

Concrete as an Essential Construction Material

Construction Identified as an Essential Service

Concrete Ontario is pleased to report that the Provincial Government shares our position that construction is an essential service in the province of Ontario, and that **the concrete industry is a critical supplier of raw materials to the construction industry**. Concrete is the most used construction material in the world, and the majority of construction in Ontario depends on cement and concrete. As a local product, our industry provides local jobs that support families across our province.

In reviewing the province's list of essential services, these are the main items that affect our industry.

List of Essential Workplaces

Manufacturing and production

- **Item 19** – Businesses that extract, manufacture, process and distribute goods, products, equipment and materials, including businesses that manufacture inputs to other manufacturers (e.g. primary metal/ steel, blow molding, component manufacturers, chemicals, etc. that feed the end-product manufacturer);
- **Item 20** – Businesses, facilities and services that support and facilitate the two-way movement of essential goods within integrated North American and Global supply chains.

Construction

- **Item 26** – Construction projects and services associated with the healthcare sector, including new facilities, expansions, renovations and conversion of spaces that could be repurposed for health care space;
- **Item 27** – Construction projects and services required to ensure safe and reliable operations of critical provincial infrastructure, including transit, transportation, energy and justice sectors beyond the day-to-day maintenance;
- **Item 28** – Construction work and services, including demolition services, in the industrial, commercial, institutional and residential sectors;
- **Item 29** – Construction work and services that supports health and safety environmental rehabilitation projects.

Resources

- **Item 35** – Businesses that ensure global continuity of supply of mining materials and products (e.g. metals such as copper, nickel and gold) and that support supply chains in Northern Ontario including:
 - a. Mining operations, production and processing;
 - b. Mineral exploration and development;
 - c. Mining Supply and Services that support supply chains in the mining industry including maintenance of operations, health and safety.
- **Item 38** – Businesses that ensure global continuity of supply of aggregates to support critical infrastructure repairs and emergency response requirements (e.g. sandbags, armour stone barriers, etc.);

In reviewing this list, most of the construction activities that our industry supports have been identified as essential services. Therefore, the concrete industry can remain operational in order to continue to supply the identified construction activities.

The critical aspect for both the concrete and construction industry remains providing a safe work environment for our employees, which the Concrete Ontario Safety Committee feels can be achieved with the implementation of additional safety protocols and adjusting some of our day-to-day industry practices (see Concrete Ontario's safety bulletin [SM-061](#))

[COVID-19 Best Practices](#)).

These safety practices include:

- Allowing non-essential support staff to work from home wherever possible
- Maintaining social distancing requirements of 2 metres and implementing workspace disinfection protocols on a daily basis
- Avoiding unnecessary customer site visits and utilizing technology for construction meetings wherever possible (conference calls and video conferencing)
- Minimizing the number of people that can access the batching office
- Moving to electronic records for all raw material deliveries
- Ensuring that drivers minimize their exposure on jobsites and remain in the cab of the vehicle when not unloading concrete
- Moving to electronic ticketing for concrete deliveries and eliminating the need for the signing of concrete delivery tickets by customers to minimize potential contamination touch points
- Ensuring that the only person that touches the concrete truck controls and water dispensing system is the driver
- Assisting concrete contractors and testing companies by cleaning their tools or equipment without directly touching these items

Over the upcoming two weeks, Concrete Ontario will be holding conference calls with our Regional Industry Councils (RICs) to discuss the specific challenges that exist in the various regions around the province, and the steps that the industry can take together to ensure that concrete construction continues to be conducted in a safe and responsible manner.

We will continue to closely monitor the situation and operate responsibly, adjust quickly and as needed, all with the health and safety of our employees, the public and clients top of mind.

Everyone stay healthy and safe!

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