



NPCA

PLANT CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

The NPCA Certified Plant

Precast concrete plant operators committed to excellence seek NPCA certification. Their certification plaques indicate the investment of time and resources necessary to meet the high standards demanded by the construction industry.

Staffed by experienced personnel, plants complying with NPCA guidelines practice quality assurance at every step of the production process. These guidelines require procedures and products to be inspected during each phase of manufacturing to ensure compliance with rigid industry requirements. As a result, products from NPCA certified plants are characterized by high quality, uniformity and consistency. Each NPCA certified plant is also required to maintain an active plant safety program that meets or exceeds local, state and federal laws, including Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requirements.

NPCA guidelines require certified plants to maintain extensive records to verify that materials used in the manufacturing process conform to appropriate specifications. Work orders, product drawings, equipment calibration records, aggregate and concrete test records, batching reports and product inspection reports are also required as management tools and quality assurance aids.

The Certification Process

To become an NPCA certified plant, a precast concrete production facility must exceed a level of excellence defined by NPCA in accordance with relevant industry standards. Plant inspections are performed by an engineer from an independent, nationally accredited firm, and all certification applicants are graded on all critical aspects of plant operation. A standard grading schedule is used for all inspections to ensure uniformity. Inspections are performed during actual plant operation.

The inspector spends a full day at the plant closely examining various production practices to ensure that the plant meets or exceeds the requirements published in the *NPCA Quality Control Manual for Precast and Prestressed Concrete Plants*. The manual covers critical factors such as:

- Management Policies
- Production Practices
- Raw Materials
- Concrete Mixes
- Quality Control Procedures
- Reinforcement Fabrication and Placement
- Casting, Curing and Stripping Operations
- Storage and Handling

The manual also contains product-specific requirements for concrete pipe intended for use in stormwater applications, box culverts, round manholes and septic tanks. Plants manufacturing any of these products, in addition to those covered by any other ASTM international standard, must demonstrate conformance with all applicable product-specific ASTM standards.

Certify Excellence

From start to finish, the NPCA Plant Certification program sets the highest standards for plant facilities, production operations and quality control procedures. NPCA certified plants are dedicated to manufacturing first-class products. To maintain their NPCA credentials, plants must pass periodic, on-site certification inspections.

The NPCA Plant Certification program enables quality-conscious agencies, architects, engineers and users to identify and select high-quality precast concrete manufacturers. At no cost to specifiers, NPCA certification prequalifies manufacturers as companies capable of superior workmanship. You save money because you do not need to spend valuable time and resources inspecting a plant to ensure that its products will meet or exceed your expectations. You also save time when you work with certified precast plants because products arrive on the job site ready for installation. Material and labor costs are kept in check because quality control starts before the work order reaches the precast plant.

Products from Certified Precast Plants

Manufactured in a controlled environment and cured ahead of time, precast concrete products are delivered to the job site ready to install. Features of precast products include:

- High quality, uniformity and economy
- Versatility in design
- Manufacturing to exact specifications
- Quick and easy installation with fewer labor costs
- No weather-related construction delays
- Better cost control because of reliability in scheduling delivery and installation

Certifiable Quality

NPCA certified precast concrete manufacturers proudly display the NPCA inspection certificate. Insist on precast concrete from certified plants in the specifications for your next construction project and receive all the advantages of quality precast concrete.

