

# CANADIAN PRECAST CONCRETE QUALITY ASSURANCE (CPCQA) CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Dec 22, 2017

### **Why a new program?**

The Canadian Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute (CPCI) and the Canadian Concrete Pipe and Precast Association (CCPPA) have agreed to merge their existing certification programs, the *CPCI Certification Program for Structural, Architectural and Specialty Products and Production Processes* (CPCI Certification) and the *Plant Prequalification Program for Precast Concrete Drainage Products* (PPP), in order to create an independently administered third-party audited certification program, the Canadian Precast Concrete Quality Assurance (CPCQA) Certification. The new program will combine the strengths and brand of the two existing programs into one stronger program.

### **How will the program operate, and what will the governance rules be?**

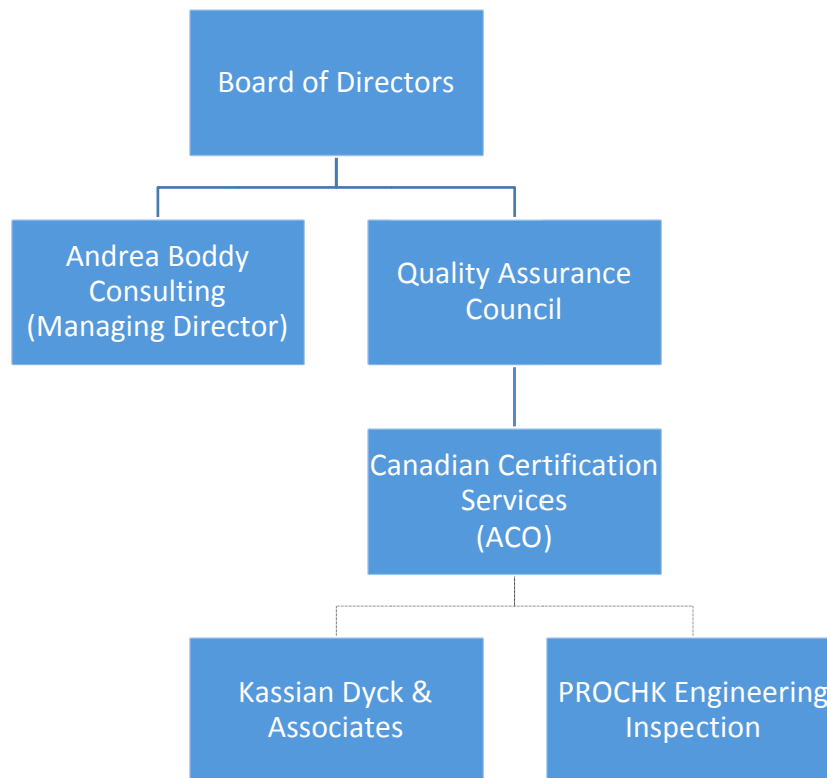
The program will operate as a separate entity from both CPCI and CCPPA. Although CPCI and CCPPA will fund the annual operations, the CPCI Board of Directors and the CCPPA Board of Directors will not be involved in the operation of the new program. Likewise, CPCI and CCPPA staff will not be involved in the operations nor will they participate as part of the new Quality Assurance Council. CPCI and CCPPA will, however, be involved in marketing the CPCQA program to the construction industry and to government agencies as part of introducing and advancing the new program to various audiences.

The new joint venture is incorporated under the Canada not-for-profit corporations act and will comply with all the governance rules of the act, as well as a jointly signed services agreement between CCPPA and CPCI. The bylaws will be in accordance with Corporations Canada guidelines.

# CANADIAN PRECAST CONCRETE QUALITY ASSURANCE (CPCQA) CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

## What will the structure be?

The program will be governed by its own Board of Directors. A Quality Assurance Council (QAC) will report directly to the Board, as will the Managing Director for the program. The ACO will report directly to the QAC.



# CANADIAN PRECAST CONCRETE QUALITY ASSURANCE (CPCQA) CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

## **What will be the composition and role of the CPCQA Quality Assurance Council (QAC)?**

### **Composition of Quality Assurance Council**

Similar to the councils from the previous certification programs, the Quality Assurance Council will have a minimum of ten and a maximum of twenty-four committee members:

1. the ACO Director (non-voting),
2. the Managing Director (non-voting),
3. the Chair and Vice chair,
4. professional engineers or registered architects not in the employ of a precast manufacturer,
5. municipal engineers or building officials,
6. Ministry of Transportation representatives from the following regions: Maritime Provinces, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba/Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia,
7. representatives of manufacturers that are registered in the CPCQA program, and
8. other general interest committee members.

### **Role of the Quality Assurance Council**

Similar to the councils from the previous certification programs, the Quality Assurance Council's role will be to plan, formulate, oversee and review the CPCQA Certification Program. The QAC will also:

1. establish auditing criteria and grading standards,
2. provide administrative and technical review to ensure that the program requirements are administered uniformly and are followed by all Manufacturers,
3. develop, review and approve all literature related to the CPCQA Certification Program,
4. initiate and oversee ACO policies and manuals,

# CANADIAN PRECAST CONCRETE QUALITY ASSURANCE (CPCQA) CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

5. make recommendations to the Board on the qualification standards and requirements for plant prequalification and certification applications,
6. make recommendations to the Board on the qualification standards and requirements for accreditation of Accredited Certification Organizations, and
7. provide guidance and interpretation to the ACO regarding any requests for clarification arising from producer audits.

