

CONCRETE IQ

Concrete IQ is the official magazine of Master Concreters Australia

ISSUE 3, 2019



BRISBANE ANNUAL GOLF DAY

A great turnout including members and guests returned to the Wynnum Golf Club on the 9th of September to vie for the Master Concreters Australia Brisbane Golf Day Trophy. Another beautiful day with clear skies was on the offering, however, a strong wind kept the players on their toes as they made their way around the course. This year saw the trophy being wrestled back from the contractor community with Qcrete taking the spoils and are now the first team to have won the trophy twice. Concrete Colour Systems were placed second with McGinn Concrete rounding out the top three.

Congratulations to all those who took home prizes on the day and thank you to all our members who took time out from their busy schedules to join us for the Annual Golf Day.

Master Concreters Australia would like to thank our principal sponsor Wagners for supporting and anchoring the event. We would also like to acknowledge our drinks sponsors Cbus for keeping the players hydrated during the round and our numerous hole sponsors for supporting our event. We look forward to seeing everyone at next year's Golf Day.



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PLATINUM SPONSOR





CEO'S REPORT: LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

MCA HOTLINE

Our highly experienced members can provide advice on various issues affecting concrete contractors through our MCA Hotline.

Members may contact our Hotline representatives or if it is more convenient, call the office on 1300 884 544 and they will start the ball rolling.

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Welcome to this edition of our industry magazine. As you read the magazine we will well and truly be into the countdown to Christmas. That means that 2020 will soon be upon us. 2019 has been a fairly difficult year for the construction industry. Many have seen the continuation of the credit squeeze, which has reduced the amount of capital developers can raise. This has meant a number of projects both large and small have not been put out for tender. Projects being let have not totally dried up, however, we see our members competing for an ever-smaller pool of projects. Recent rate cuts have done little to improve consumer confidence and it was pleasing to note the Federal Governments decision to bring forward up to \$4Bn worth of infrastructure spending. This will go some way, in part, to stimulating the economy. Insurance for certifiers is a major issue (off the back of the Opal Towers and Mascot apartment building issues) and will have major implications for the industry if a solution is not found in the near future.

On issues directly related to our industry, members will note the article in this magazine on the updates to the Australian Standard for Concrete Pumping and the resultant changes to the Queensland Code of Practice. It goes without saying that we should be across these changes even if we are not pump owners.

Our industry trade qualification was caught up in another review due to generic units being reviewed in other training packages. We are working closely with the authority to once again deliver a robust qualification more reflective of today's practices, which also encompasses the high level of trade skill required by a concreter in our industry.

The new decade will be one of milestones for the Association with 2020 seeing the 10th anniversary of our highly successful Excellence in Industry Awards. We have come a long way since our first event in 2009 and I look forward to celebrating this milestone with our members and guests. Our 10th Anniversary Awards will be held at the W Brisbane on 30 May 2020. Nominations open in the New Year and I would like to make a brief mention of thanks to Holcim for joining as our principal sponsor for the event.

If we look beyond to 2021, this will be our 15th year of operation since we were first incorporated (in 2006). A major milestone by any measure and we are already in the initial planning stages to deliver a major industry event.

December will also see our AGM being held and Directors elected to the executive of the Association. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their tireless efforts. They contribute many hours outside their own businesses and we would not be where we are without their unyielding support and involvement. Many see the benefits of belonging to our organisation, which is pleasing to note, however, this group of industry leaders are in no doubt about the important role we play in representing our concrete contractors' interests (at all levels of Government and industry) and improving contracting conditions for our members.

Lastly, as we move into the Christmas leave period, I wish everyone a safe and enjoyable holiday season. Enjoy the time off for those that are able to take even a short break and I look forward to seeing everyone in the New Year.

David Lingard
CEO, Master Concreters Australia

NEW MEMBER

The President and Directors would like to welcome STRUCTUM to MCA.

