Welcome to all of the former Concrete Polishing Assn. of America (CPAA) board members that are joining ASCC. With the approval of the ASCC board of directors, the CPAA board made the decision this summer to dissolve their organization and reform as the Concrete Polishing Council (CPC) of ASCC, in the same genre as the decorative, manufacturers and safety councils.

One of the primary drivers for the move was the opportunity to work with the ASCC slab contractors that install the “canvas” to be polished. Lack of communication between these two entities, not to mention owners, gcs, and designers, has created problems for both sides.

Articles in major concrete and specifier publications, driven by ASCC technical director Bruce Suprenant, have already begun to help clarify the issues. A full day workshop and troubleshooting slab demo at the Annual Conference last month was an excellent showcase for dissecting problems.

Polishing contractors, vendors and others join the ASCC as any other company does, and simply elect to be part of the CPC. The CPAA board will remain in place until this year’s elections.

Speaking on behalf of the ASCC board, staff, and all our members, we are very pleased to have this group of new companies to add a different dimension and area of experience to our organization. Please make yourselves at home!
On behalf of the DCC I would like to welcome the CPC to our amazing organization. It was great to see members of the newly formed CPC at the Annual Conference in Minneapolis. The members of the CPC really did their due diligence to understand what ASCC is all about. They were at nearly every meeting/seminar I was in. Our members did a great job in welcoming our new friends. How wonderful to see the hearts of our members and how they were concerned about how to give the CPC the most return for their time. I sat in one meeting that started out “How does ASCC retain the new CPC members in the transition?” and quickly changed to “How can we provide the most benefit to these new members?” One would think the mentality would be “What does ASCC get out of this deal?” But it truly was “How do we mentor these new members through this process in order to maximize their benefits?” This mentality has developed in these compassionate ASCC members from the great experiences and personal benefits from their own membership. Rocky and I rehashed a conversation (during the Emerging Leaders Reception, I have no idea why he was crashing the party) that took place a few years prior to my joining ASCC. He had previously encouraged my membership, but only if I could commit to attending functions and being involved. I took Rocky’s advice and postponed joining until I could really get involved. Now I leave every function with so many takeaways, new friend and great ideas. If the balance of the CPC follow their leaders’ example, and follow Rocky’s advice to get involved, they will reap great benefits from this change.

You Are The Expert

Calls and emails into the Decorative Concrete Hotline can be very complex, often dealing with intricate installation methods or product limitations. In-between those technical calls however, the amount of “common sense wasn’t applied” calls disturbs me. Too often decorative contractors let the customer dictate practices that depart from the normal means and methods the contractor knows should be followed. Recent examples of hotline calls include the amount of slope needed for proper drainage, the location of saw cuts, and the size and shape of steps.

Having sat through numerous homeowner vs. contractor trials, I need to remind the contractor that when a set of plans does not exist, or engineers are not involved, you are the expert. When Mr. and Mrs. Jones ask for less slope on their patio so their wine glasses don’t tip over, it is your job as the authority of the business relationship to understand and communicate why a sloped surface is necessary. It is your job to put your foot down and explain the reason their driveway needs to be saw cut for structure first, and appearance second. Judges and mediators understand that many project owners can be tough to deal with, but ultimately they will put the contractor on the defensive for not stepping up for what he knows are proper practices. Working on homeowner and other smaller projects, you are the expert, whether your business card states it or not.

Concrete Polishing Council

So we have assimilated into one! Last month made it official, the Concrete Polishing Association of America has transitioned into the Concrete Polishing Council (CPC), the newest council within the ASCC. For most of you reading this you are meeting the polishers for the first time, while others are receiving your first ASCC newsletter. To each I say welcome. Concrete placement and polishing have depended on one another since the first diamonds scratched a slab not so long ago. Our industry is growing rapidly and together we can guide it to sustainability and success. First, however, we must answer the basics:

I heard the CPAA dissolved
This is true. The joining of the two nonprofit associations required the dissolution of the CPAA so that all that was CPAA could become CPC (Concrete Polishing Council).

What about my dues?
Your anniversary join date remains your due date for dues payment. If you joined the CPAA June 2016, then you will be invoiced in May 2017 with a June 2017 due date; and those dues will be paid to the ASCC. You do, however, need to complete an ASCC membership application and check the box to join the CPC and any of the other ASCC councils.
Permanent Rigging Should Also Be Inspected

OSHA requires all rigging equipment to be inspected prior to use on each shift, and as necessary to ensure it is safe. Shackles kept attached to equipment, however, are often not routinely inspected before each use. The rigger may think of the shackles as being part of the equipment and not part of the rigging.

Screw pin-type shackles used in permanent rigging applications have been known to “back out” after repeated lifting, which could cause an accident.

