Amid the many great sessions offered at the Annual Conference this year there are three on topics you should be particularly aware of. Though they’re very different in substance, they’re all either having, or will soon have, a significant impact on our industry.

First is a seminar on OSHA’s new Silica Final Rule. Employers under construction have until June 23, 2017 to comply. Respirable crystalline silica is generated by operations like cutting, sawing, grinding, drilling and breaking concrete, rock, brick and block, exactly what many of you do every day. OSHA states the new rule is necessary because the current permissible exposure limit (PEL) is outdated, inconsistent and inadequate. In the new rule, the PEL has been reduced by half, from 100 to 50 micrograms per cubic meter of air as an 8-hr time weighted average. The final PEL is causing great concern in the industry simply because it seems to be beyond the capacities of existing dust filtration and removal technology. Other provisions to be aware of are written exposure control plans, competent person designation, housekeeping practices and the requirement of medical examinations.

Second, is a presentation on the “Wood First” Initiative, a strong movement in a number of states to legislate and market the use of wood over other building materials for state funded projects. This has been most notable in the mid-rise market segment where concrete’s share deteriorated from 30% in 2004 to 22% in 2014, while wood’s share increased from 23% to 40% during the same period. If you’re curious, commercial and multi-family residential market segments comprise 40% of all ready mixed concrete consumption, roughly 130 mil. cy based on 2014 NRMCA production data. The wood industry has been spending $18-20M/annually on marketing for several years. NRMCA is attempting to regain lost market share through its “Build With Strength” campaign, but at a significantly lower level of investment - $4M/year.

Last, but not least, there will be a seminar on new ways of measuring floor tolerances, 3D laser planners measuring at every stage, from initial design to final inspection. Contractors are...
quickly moving away from the traditional time and labor intensive methods of measuring slab flatness/levelness to laser scanning, the way to collect rich, complete and highly accurate as-built data. This data validates existing building documentation to ensure that new construction matches the as-designed model and minimizes the risk of change orders.

And much more! Please join us in Bloomington, MN (Minneapolis), Sept. 15-18, for ASCC’s Annual Conference 2016!

Did You Know...

Sometimes we take products we use everyday for granted without questioning their origin. For years I utilized and sold iron oxide pigments, knowing only a couple facts about them. They colored concrete well, and they made our warehouse very messy. What I did not know, was that these are the same pigments used to color toner, plastic toys, pharmaceuticals, and even my wife’s cosmetics.

Synthetic iron oxides start primarily as recycled iron that get combined with other chemicals that determine the final color output. The chemicals create a liquid rust as they break down the iron. The liquid slurry is filtered and dried to create the final powder that we are used to seeing. The key difference between our concrete pigment and the color used on pills we put in our mouth is the amount of washing and refinement. Our construction grade pigments are on the lower end of the clean scale, but be comforted knowing that mulch pigment is truly the lowest grade of them all.

Safety & Risk Management Council

Crisis Management Plan

The Safety & Risk Management Council of ASCC has posted a Crisis Management Plan template on the Members Only portion of the ASCC website. If your company doesn’t have a communication plan for handling a workplace crisis, use this model to develop a program.

JOBSITE VISITS AND LISTENING TOURS

One of the key findings in last year’s ASCC Safety Leadership survey was that there was a desire and need for senior managers to increase their job site presence and interaction with front line workers.

When senior managers periodically visit jobsites, these visits become unique opportunities for the leader to interact with the project team including front line workers. How managers “show up” when they are onsite can make a significant difference in the level of trust, communication, team cohesiveness, and project safety results.

Here are a few tips for setting up an effective jobsite visit and listening tour:

- Greet your workers at the gate or trailer (Make it personal)
- Wear the appropriate PPE (Be a role model)
- Connect with as many people as you can one-on-one (It’s easy to just meet with your managers and foremen)
  - Do less talking and more listening (Suggested reading on “How to Ask-And Listen-Like You Mean It”)*
  - Ask open ended questions (Rather than ones that can be answered yes or no)
    - What’s working well for you and the team?
    - What’s missing that could it better?
    - Do you have specific concerns or feedback?
  - Listen openly to complaints and doubts (Don’t be defensive)
  - Listen for the “gold” (What are the key/core important concerns?)
- Share your personal commitment to safety
- Be seen and heard acknowledging safety accomplishments
  - Focus on what’s working and acknowledge your employees for their efforts
  - Find a story about a significant safety contribution at each site and acknowledge this person’s efforts one on one (and in a large group meeting if you have one)
- Make bold promises and follow through to completion
  - When issues or concerns are shared onsite, ensure that action takes place to resolve the issue
  - Personally follow up with the employee to let them know what’s being done

Make the most of your jobsite visits to build stronger relationships with your employees and listen to each person’s story. Then use them to help shape your safety culture. What you hear may surprise you!

* For a copy call or email the ASCC office.
Know the Design Requirements

Operable partitions are those that can be quickly put in place or removed and stored to provide flexibility in the spaces typically used for meetings or social functions. There are several types of operable partitions: hinged panel groups, individual panel and continuously hinged partition systems. Some are supported by overhead track with or without a floor guide or track. Some are floor supported with an overhead track to guide them. They may be manual or power-operated. One type consists of movable panels secured in place by vertical expansion to seal against the floor and ceiling.

