**Performance – Based Specifications – State of the Industry and Way Forward**

This presentation was developed by the Research Engineering and Standards Committee of the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association (NRMCA). It discusses the general concept and benefits of minimizing prescription and incorporating performance-based alternatives for concrete mixtures in project specifications. Obstacles to performance-based specifications and available resources will be discussed. The primary focus of the presentation is on specific prescriptive items most commonly found in actual specifications; real or perceived basis for the requirement; possible problems caused by these requirements; suggested alternatives; and benefits of these alternatives. These suggestions are consistent with industry standards like ACI 318 and ACI 301. These items are also summarized in informational Specification in Practice (SIP) topics (optional: that will be provided to attendees).

The learning objectives of the presentation are:

1. Relate requirements in project specifications to industry standards
2. Understand the benefits of performance-based alternatives that can better assure improved fresh and hardened concrete performance
3. Evolve design office specifications to reduced prescription with alternative performance-based requirements
4. Recognize the synergy between performance-based specifications and quality, sustainability and cost

Presentation length can be modified to between 30 min and 1 hour.