

**SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**APPROVAL POLICY
FOR READY-MIX CONCRETE PLANTS**

The purpose of this policy is to establish the procedures for becoming approved as a supplier of ready-mix concrete. Only approved suppliers will be accepted and certified to furnish concrete for SCDOT projects.

Requests for approval should be submitted to:

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When the concrete plant has been inspected and approved by the Office of Materials and Research (OMR) personnel, it will be listed on Approval Sheet 28. The OMR personnel inspect the Ready-Mix plants **furnishing concrete for SCDOT work** once during each calendar year. An inspection letter is furnished to each Project Engineer in the general area of each plant.

A plant that does not comply with SCDOT specifications at the time of the laboratory inspection or that is **not furnishing concrete for SCDOT work** will be taken off the approval sheet.

Before permitting a concrete plant to produce concrete for the Department's use, the Resident Construction Engineer should verify that the plant has been inspected and is in compliance.

The OMR will also make approval inspections in the following cases:

1. When an approved plant has not furnished concrete for highway work for the previous six months.
2. When a plant not previously approved is requested to be approved.
3. When a stationary or portable concrete plant is moved to a new site to produce concrete for highway projects.

Suppliers included on the approval sheets must still meet all SCDOT specifications and requirements for the equipment, materials, and procedures used during the production of concrete.

SCDOT personnel have the authority to perform quality assurance inspections of the plants furnishing concrete for SCDOT work at any time without notice.

***** Important Notice *****

Beginning January 1, 2007, to be considered for approval, the Concrete supplier must submit a plant certification from the National Ready Mix Concrete Association (NRMCA) for each plant proposed to provide concrete for SCDOT projects. Documentation must also be provided showing that the inspector certifying the plant has completed the additional SCDOT related training provided by the Carolinas Ready Mixed Concrete Association (CRMCA) prior to the certification inspection. The CRMCA can be reached at (704) 717-9199 or on the Internet at www.crmca.com.

Note: From January 1, 2006, until December 31, 2006, the SCDOT will *accept* but not *require* NRMCA certification with the inspector documentation as outlined above in lieu of SCDOT inspection. SCDOT will continue to inspect and approve non-NRMCA certified plants until December 31, 2006.

Plants currently NRMCA certified:

Plants that currently hold NRMCA certification as of the date of this policy will be grandfathered into this program contingent upon a successful inspection of the plant by the Structural Materials Engineer's representative. The Structural Materials Engineer may elect to waive the initial inspection of the plant, however a randomly-scheduled follow-up inspection will be performed to verify the plant's compliance to SCDOT specifications. At the Structural Materials Engineer's discretion, any significant deficiencies may require that the plant be inspected for approval through the regular means indicated herein. Ready-mix suppliers that want to be considered for approval based on their current NRMCA certification must submit a written request for this approval and must provide a copy of their plant's NRMCA certification documentation.

Removal from the approval list:

Plants that do not comply with SCDOT standard specifications and/or the NRMCA certification program requirements at the time of the SCDOT inspection or that are not furnishing concrete for SCDOT projects may be taken off the approval sheet. Sufficient time for corrections may be allowed for minor violations and a follow-up inspection performed by SCDOT. If such a follow-up is performed, SCDOT may charge a fee to recover costs for the follow-up inspection. If the SCDOT removes a supplier from the approval sheet, the supplier must provide a new NRMCA certification along with the inspector documentation to be considered for reinstatement to the list.

NRMCA Certification program requirements:

The following are the requirements for NRMCA Inspecting Engineer and Engineer's Assistant Certification Program.

Inspecting Engineer and Engineer's Assistant Certification Program

Inspecting Engineer Certification Requirements

1. The Inspecting Engineer must be a Registered Professional Engineer in South Carolina.
2. The Inspecting Engineer may be an employee of the Ready-Mixed company or production plant being inspected.
3. The Inspecting Engineer may be an employee of a raw material supplier of the ready-mixed company or production plant being inspected.
4. The Inspecting Engineer must be familiar with the physical/mechanical components of a concrete production facility.
5. The Inspecting Engineer must be on the CRMCA's current approved list of Inspecting Engineers (The following are prerequisites for CRMCA approved listing):
 - a. Must complete an 8 hr CRMCA administered training/certification course on NRMCA plant inspection.
 - b. Must pass CRMCA administered written plant inspection exam.
 - c. Certification is valid for 5 years (Must pass a written exam to re-certify).
6. The Inspecting Engineer may have the assistance of another individual or individuals meeting the requirements below.

Inspecting Engineer's Assistant Certification Requirements

1. The Engineer's Assistant must be familiar with the physical/mechanical components of a concrete production facility.
2. The Engineer's Assistant must be on the CRMCA's current approved list of Inspecting Engineers Assistants (The following are prerequisites for CRMCA approved listing):
 - a. Must complete an 8 hr CRMCA administered training/certification course on NRMCA plant inspection.
 - b. Must pass CRMCA administered written plant inspection exam.
 - c. Certification is valid for 5 years (Must pass a written exam to re-certify).