

Qualification of Plant Inspectors

The NRMCA Plant Inspector's Guide

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With funding support from the RMC Research & Education Foundation, NRMCA has developed the Plant Inspector's Guide, a useful resource for inspecting engineers, their assistants and the companies requesting plant inspections.

The NRMCA Plant and Truck Certification program has been administered for more than 40 years. It serves as an independent audit of a ready mixed concrete production facility – both plants and delivery vehicles – verifying that they conform to industry standards. It assures both the purchaser and producer of ready mixed concrete that one important part of a quality system is in place.

There is a distribution of responsibilities for the NRMCA Plant Certification Program:

- The NRMCA Research Engineering and Standards (RES) Committee maintains the inspection checklist, with periodic technical revisions and policy decisions, subsequently approved by the NRMCA Board of Directors.
- The company hires a licensed engineer to conduct the inspection.
- A responsible official of the company signs an agreement to maintain the facility in conformance for the period of certification – primarily with respect to the accuracy of batching devices.
- NRMCA verifies the inspection submissions and issues certification cards for delivery vehicles and a Certificate of Conformance for the production facility.

Up until 2007, NRMCA did not have a formal approval process for persons conducting inspections. It was presumed that licensed engineers would abide by their professional code of ethics to perform work they felt qualified to do. That assumption does not change; however, a more formal qualification process has been instituted starting in 2008.

The guide addresses each item of the plant certification checklist by discussing the intent, illustrating with images and providing numerical examples where necessary.

The following applies to inspecting engineers:

- They need to possess a current license in the jurisdiction where the plant is located.
- They can be employed by the company requesting certification.
- They can use an assistant under their employ to conduct the inspection with their final review and signoff.

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Foundation, NRMCA has developed the Plant Inspector's Guide, a useful resource for inspecting engineers, their assistants and the companies requesting plant inspections. The guide addresses each item of the plant certification checklist by discussing the intent, illustrating with images and providing numerical examples where necessary. It provides hints to the inspecting engineer on what to look for when inspecting specific items in a concrete plant or delivery vehicle. The guide establishes clarity in intent for the inspection program and facilitates uniformed understanding of expectations for both the inspector and the ready mixed concrete producer. The guide has been authored by D. Gene Daniel, who previously chaired the NRMCA Plant Certification Task Group and is a longtime member of the ASTM subcommittee responsible for ASTM C 94, Specification for Ready Mixed Concrete.

With the availability of the guide, the current policy requires all inspectors and their assistants who perform inspections to obtain a copy of the Plant Inspector's Guide, complete a set of 50 review questions related to the information in the guide and obtain a score of at least 75%. They need to submit a statement of qualifications and sign a pledge to conduct inspections and maintain the integrity of the NRMCA certification program. Persons who complete this process will be approved to conduct inspections of concrete production facilities for the NRMCA certification program.

The goal of the RES Committee in developing these qualification requirements for inspecting personnel is to enhance the value and credibility of the certification program. More details on the NRMCA certification program for ready mixed concrete production facilities is available on the NRMCA Web site at www.nrmca.org/products/certification/plantandtruck.asp. ■



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