

# Get involved in architectural plant certification

In response to new aesthetic and performance demands for enclosure systems and other architectural precast concrete products, we are undertaking a monumental change in the PCI Plant Certification Program. If you are involved in producing architectural precast concrete under the current A1 designation, I urge you to get involved as PCI writes the rules for the future.

PCI consulted with interested stakeholders in the architecture community and is now in the second year of developing proposed modifications to enhance the current PCI Plant Certification Program for architectural products. Members of the Architectural Precast Subcommittee, a subcommittee of the PCI Plant Certification Committee, continue their work on these changes and additions. The effort is intended to better align design community expectations with plant production capabilities. The new certification categories will provide enhanced precast concrete products to meet the aesthetic, installation, and performance demands for projects with more-complex BIM-generated exterior envelope requirements.


Current plans call for replacing the one-size-fits-all A1 architectural certification category with AA, AB, AC, and AD certification categories. AA and AB requirements would include enhanced detail and finish requirements. Requirements for category AC would replace the current A1 designation (with no changes), while the new AD provisions would match those currently required in CA.

Under the proposed new requirements, once a project that uses precast concrete certified in categories AA or AB is completed, the design and construction team would be surveyed to gain insight into their perceptions of precast concrete producer performance in supplying the project. In addition, for AA certification, auditors would conduct a site inspection of select projects to assess the overall appearance and installed quality as part of the annual audit process.

A certification review board would be established to examine the results of both the project stakeholder surveys and site inspection reports. A certification category change could be mandated by the review board for poor performance based on the results from surveys and site audits for AA-certified producers or the performance results from stakeholder surveys for producers qualified as AB.

Subcommittee task groups are working to have final detailed provisions of the program ready for distribution to inform all certified plants later in 2019 with the goal of beginning audits under the new categories in 2020.

Please contact Mike Kesselmayer, PCI's managing director of quality programs, at [mkesselmayer@pci.org](mailto:mkesselmayer@pci.org) or Donn Thompson, PCI's director of architectural precast systems, at [dthompson@pci.org](mailto:dthompson@pci.org) for more information about the pending program improvements.

These proposed changes are intended to offer options to customers and enhance confidence and satisfaction with architectural precast concrete systems. The subcommittee has formed task groups for both internal PCI member education about the new program and external communication and marketing the program to designers and owners. As the new program approaches final approval, stay tuned for specific information on training and education opportunities in 2020 and beyond. In the meantime, if you are involved in architectural precast concrete, please get up to speed and get involved in **YourPCI**. 

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