SAFEGUARDING EXCELLENCE IN PRECAST CONCRETE

The Concrete Manufacturers Association (CMA) is the primary representative of the precast concrete industry. Now in its 42nd year, it initiates standards in close cooperation with StanSA and collaborates with its members in developing new products and services.

Precast concrete is a building material which slots very comfortably into the modern world of fast track and modular construction, in many instances leading the way with innovative technologies and applications.

The CMA’s promotional activities target architects, engineers, developers, contractors and property owners and the pooled knowledge and expertise of its members fosters an environment which encourages the development of innovative, environmentally and community-friendly products.

The Association’s prime focus is on ensuring that its members’ products are applied correctly. A CMA mark serves as a guarantee of quality and the CMA takes responsibility should a problem arise.

Members are encouraged to hold accredited product certification such as the relevant SANS standard or to manufacture to specifications laid down by the CMA. Should a problem arise the CMA will carry out an investigation, and, if the product
does not conform to the required standard, the member company is obliged to rectify the situation.

Down the years the CMA has published numerous manuals, brochures and audio visuals on the practical application of precast concrete and this material is available at a nominal charge. It also runs refresher courses and holds seminars to introduce new technology and methodology, often featuring overseas experts.

**SETTING THE STANDARDS**

Over the past 15 years the CMA has virtually re-written, amended or upgraded nearly all the national standards on precast concrete. These standards focus on both the manufacture and application of precast concrete. The preparation of new and the revision of existing standards is undertaken in collaboration with bodies such as The South African Bureau of Standards and Agrément South Africa.

An example is the revised paving standard, SANS 1058:2012, which replaced the old compression-based standard with three new performance measurement techniques in 2010. Another is SANS 508:2007 which covers the manufacture of concrete retaining blocks (CRB).

Moreover, the Association was instrumental in getting approval from Agrément South Africa to license precast concrete slab producer members to manufacture precast concrete foundation beams for the construction of entry-level single-storey houses.

**RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT**

Research is an important CMA function. For instance, the Association has been running an ongoing programme at Virginia, Free State, in which concrete pipes’ capacity in handling anaerobic conditions associated with high levels of H2S and H2SO4, has been closely examined and analysed.
Another initiative was the introduction of the CMA Roofing System in 2004 which foreshadowed a surge in the use of concrete roof tiles for low-cost housing. Similarly, the Association has made a significant contribution to the provision of subsidy housing by offering CAD-based architect-designed plans for a 40m² house built with modular masonry.

**OPERATIONAL AND MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE**

The Association is divided into two operational divisions, Precast Building and Precast Infrastructure. Members can fit into either or both depending on their product mix. The executive board (see table) comprises an executive director, a technical director, a financial director and an honorary secretary. In addition, there are regional chapters in Botswana, the Eastern Cape, Kwa-Zulu Natal, Namibia, Zimbabwe.

**BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP**

Membership is open to any precast concrete manufacturer, provided certain quality-based criteria are met. Although membership has always been open to companies north of the Limpopo River, the Association is now actively recruiting members in Botswana, Kenya, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
Full and associate membership
There are five membership categories: producer; non-producer; associate; contractor; and cement producers. For CMA membership purposes, precast concrete is defined as a concrete product cast in a re-usable mould or form, cured in a controlled environment, transported to site and lifted into position.

Membership is granted on the basis of the following:
• A quality assurance system is in place
• Production takes place in a purpose-built manufacturing facility
• Occupational, health and safety (OHS) procedures are in use
• Technical and engineering competence
• Financial stability
• Environmental compliance.

Benefits of CMA membership
• Being part of an association brand which is widely recognised and respected for setting and maintaining best-practice standards
• Access to industry-specific statistical information
• Posting CMA logo on company stationery, website, packaging and products
• Participation in the prestigious Awards for Excellence competition
• Listing on the CMA website
• Inclusion on the CMA mailing list
• A membership certificate
• Membership discounts on seminars and educational courses
• Participation in setting national standards for the industry
• Access to best-product design and manufacturing processes
• Opportunities to feature innovative precast concrete projects in the CMA’s magazine, Precast
• Client referrals
• Networking opportunities
• Participation in and product displays at exhibitions.
**FEE STRUCTURE**
The Concrete Manufacturers Association has various categories of membership namely:
- Producer Member
- Non-Producer Member
- Associate Member
- Contractor Member
- Cement Producer Member

**Producer Members**
Producer Members are placed in either structural pillar or both depending on the product or products manufactured.

A uniform system of applying fees common to all members has been devised in order to eliminate confusion. Fees are based on whether companies fit into one or both pillars and whether they have one or more manufacturing outlets. If a manufacturer’s products fall within one pillar then the fee is based on one pillar only. If the product range spans both pillars then a supplementary amount is charged. Supplementary fees are also charged for every additional manufacturing outlet.