L to R: Albert Pizzinato VP and Jim Farmakis (STRUCTUM)





AUSTRALIAN STANDARD (AS 2550.15: 2019) FOR CONCRETE PLACING EQUIPMENT

Members should be aware that AS 2550.15:2019 was published earlier this year and supersedes AS 2550.15:1994 Cranes—Safe use, Part 15: Concrete placing equipment. The revision of AS 2550.15 has resulted in a comprehensive update of the standard requirements, including the addition of contemporary methods and techniques to ensure concrete placing equipment safe use. The major changes included:

- General document-wide terminology use.
- Expanded definitions for types of pumps, e.g. line pump, boom pump, satellite placing boom.
- Amended definition for competent person(s).
- Alignment with international standards for inspection and maintenance requirements.
- Consequential amendments and alignment to AS 2550 series.

Queensland members should be aware that the Concrete pumping Code of Practice 2019 was approved by the Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations and commences on 2 December 2019. This supersedes the Concrete pumping Code of Practice 2005.

The updates to the Concrete pumping Code of Practice 2005 ensure that the code:

- is responsive to industry needs and safety concerns
- reflects current best practice in the concrete pumping and construction industry
- is consistent with the model work health and safety laws implemented in Queensland in 2012.

The key changes to the code:

- Clarify that the mobile concrete pump operator is not to carry out the work of a line hand. The line hand is at the end of the concrete delivery hose and cannot monitor the concrete pump operations, including the stability of the concrete pump setup. This change means a minimum of two workers will be required for mobile concrete pumping operations.
- Provide stronger and clearer guidance on maintaining the stability of mobile concrete placing booms and managing the risk of concrete line blockages.
- Clarify that workers other than line hands or concreters are not to be directly under the concrete placing boom during concrete pumping operations. The restriction of workers under the boom, other than the line hand and concreters who may need to work under the boom, reflects the serious safety risks if the boom has a catastrophic failure.
- Update guidelines on working near overhead powerlines.
- Provide stronger and clearer guidance on annual and major (six yearly) inspection requirements. Inspections for concrete pumps and booms should happen daily before commencement of concrete pumping work, weekly, monthly, yearly and with a major inspection every six years.

The Concrete pumping Code of Practice 2019(PDF, 2016.02 KB) will apply to anyone who has a duty of care in relation to the carrying out of construction work involving concrete pumping on or from 2 December 2019.

SUSTAINING MEMBERS





SUBSTRUCTURE CONCRETE

ADVERTORIAL

When it comes to pouring concrete, there are two vital points:

1. Use only the best means of formwork and don't strip early. Green concrete is vulnerable; getting the set up right is important
2. When it comes to performance the first 60 days are critical - the right mix, slump/vibration, stripping and temperatures.

(Excerpt from VIC Roads technical paper – *Concrete Structures in marine and Other Saline Environments.*)

CURING

According to the VicRoads paper the period of curing for all cast-in-place concrete must be not less than 14 days. (The longer is by far the better and this really should be the minimum. Some large pile caps and beams take months to cure).

It is considered that various combinations of water-retaining techniques, such as retention of formwork in place and polyethylene plastic (in combination with wet hessian) are necessary to provide effective curing to the exposed surfaces of concrete of the various cast-in-place components.

Curing compounds do not offer the same degree of protection and should only be used in the absence of an alternative. The use of an aliphatic-alcohol based evaporative retarding compound (to prevent early evaporation of moisture) should be a mandatory requirement for the construction of all concrete components including the concrete deck and slabs. It should be applied after initial screeding in accordance with the requirements of VicRoads Section 610.

In order to prevent the ingress of chlorides into sitecast concrete in its early days, formwork should be kept in place for the minimum time required before removal. Immediately following the removal of formwork, and



for the remainder of the curing period, polyethylene sheet (in combination with continuously wet hessian) or similar means should be used to protect the surfaces of the curing concrete from salt water or sea spray during its early maturing and strength developing period. This applies to Pile caps and Beams as well.

CONTROL OF TEMPERATURE DIFFERENTIALS

In order to prevent excessive temperature differentials (between core and surface of concrete) a limit of 20 degrees Celsius across any element should be maintained. This minimises the build-up of excessive thermal stresses leading to early-age thermal cracking of the hardening concrete.

This coupled with potential shrinkage cracking and other restraining effects could result in more severe cracking of concrete components.

