

PCI: PRECAST CONCRETE BODY OF KNOWLEDGE

Founded in 1954, the Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute (PCI) is the technical institute and trade association for the precast and prestressed concrete structures industry. From the very beginning, PCI recognized the importance of developing a Body of Knowledge as a technical institute. As a not-for-profit technical institute, PCI develops, maintains, and disseminates the Body of Knowledge for the design, manufacture, and erection of precast concrete structures and systems by:

- Conducting research and development projects with universities and laboratories
- Publishing technical resources including design manuals and state-of-the-art reports
- Certifying companies and individuals involved in manufacture and erection of precast.
- Educating precast personnel and industry stakeholders on proper uses of precast
- Representing the precast concrete industry in code advocacy activities

PCI supports designers, specifiers, and users to advance innovation in the design of building, bridge, and infrastructure projects through developing, maintaining, and disseminating the principal Body of Knowledge, and certifying the capability to manufacture and install precast and prestressed concrete products. The Body of Knowledge refers to the collective knowledge of an industry that is relied upon to design and build with a specific material or system. It is from this knowledge that building codes, design guides, education programs, and certification are derived. Several key elements are integrated and required

to develop and maintain a body of knowledge. These are often referred to as the twelve essential elements and include: Industry Standing, Clearly Stated Purpose, Broad Professional and Stakeholder Involvement, Governance and Consensus, Research, Validation, Dissemination, Certification of Personnel and Manufacturing, Independent Auditing, Feedback, and Perpetual Commitment.

Technical institutes are usually national in scope. Each is recognized as the preeminent forum for exchanging information and as the principal body of knowledge for the industry it serves. Because their properties may be difficult to verify at the construction site, prefabricated engineered components must be manufactured to meet contract requirements and to ensure quality and reliability. In the construction industry, only the technical institute serving the corresponding industry segment provides all the necessary functional elements of a comprehensive quality system to serve as the accredited certification organization.

For the past 70 years, PCI has continued to develop, maintain, and disseminate

the Body of Knowledge for the precast concrete structures industry through more than 50 councils, committees, subcommittees, and task groups. These four PCI Group types are comprised of hundreds of volunteers representing all major stakeholders in the industry, collectively investing more than 30,000 hours annually. Why get involved?

- Gain knowledge from and build relationships with professionals in the industry.
- Personal and career growth including leadership development.
- Learn where the industry is going and the challenges it faces.
- Discuss common industry challenges and find solutions that benefit the industry.
- Provide input and influence in the development of PCI's Body of Knowledge.