When partitions are used to separate spaces, there are often questions about gaps between the partition and the floor covering on the concrete slab. Concrete contractors are often accused of not finishing the floor flat enough, thus causing the gaps. However, few architects and engineers understand the design requirements for moveable partitions and often set floor flatness requirements too low without considering deflections for suspended slabs.

Guidance on both these issues is provided in ASTM E 557-12 “Standard Guide for Architectural Design and Installation Practices for Sound Isolation between Spaces Separated by Operable Partitions.” This guide provides design details that should be considered in the design of buildings that include operable partitions. Two important provisions for floor flatness and deflection are shown below:

- “The floor immediately under the partition should not vary from a smooth level surface by more than ± 1⁄8 in. in 12 ft. non-accumulative. A steel member, such as a standard terrazzo strip, can be placed in a concrete floor to ensure this accuracy. Test Methods E1155 and E1155M are test methods for measuring floor flatness and levelness.”
- “The weight of the operable partition, in addition to all dead loads, should be taken into consideration when designing the supporting member. Deflection under maximum anticipated load should be no more than 1⁄8 in. per 12 ft. of opening width. If greater deflection is anticipated, either a structural member independent of the roof structure should be installed to support the operable partition, or an operable partition with bottom seals designed to accommodate the larger deflection should be specified.”

An 1/8 inch gap under a 12 ft. straightedge indicates a flatness number greater than an FF 50. And a deflection limitation of 1/8 inch per 12 feet is about an L/2400 for a 36 ft. span. Typical design deflection limits range from L/480 to L/240, where L is the span length. Thus, ASTM recommends some very specific and very high quality flatness and deflection limits for operable partitions.

If someone alleges that you caused the gap under that partition, show them what the design should have been to close that gap!

The ASTM standard can be purchased online at www.astm.org.

Concrete Industry Management (CIM) Program’s National Steering Committee Announces New Board

The National Steering Committee (NSC) for the Concrete Industry Management (CIM) program – a business intensive program that awards students with a four-year Bachelor of Science degree in Concrete Industry Management – recently announced their new board members beginning July 1.

The slate of new NSC officers includes:

- Chairman – Wally Johnson, Vice President of Marketing and Sales, U.S. Concrete, Inc.
- Vice Chairman – Alan Nedza, Director of Sales, Admixture Systems North America, BASF Corporation
- Secretary/Treasurer – Nicole R. Maher, Chief Operating Officer, National Ready Mixed Concrete Association (NRMCA)
- Immediate Past Chairman – Mike Schneider, Vice President of Operations, Baker Concrete Construction, Inc.

The NSC board of directors includes:

- Randal M. Beard, Principal and Managing Director, Walter P. Moore
- Matthew Childs, President, American Concrete Pipe Association
- Dr. Rex Cottle, Senior Vice President of Development, Trinity Industries, Inc.
- Steve Cox, Vice President – Customer Success, Command Alkon
- Julie Garbini, Executive Director, RMC Research & Education Foundation
- Brian Gallagher, Director of Marketing, O’Neal, Inc.
- Beverly Garnant, Executive Director, American Society of Concrete Contractors
- Jamie Gentoso, Vice President Target Market Concrete, Sika USA
- Douglas Guerrero, Chairman, CIM Patrons of California State University, Chico
- Eugene Martineau, Executive Director, CIM National Steering Committee
- Michael Phillips, Vice President – Market Development, CEMEX, Inc.
- James Toscas, President and CEO, Portland Cement Association
- Rick Yelton, Editor-At-Large, World of Concrete, Informa
The American Concrete Institute (ACI) announces a new publication for concrete industry professionals—ACI 308R-16 Guide to External Curing of Concrete.

This guide reviews and describes practices, procedures, materials, and monitoring methods for the external curing of concrete and provides guidance for specifying curing procedures. Current curing techniques are presented and commonly accepted methods, procedures, and materials are described. Methods are given for curing structures and buildings, pavements and other slabs-on-ground, and for mass concrete. Curing methods for specific categories of cement-based products are discussed.

The guide covers new research and methods of curing, definitions, curing methods and materials, curing for different types of construction, and monitoring curing and curing effectiveness. Topics such as internal curing, curing at elevated temperatures, sustainability, curing of moisture-sensitive flooring, sensors for mass concrete curing, and new curing monitoring techniques have been added or enhanced.

Purchase at www.concrete.org or call 248-848-3700.

ACI Concrete Flatwork Finisher Certification Course and Exam Offered at Annual Conference

Prepare to become certified as an ACI Flatwork Finisher with a three-hour training course, Thursday, September 15, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., taught by Bruce Suprenant, ASCC technical director. Then take the examination Thursday afternoon. The training course will review basic concrete technology; material and mix proportioning; quality control tests; finishing tools; and placing, finishing, jointing and curing. You’ll receive ACI’s 184-page Craftsman Workbook for ACI Certification of Concrete Flatwork Finishers. The cost is $225 for the training course, book and exam. For more information, or to register, call the ASCC office at 314-962-0210.

Congratulations to ASCC Member SLV Quality Concrete, Inc.

Congratulations to ASCC member SLV Quality Concrete, Inc., Monte Vista, CO. Their project, parking lots and driveways at the Pinehurst Country Club, Denver, won a 2016 Rocky Mountain Chapter ACI Excellence in Concrete Award in the Flatwork category.

http://slvqc.com/