In general, early-age thermal cracking occurs within one to seven days of casting concrete.

For massive sections, such cracking can take several weeks to develop. Improved curing regimes and the use of thermal blankets can help to minimise large temperature differentials within a concrete element.

Vapour Barriers offer little thermal insulation unless combined with a 20-40mm thermal styrene foam or similar. However, where the earth is used for thermal control along with the vapour barrier this is ideal when left for a long period of time.

ACIDIC SOILS

Concrete is a most durable product with neutral and higher pH-based subgrade soils, but even weak to mild acids will cause some degradation of the concrete. Excavation of acidic soils is expensive and not always necessary, therefore, isolation in acidic environments is the best solution and can provide support for lower grade concrete or less cover

ADMIXTURES

Many types of permeability- reducing and water-proofing admixtures can be expensive with little guarantee from suppliers of performance. With regard to acids; the admixtures only reduce the porosity and consequently the surface area and the rate of acid attack.

CONCRETE MATRIX

The Porosity in the outer paste of concrete is a problem. A2 finishing (glass type) is the preferred natural method to prevent Acidic reactions to concrete. As with admixtures, when porosity is reduced the acid has less area to affect. The porosity is then further reduced through using lower w/c concrete and better curing.

OVER EXCAVATION

Excavation is often excessive. This is due to access to construction. Over-excavation around the site makes for difficult temperature control during initial curing.

VAPOUR BARRIER TWO ACTIONS

The benefits of Vapour Form Barrier is both short-term hydration control and long-term contact with soils for up to 20 years.

BEST PRACTICE

Concrete is vulnerable when green. Treat it right. Take the professional attitude and use the best practice and tools.

SAVE MONEY

Repairs to concrete usually cost 10 times more than doing it correctly. Get it right in the ground with the Vapour Form Barrier.

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HIGH COURT DECLARES THAT MUTUAL RECOGNITION SCHEME MEANS WHAT IT SAYS...

In today's economy and with an increasingly mobile workforce, the mutual recognition scheme is more important than ever. A recent High Court of Australia decision (*Victorian Building Authority v Andriotis* [2019] HCA 22) has shed light on the right of a person to be registered in a new State in relation to their chosen occupation.

What is the Mutual Recognition Scheme?

The mutual recognition scheme was created by the *Mutual Recognition Act 1992* (Cth) (Act). In substance, the scheme provides that a person who has been licensed or registered in one State or Territory can apply to be licensed or registered in another State or Territory for an equivalent occupation. Relevantly, section 20 of the Act provides:

- A person who lodges a notice under section 19 with a local registration authority of the second State is entitled to be registered in the equivalent occupation, as if the law of the second State that deals with registration expressly provided that registration in the first State is a sufficient ground of entitlement to registration.
- The local registration authority may grant registration on that ground and may grant renewals of such registration.

Given that there are licensing regimes in a number of States which affect the building industry, the scheme is very relevant to the building industry (although the scheme is of much broader import). This article will concern itself with the building industry alone.

Mr Andriotis' Application for Registration in Victoria

Mr Andriotis was registered as a waterproofer in New South Wales. In his application to be registered as a waterproofer in NSW, he had claimed to have certain work experience. At least some of those claims were not true. When Mr Andriotis applied to be registered in

Victoria under the mutual recognition scheme[1], his application was refused. The relevant Victorian authority took the view the provision of the untrue information to the New South Wales registering authority meant Mr Andriotis was not of good character (which he would have been required to demonstrate had he applied for registration under the *Building Act 1993* (Vic), rather than under the mutual recognition scheme).

The Argument

The Victorian Building Practitioners Board (subsequently the Victorian Building Authority) sought to suggest that despite section 20, the Board had a residuary discretion to refuse registration (noting the word "may" in section 20(2) and that section 17(2) of the Act allowed for refusal on character grounds, because all licensees registered in Victoria are required to be of good character). This argument was accepted by the Administrative Appeals Tribunal, but rejected on appeal to the Full Federal Court. From that rejection, the Victorian Building Authority appealed to the High Court.