Permanent rigging is any rigging that is attached to hoisted equipment, remains on the hoisted equipment for a long period of time, and is used and reused for lifting. Permanent rigging may typically remain attached to equipment such as concrete buckets, spreader beams, debris dump boxes, etc. Some equipment manufacturers provide their machines equipped for hoisting with screw pin shackles.

RECOMMENDED SOLUTION: Replace all screw pin-type shackles used in permanent rigging applications with bolt type shackles equipped with cotter pins.

Safety & Risk Management Council

Temporary Rigging Should Also Be Inspected

Autumn Has its Own “Fall” Hazards

Every season is unique and brings with it potential hazards. Autumn is no exception to this rule. Some hazards specific to falls include:

- **Bees and Wasps:** After the first cold snaps of autumn, bee and wasp nests begin to disband, releasing insects that often wander towards open trash containers and debris left on site.
- **Falling Leaves:** As leaves fall, they can cover slip, trip and fall hazards.
- **Lighting:** As fall approaches, sunlight begins to disappear as sunrises start later and sunset begins earlier. Adjust start times accordingly and make sure that project sites have adequate lighting.
- **Early Morning Frost:** Frost on walkways, decks and rebar can be hard to see and presents a slipping hazard for workers.
- **Traffic Pattern Changes:** With schools and university students returning, many of the traffic patterns near our project sites will change drastically.

Autumn is a great time to work outside but it does have unique challenges. By planning and preparing for these potential hazards, we can keep our people, our projects and neighboring community members safe.
Does Your Concrete Bleed? Consider a New Provision in ACI 301-16

Bruce Suprenant, Technical Director

ACI 301-16 “Specifications for Structural Concrete” adopted a new provision for initial curing of flatwork. This provision will increase the cost of performing work for concrete that does not bleed enough to show a visible water sheen. The new provision is shown below:

5.3.6.2 Initial curing of unformed concrete surfaces—If bleed water sheen is not visible on surface of concrete after strikeoff and initial bull floating, provide initial curing by means of fogging or application of evaporation retarder until final curing method is applied. Do not use fogging in cold weather concreting.

What triggers this provision? If a bleed water sheen is not visible on the surface after strikeoff and initial bull floating. The concrete may bleed, however that may not be enough. It must bleed enough to be visible on the surface. This means that the same concrete may or may not need initial curing depending on the environmental conditions. If there is wind, the bleed water may be evaporating, which means it may not be visible on the surface. If it is not visible, then initial curing will be required.

Timing will be troublesome. “Concrete Craftsman Series: Slabs on Ground” (ACI CCS-1(10)) states strikeoff is done immediately after spreading and consolidating the concrete. Then bull floating is to be done immediately after strikeoff “before bleed water appears on the surface”. Thus, when the finisher is done bull floating there should be no bleed water on the surface. Therefore, the initial curing provision of ACI 301-16 is likely to be required on all flatwork. And, it doesn’t really seem possible to bull float a surface with no bleed water and then have a bleed water sheen appear immediately after the bull float pass.

What if a bleed water sheen is visible? Let’s assume the impossible, and there is no bleed water prior to bull floating but one is visible immediately after bull floating. That would mean no initial curing is required. But what happens if the bleed water sheen disappears in 5 or 15 or 30 minutes? The specification provision seems to say that initial curing is triggered when observing immediately after bull floating. However, this could be interpreted differently by inspectors and if the bleed water sheen disappears any time prior to final curing—be prepared to get out the fogger or evaporation retarder.

How should contractors handle this new specification provision? We recommend increasing the cost of all flatwork, whether exterior or interior, hard troweled or broomed. With the use of water reducers, which most ready mix producers prefer as it decreases their cost by reducing cement requirements, we don’t see many concretes that bleed. And you won’t know until you see a mix design and get the concrete in a mockup. But if the wind changes, your mockup results change. It appears that this provision will require fogging or evaporation reducer on every flatwork placement.

If fogging is used, the specification requires that it provide complete coverage of the area to be cured and to maintain a visible water sheen without accumulation of standing water until final setting. If an evaporation retarder is used, the specification requires that it be applied in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions and not be used as an aid in subsequent finishing or texturing.

Other provisions have changed from ACI 301-10 to ACI 301-16. And while we don’t expect to see the ACI 301-16 specification in use until 2017 or later, contractors should review that document now. The document is available at www.concrete.org.

HOT LINE QUESTIONS

CONCRETE
800-331-0668
Bruce Suprenant–bsuprenant@ascconline.org
ASCC members have access to these toll-free numbers for assistance.

SAFETY & INSURANCE
866-788-2722
ascc@ascconline.org
Todd Scharich–tscharich@ascconline.org

DECORATIVE CONCRETE
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