



Safetymatters



SM-069 May 21, 2020

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Plant Certification Extended Audit Deadline

Concrete Ontario previously extended the deadline for full audits due over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic to June 1, 2020, in order to avoid plant visits and help slow the spread of the virus. Full audits are defined as the audits requiring a third-party engineer to visit the plant and conduct a full inspection of the facility and selected ready mixed concrete trucks. The audit process is crucial to the continued operation of Ontario's ready mixed concrete industry, which supplies construction projects across the province. The Ontario Provincial Specifications and Standards (OPSS) requires all concrete plants in the province supplying concrete to the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario (MTO) and the local municipalities to have a valid **Certificate of Ready Mixed Concrete Production Facilities**, as outlined in **OPSS 1350 Clause 1350.04.02.03**. Therefore, it is critical that concrete plant audits and the certification process continue during this period.

Despite the Stage 1 reopening of the province starting May 19, 2020, the Ontario Government has extended the Province's Declaration of Emergency to June 2, 2020. As our extended **Plant Certification Full Audit deadline of June 1, 2020** quickly approaches, Concrete Ontario has reached out to the MTO requesting a second extension to July 2, 2020. Although the MTO acknowledges the issues and concerns raised by the Association and is aware of the Association's position that plant audits should be postponed until the declaration of emergency is lifted, the MTO has not formally agreed to our request. Without an official endorsement from the MTO, Concrete Ontario is unable issue a second extension to the certification program.

Please note that there are extremely significant consequences to supplying concrete to an MTO project from a concrete plant that does not have a valid Certificate of Ready Mixed Concrete Production Facilities, including removal and replacement of the poured concrete. All members are strongly encouraged to review their plant certification status and immediately advise their customers if they are unable to supply concrete to these projects as of June 2, 2020.

As all construction in Ontario has been given the green light to resume, the third party Approved Auditors and scale service companies are essential services necessary for the ready mixed concrete industry to operate. Public Health measures and company-specific health and safety protocols must be followed while conducting plant audits and scale calibration services during the continued outbreak. These measures are required to protect the health and safety of auditors, scale technicians and plant personnel.

Concrete Ontario has sent a letter to all Approved Auditors regarding the new health and safety measures that must be employed while visiting concrete plants to conduct audits. These include heightened workplace health and safety protocols, and additional personal protective equipment (PPE) based on member's company-specific health and safety policies. The association recommended that the following additional PPE to be utilized by the auditors and should be worn throughout the plant visit:

- Cloth masks/face coverings
- Safety glasses or full-face shields
- Disposable nitrile gloves

The association also recommends the following:

Plant Staff

- Email all the necessary certification documents to the auditor for review prior to the plant visit.
- Eliminate the practice of transmitting paper records during the plant audit. All supporting documentation should be sent electronically.
- If you require an electronic copy of the plant Audit and Checklist, please reach out to the association and we will provide you with a plant-specific PDF document. Any paper versions of the checklist used during the inspection should be treated as potentially contaminated articles and should not be distributed.
- Supply auditors with necessary disinfecting materials to allow them to wipe down any high contact areas that might be touched during the audit, such as doors and ladders.
- Additional safety measures should be implemented for the auditor to access the concrete batch office during operation to observe the loading process. The batcher can communicate with the auditor via telephone prior to the inspection to indicate the type of information that will be required, and to review the safety protocols that the batcher must uphold during the inspection.

Auditing Engineers

- Auditors are encouraged to submit the completed audit and checklist forms electronically to Concrete Ontario.
- Disinfect the ladder and access platform of audited trucks, before and after the inspection.
- Ensuring that all drivers and site personnel remain at least 2 metres away during the audit process.
- Communicate any deficiencies electronically or in person while maintaining physical distancing measures.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the Approved Quality Program (AQP), please do not hesitate to reach out to [Oliver Xiao](#) or [Camille Richer](#).

Thank you all for your commitment to safety as we navigate these challenging times.

Concrete Ontario Health & Safety Committee

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