design to account for improper testing is not required ,*
- ❖ *The need for additional comparison/companion tests in order to discount or disprove erroneous test results is not required,*
- ❖ *The need for additional labour expended visiting job sites to review and debate occurrences of improperly reported test results is not required,*
- ❖ *Savings of time and material costs for potentially unnecessary product removal and replacement,*
- ❖ *Reduced costs for after-the-fact verification tests (drilling cores, laboratory testing and analysis, consulting, etc.),*
- ❖ *Reduced costs associated to delayed trades and schedule,*
- ❖ *On time financing/payments,*
- ❖ *On time project completion,*
- ❖ *Reputations are undamaged,*
- ❖ *No potential ill effects on future project bidding, bonding, and funding, and,*
- ❖ *Elimination of litigation costs.*

In the interest of preserving the cost competitiveness of our industry, and in support of a continued increase in the standard of concrete production in Canada, CRMCA will work strongly to support and promote the concrete inspection and testing industry in Canada. However, CRMCA will support only those agencies performing these services in strict accordance with the applicable standards and test methods. The members of CRMCA have agreed to work to remove the variables related to poor quality inspection and testing of concrete construction. Members of the concrete supply industry are taking this position in an attempt to strengthen their business. CRMCA wants to demonstrate support to the many concrete inspection and testing agencies across the country who strive continually to improve the standard of their industry and work in partnership with the ready mixed concrete industry toward the improvement of the concrete construction industry as a whole.

CRMCA is fully in support of efforts to improve the practice of concrete inspection and testing thereby positively influencing the quality of the concrete producer's product and cost of construction. To that end, the provincial and regional ready mixed concrete associations across Canada will seek to develop and propose solutions to improve the current situation.

CRMCA expects support from all of the key stakeholders who understand that this effort will have very measurable benefits to the construction industry.