



March 27, 2020

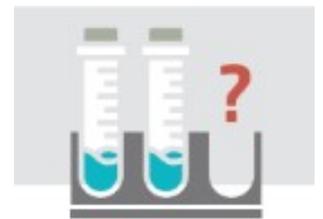
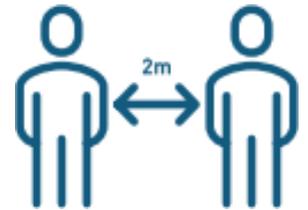
BEST PRACTICES FOR DELIVERING CONCRETE DURING COVID-19

The construction industry is the foundation of a strong and prosperous Alberta economy and concrete, as the most used construction material in the world, remains the cornerstone building material of the Alberta construction industry.

With the continuing spreading of COVID-19, around the world, it is critical that the construction industry implement new safety measures on Alberta's construction sites to ensure the long-term economical success of our province and country.

Concrete Alberta is asking all members of the construction team to consider the following safety issues in regard to the use of ready mixed concrete on your projects:

- **Social Distancing** – One of the key government recommendations for limiting the spread of this virus remains maintaining a safe working distance between employees of 2 metres. What this means for the ready mixed industry is the following:
 - Ready mix drivers will remain in their truck until they are required to discharge the concrete.
 - While discharging the concrete, other site workers are to remain a safe **physical** distance from the drivers.
 - The only person to touch the controls, add or remove chutes or to use the water system of the ready-mix truck is the driver.
 - Pump operators, swamper, third-party testing companies or other project site personnel, are not to come in direct contact with the concrete truck.
- **Communicating Confirmed COVID-19 Test Results of Jobsite Workers** – One of the major challenges for all employers is ensuring worker safety. In order for the concrete producer to be able to ensure the safety of their workers, it is critical that our customers communicate information as soon as they are aware regarding any confirmed cases their staff may have, and if the impacted site worker may have interacted with our drivers, QC personnel or any other concrete producer employees.
- **Ordering Concrete** – Scheduling for efficient concrete delivery has always been a challenging task. To minimize ready-mix truck driver's exposure and overall wait-time onsite, we encourage contractors to communicate with the order desk and/or dispatch 48 hours prior to the placement for more efficient concrete delivery as well as communicating any order changes before, and during concrete placement that may impact pour rates and truck spacing.



- **Electronic Ticketing** – Significant progress has been made in the move towards electronic ticketing for concrete delivery. Given the potential for increased transmission from the handling of paper tickets, the industry will be requesting the support of Contractors, Consultants and Owners in the rapid expansion of electronic communications and avoiding the use of hard copy tickets when possible. Where electronic ticketing isn't available, utilizing a secure and weatherproof storage container for the collection of jobsite records should be considered, along with a system that minimizes employee contact with the records. Some owners have also accepted bulk emailing of delivery tickets for the project at the end of the day or moved to the taking pictures of delivery tickets with smartphones, to avoid paper tickets being handled by construction workers.
- **Driver Support Roles** – Ready-mix drivers will continue to supply sufficient amounts of water to contractors, placers/finishers and testing companies that need to wash the cement paste off their tools or equipment. The tools or equipment must be placed in a containment area near the truck and the driver will wash the equipment without directly touching the materials and keeping a safe distance away from other workers. Please note that the water tank on a ready-mix truck is sized to concrete slump adjustment and chute washdown activities only. If large amounts of water are required on the jobsite, other water sources should be found.
- **Chute Scrapers** – While it was a common practice in the past to allow the contractor to utilize the drivers chute scraper or shovel, while this practice is not recommended since tools should not be shared unnecessarily between any workers, if the tools are shared they should be cleaned between workers use. It is preferred that contractors provide their own chute scraping devices.
- **Concrete Pump Water Tanks** – While it is a common practice for concrete pumps to request water from the ready-mix truck for their own water tank, the pump operator is to make the request to the driver and is not to touch the water dispensing system on the concrete truck. After making the request for water, the driver will confirm the amount of water that can be provided and if it can be done by following social distancing guidelines.
- **Site Meetings** – Our industry will continue to participate in these critical events, but the organizers must ensure that the minimum social separation distances are maintained for all participants and that the appropriate safety protocols are utilized. The industry preference remains conference calls and video meeting services wherever possible.
- **Implementation of Effective Concrete Field Testing** – The quality of concrete field testing activities remains the single largest concern of all Concrete Alberta members, and with the challenges of social distancing there needs to be a concerted effort by all construction team members to ensure that the concrete evaluation is conducted in an appropriate manner to avoid unnecessary project delays. Accurate field testing and the prompt distribution of all concrete test results to the full project team will be even more critical in the coming months.
- **On Site Technical Support** – While our members are still working very hard to provide technical support on site, the need for social distancing for these workers is critical. Please leave 2 metres of space around our member's technicians while they are performing their job tasks.
- **Spotters for Back-up Operations** – While we realize that there are many labour challenges on construction sites, ready mixed concrete trucks still require a signaller or flag-person in order to back into concrete delivers. These safety requirements are critical for every jobsite and cannot be overlooked.

During these very challenging times we encourage everyone to remember the **Golden Rule** and to treat others as you would like to be treated. If we are respectful of the challenges that everyone is facing, and we work together to implement new and innovative methods to address our shared safety concerns we can improve work processes while ensuring a safe work environment.

If you would like to provide feedback on this document or propose additional safety considerations and/or procedures related to ready mixed concrete operations, please contact the association directly.

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