The Quality Assurance Council may make recommendations from time to time for the consideration of the CPCQA Board, however the CPCQA Board will have final decision making responsibility as the Directors are responsible for the management and supervision of the activities and affairs of the CPCQA.

## **Who will the Accredited Certification Organization be and what duties will it have?**

The former engineering/inspection companies that acted separately as the Accredited Certification Organization (ACO) for the two prior certification programs have formed a new combined entity, Canadian Certification Services (CCS), to serve as one Accredited Certification Organization (ACO) for the New Program:

### ACO for the former CPCI Certification Program

Wayne Kassian, P.Eng.  
Kassian Dyck & Associates

### ACO for the former PPP Certification Program

Brian Clarke, P.Eng.  
PROCHK Engineering Inspections Inc.

### New ACO for CPCQA

Canadian Certification Services

ACO appointed Directors to the CPCQA QAC:

Wayne Kassian, P.Eng.  
Brian Clarke, P.Eng.

# CANADIAN PRECAST CONCRETE QUALITY ASSURANCE (CPCQA) CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

## **Duties of the Accredited Certification Organization**

The principal duty of the Accredited Certification Organization will be to inspect and grade all precast plants across Canada in accordance with the Canadian Precast Concrete Quality Assurance (CPCQA) Certification Program Requirements.

## **What will be the Program Content?**

The initial program content will simply be the merge of the two existing certification program documents into one Canadian Precast Concrete Quality Assurance (CPCQA) document; the existing CPCI v1.7 Certification Program Requirements document, and the existing (rev. 15) PPP Program Requirements. Accordingly, the audits will be unchanged at the outset, and the plants will be audited under this new program in name only. In the CPCQA v1 Certification Program Requirements document, the only changes to the prior program content documents will be administrative in nature and will be done as an upfront Special Provision to the two merged program requirement documents, to support full transparency. These administrative changes are:

1. ADMINISTRATIVE EDIT: A different administrative address: Where formerly the mailing address of the CCPPA or CPCI are shown, this will be replaced by the mailing address for the CPCQA.

AND

2. ADMINISTRATIVE ADDITION: The makeup of the new QAC will be represented,

AND

3. ADMINISTRATIVE ADDITION: Plants and product definitions:

# CANADIAN PRECAST CONCRETE QUALITY ASSURANCE (CPCQA) CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

The definition of products represented by each of the current certifications has been reviewed/clarified and these product descriptions, along with their relevant national standard, will define the requirements in the new Program Requirements.

AND

4. ADMINISTRATIVE ADDITION: Examples of the certification certificates under the CPCQA program.

## **Will the Program Content change over time?**

Over time the new CPCQA QAC may make changes to the program that may or may not affect one or both of the old audits. This will be the purview of the new CPCQA QAC, and upon approval of their own independent Board of Directors, which are similar governance protocols to the two former programs.

## **Will the Certification Programs overlap for some time?**

Regarding overlap, owing to the joint venture legal agreement, the CPCI and PPP programs will both cease to exist on January 1, 2018 at which time both programs will continue under the administration of one singular entity, the CPCQA.

Regarding currently CPCI certified plants, in January they will be issued new CPCQA certificates along with a supporting letter that indicate the plant was formerly certified under the CPCI certification program and that CPCI endorses the CPCQA program.

Regarding currently PPP certified plants, in January they will be issued new CPCQA certificates that will expire on the same date as their current PPP expiration. CPCQA certificates for plants producing drainage products will continue to have a Schedule A that provides details on products and sizes that have been certified at the plant under the

# CANADIAN PRECAST CONCRETE QUALITY ASSURANCE (CPCQA) CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

CPCQA program.

## What about specifications?

Regarding specifications, CPCQA has issued a letter to all Provincial MOT's, and to AEC contacts, asking that they adopt the new program as a replacement to the two existing programs, and have suggested new specification wording (see: [www.precastcertification.ca](http://www.precastcertification.ca)). For existing or soon-to-be-signed project supply agreements, it is suggested that the Owner or General Contractor consider asking the supplier for an amendment to their existing supply agreement, similar to the following:

*Pursuant to our agreement dated \_\_\_\_ in which Supplier agreed to be compliant under the CPCI Program during the term of the supply agreement, we understand that the CPCI Program as previously carried on by the Canadian Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute has been subsumed by and is part of a certification program now conducted by Canadian Precast Concrete Quality Assurance Certification Program. Supplier hereby agrees that effective January 1, 2018, during the remaining term of this supply agreement, Supplier shall be compliant under the certification program administered by the Canadian Precast Concrete Quality Assurance Certification Program (or any successor or replacement program as approved by Canadian Precast Concrete Quality Assurance Certification Program).*

## Will the Plant Prequalification Requirements for Precast Concrete Drainage Products exam for Division I and Division II (CSA A23.4) from the former PPP still take place?

Yes these exams are still requirements under the CPCQA program for precasters producing drainage products. A passing mark of 90% or higher is required. The exam must be renewed every 5 years. To arrange for an exam-writing for any of your

# CANADIAN PRECAST CONCRETE QUALITY ASSURANCE (CPCQA) CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

employees during your next inspection, please contact Brian Clarke at [\(519\) 594-2430](tel:5195942430) to make arrangements.

## **Will the PCI Level I and Level II Requirements for Plants that produce according to CSA A23.4 still be in force?**

Yes these credentials will still be required and CPCI will continue to hold those schools in Canada under a continuing agreement with PCI.

## **Will a cylinder strength correlation program still take place for Drainage Products plants?**

Yes, this program will continue. It will occur 2 times per year and will involve all plants qualified under CPCQA to produce drainage products across Canada.