



PCI INDUSTRY FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS- PCI ARCHITECTURAL CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

	Question	Answer
1.	Why is PCI changing the Architectural Certification Program?	<p>PCI is changing the Architectural Certification Categories in response to requests from the architectural community. These changes will align the architect's expectations for the complexity of the project with the capabilities of the architectural precast concrete producers.</p> <p>The former A1 Certification Category and Categories BA and CA have been redefined into four Certification Categories. Architectural precast concrete elements will be governed by Categories AA, AB, AC, and AD, which are differentiated by the panel complexity and the production tolerances required. Projects including only small architectural trim units will continue to be governed by Category AT.</p>
2.	What are the main differences in the Architectural Certification Categories?	<p>The Architectural Certification Categories are differentiated by the complexity of the architectural elements and the allowable dimensional tolerances.</p> <p>A matrix that more clearly defines category distinctions is available at PCI.org/archcert.</p>
3.	Are 3D/BIM requirements part of the Architectural Certification Program?	<p>Precast concrete producers certified in Categories AA and AB are required to provide 3D/BIM precast concrete submittal drawings when required by specifications.</p>
4.	How do I find the architectural precast concrete producers/bidders for each of the Certification Categories?	<p>To find precast concrete producers certified to service your project, go to PCI.org/archcert and search by Architectural Certification Category and geographic location.</p>
5.	Can you provide photographs that will help me understand the differences in project complexity for the various Architectural Certification Categories?	<p>Photos depicting features of the different Architectural Certification Categories, as well as more complete category descriptions, are available for review at PCI.org/archcert.</p>



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6.	Why is it important to specify the correct Architectural Certification Category?	It is important to specify the correct Architectural Certification Category to ensure the finished product meets the owner's expectations. One of the goals of redefining the Architectural Certification Program is to help the designer, construction team, and precast concrete producer better communicate expectations. Using the new Architectural Certification Categories will clearly define the level of complexity for the project.
7.	If I am unsure, should I just specify AA?	No. Your local PCI-certified producer or PCI regional affiliate is ready and willing to review your project and recommend an appropriate Architectural Certification Category for your project.
8.	What happens if I specify "the wrong" Architectural Certification Category?	Over specifying the category could limit the number of qualified bidders. Underspecifying the category could allow (unqualified) bidders that have not demonstrated the desired capabilities to produce the project.
9.	What changes should I anticipate in the process due to the new Architectural Certification requirements?	Aside from the new requirement to choose the appropriate Architectural Certification Category that best defines the project, there will be no additional changes in the design process. After completion of projects in Categories AA and AB, architects and construction professionals will be asked to complete an Architectural Project Survey.
10.	As a designer, I want to specify Category AD for part of the structure and specify Category AA on another part. Can I do this?	Yes, you can. Please consult with your local PCI-Certified producer or PCI regional affiliate (pci.org/regions) to discuss the best way to communicate your expectations on the drawings and in the specifications.
11.	Will all previous A1 producers be qualified into all the new Architectural Certification Categories?	No. Each architectural precast concrete producer will be recertified into a new Architectural Certification Category that reflects the capabilities demonstrated by the facility.



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12.	Do the changes to the Architectural Certification Program have any effect on PCI-certified erector requirements?	PCI-certified erectors will be required for Categories AA, AB, and AC. The use of a PCI-certified erector is encouraged for Category AD.
13.	Does the new Architectural Certification Program increase the time I (or my firm) must spend managing a project?	No. The only change to the design process would be the selection of the appropriate Architectural Certification Category for inclusion in the specifications.
14.	When should specifiers start using the new Architectural Certification Categories in project documents?	Specifiers should incorporate the new Architectural Certification Categories in projects bidding July 1, 2021, or thereafter.
15.	When will PCI publish a list of manufacturers certified for each new Architectural Certification Category?	PCI will publish a complete list of manufacturers certified in the new Architectural Certification Categories on July 1, 2021.
16.	What will happen if I continue to specify A1 Certification for my projects?	After July 1, 2021, the A1, CA, and BA Certification Categories will cease to exist. If former Certification Categories are specified after that date, PCI-certified architectural precast concrete producers will contact the specifier prior to bid date to request a certification clarification. The specifier should then issue a bid package addendum clarifying the specific Architectural Certification Category required.
17.	As an architect, what can I do if the GC/CM takes pricing from a precast concrete producer that is not certified in the Architectural Certification Category I have specified for my project?	In most cases, the building owner (or owner's representative) has the ultimate responsibility for accepting contractors/subcontractors. If a bidding precast concrete producer is not certified in the Architectural Certification Category the project architect has specified, the architect should request that the owner only consider producers having the appropriate Architectural Certification Category for the project.