The High Court Appeal

Unanimously, a bench of seven Justices of the High Court rejected the Victorian Building Authority's contentions. The basis of registration in the second State is, as is clearly articulated in section 20 of the Act, the registration in the first State and the giving of the relevant notice (and associated materials). In that regard, the Court accepted that the use of the word "may" in section 20(2) ought to be read, not as allowing for a discretion, but as empowering the registering authority to register the applicant. Secondly, because it is the Act which allows for the registration in the second State, there is no room for the *Building Act 1993* (Vic) to operate in relation to the registration.

Considerations

Whilst this case reinforces the idea that a person is entitled to registration in a second State, effectively for the asking, there is a significant sting in the tail because the High Court accepts that

once a person is registered in a second State, then that second State can regulate the conduct of that person within their occupation. For example, the registering authority in the second State can take disciplinary action against the person if that were warranted. If a person gave false information to an authority in the form of a statutory declaration in their home State, the registering authority in the second State might take disciplinary action against that person.

Put simply, they might have to register you, but they don't have to let you do as you please.

In the Queensland context, we observe that nothing in section 74B of the *Queensland Building and Construction Commission Act 1991* (Qld) (which provides the grounds upon which disciplinary action may be taken) must have some territorial connection to Queensland. Therefore, if someone registered in New South Wales under false or misleading information, Queensland authorities have the power to use that unlawful act (even though it is in another jurisdiction) as a basis for exercising disciplinary action in Queensland.

We observe that if disciplinary action were taken in the second State, then the consequences of that disciplinary action would flow back to the licence held in the first State. Consequently, New South Wales authorities could potentially use the disciplinary action taken in Queensland as a basis for taking away the New South Wales licence.

Conclusion

Seeking registration in a new State can be a complicated process. You need to obtain detailed, specialised legal advice in relation to it; particularly if you are considering seeking registration in Queensland (which has the most regulated building industry in the nation). Queensland registration involves not just consideration of the relevant licence categories, but of how you might structure your business to ensure that you comply with the financial regulations imposed.

Article written by Nina Wos and Brent Tumbull, Cornwall's Building and Construction Team



DISCLAIMER: This article is general commentary on a topical issue and does not constitute legal advice. If you are concerned about any topics covered in this article, we recommend that you seek legal advice.

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORTING FOR QUEENSLAND CONTRACTORS

Queensland members should be aware that the requirement for Annual Financial Reports has been introduced to check the financial strength of contracting grade licensees. Annual reporting is mandatory and you may already have the information needed. All contractors must now lodge reports annually to the QBCC by 31 December 2019

When you applied for your QBCC contractor-grade license, you satisfied QBCC that you had the required working capital. The new laws mean you must now provide financial information each year. This is 'annual reporting'. It is different to an 'MFR Report' given when you first apply or make license changes to you license. Annual reporting is carried out online.

If you are in the SC1 to SC3 categories, you will need to submit your financial information to the QBCC by 31 December 2019. If you don't lodge you could be in breach and as a result have your QBCC

license suspended or cancelled. SC1 and SC2 licensees do not need to lodge any documents, you simply need to advise the QBCC of your key financial data by 31 December 2019 and outline the type of trading entity you are using to operate your business.

Category 1 to Category 3 Licensees (turnover \$800,000 to \$30M) need to lodge the following documents:

- Profit and Loss Statement
- Balance Sheet
- Accounts Receivable and Accounts Payable listing

The QBCC is encouraging licensees to lodge electronically via the QBCC portal, however, they have advised that contractors can lodge by paper. Category 4-7 who lodged in April this year are also required to lodge financials by 31 December 2019.

For further information visit the QBCC website at www.qbcc.qld.gov.au



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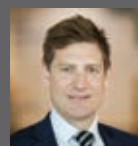


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Geebung QLD 4034

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E: info@mca.net.au

www.mca.net.au

Master Concreters Australia is the industry trade association working for and supporting concrete contractors.

APPLICATION FORM

COMPANY DETAILS

Company name: _____

Contact name: _____

Postal address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Signature: _____

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Master Concreters Australia, 27 Morrisby Street, Geebung QLD 4034

Or scan and email to info@mca.net.au

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MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY (Please tick main area)

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PAYMENT DETAILS (Please tick)

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