**2013 Producer Member fees**
R1 500 per pillar per month excluding VAT plus R1 000.00 per additional manufacturing outlet per month excluding VAT. All paid-up members have voting rights.

**Example 1 (as at 2013)**
Suppose a roof tile manufacturer produces from one factory, the fee payable would be R1 500 per month plus VAT and the company would be classified as a Precast Building member.

**Example 2 (as at 2013)**
The fee for a paving-block manufacturer operating from two locations would be R2 500.00 per month plus VAT and it would be classified as a Precast Infrastructure member.
**Example 3 (as at 2013)**
The fee for a business manufacturing lintels and pipes from one location would be R3 000.00 per month plus VAT and the company would be classified as both a Precast Building and Precast Infrastructure member.

**Example 4 (as at 2013)**
Where both roof tiles and paving are manufactured from three locations, the fee payable would be R5 000.00 per month plus VAT and the company would be both Precast Building and Precast Infrastructure member.

**Non-Producer Members**
Non-Producer Members are those organisations which produce, machinery, moulds, vehicles, technology, admixtures, additives, chemicals etc.

Fees payable for Non-Producer Members for 2013 are R5 000.00 per annum plus VAT. Non-Producer Members are entitled to participate and attend all CMA functions and meetings but do not have voting rights.

**Associate Members**
Any professionals such as engineers, architects, quantity surveyors and associations, institutes, federations and government bodies within the building and civil engineering sector are eligible for an associate membership.
Fees payable by Associate Members for 2013 are R2 500.00 per annum plus VAT. Associate Members are entitled to participate and attend all CMA functions and meetings but do not have voting rights.

**Contractor Members**
Contractors are in the business of installing and/or constructing precast concrete units manufactured by producer members or on behalf of producer members are eligible for membership of the association.

Fees payable by contractor members for 2013 are R5 000.00 per annum plus VAT. Contractor Members are entitled to participate and attend all CMA functions and meetings but do not have voting rights.

**Cement Producer Members**
Cement producers, blenders, importers, distributors qualify for membership of the Association.

Fees are payable either monthly and/or by sponsorship or grant.

The examples above might not reflect current membership fees. Please visit our website www.cma.org.za or contact the CMA office on 011 805-6742.

**SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**
From 2008 onwards the Association adopted a policy of corporate social responsibility which involved substantial material and technological input from CMA members for the construction of community centres in Diepsloot and Orange.
Farm in collaboration with MaAfrika Tikkun. More recently, the Association has contributed to the Legacy Housing project in the Western Cape not to mention the construction of the first single-storey CMA House near Bronkhorstspruit using modular masonry and other precast concrete products donated by CMA members.

The CMA has made a significant contribution to the provision of subsidy housing by offering CAD-based architect-designed plans for a 40m² house. Based on genuine modular masonry practice, the CMA House plans are available at no charge to anyone wishing to use them. It is an initiative which, if adopted by housing authorities, can improve building quality and productivity dramatically. And because they are CAD-based, the plans can be used as a template for almost any subsidy housing project.

AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE COMPETITION
Since they were first staged in 1985, the Awards have become the undoubted highlight of the precast concrete industry’s calendar. The competition is based on recently completed projects in which technical and aesthetic excellence, among other categories, is critically assessed by a panel of independent judges drawn from the professions. Held biennially and open to all members, the event provides an excellent vehicle for southern African designers and project developers to establish themselves as trendsetters across several disciplines, and in doing so, to gain national recognition.
EdUcAtiOn
Seminars on new and existing technologies in precast concrete are held regularly. The Association also produces and distributes technical information in the form of software, books, brochures and DVD’s for a deeper understanding and more effective applications of members’ products.

MaRkEtInG
Besides publishing technical information, the Association has an official mouthpiece, Precast, a magazine which highlights current projects and case studies in precast concrete technology, and covers some of the more innovative precast trends both locally and internationally.

Press releases and articles issued by the CMA are published regularly in several construction-based journals.

The CoRe ChalleNge
The main challenge facing the CMA is to convince professionals and specifiers that the products and systems it advocates are of considerable advantage to all concerned i.e. specifiers, industry professionals, and of course, the end-user.

The other challenge is to nurture and encourage technical skills and innovation in the manufacture and application of precast concrete industry - to the benefit of all.
CMA MEMBERS (as at October 2013)

PRODUCER MEMBERS

A Fick Sementwerke
Aveng Manufacturing Infraset
Bass Beams
Bay Brick
Beta Tiles
Boland Concrete
Bosun Brick Midrand
Brickbuild t/a Panda
Brickcast Industries cc
C.E.L. Paving Products
Cast Industries
Colonial Stone
Concrete Units
Conframat
Corobrik
Deranco Precast
Deranco Blocks
Deranco Paving (Pty) Ltd
Eagle Roof Tiles (Pty) Ltd
Echo Prestress (Pty) Ltd
Fastdeck (Pty) Ltd
Inca Concrete Products
Inca Masonry (Garden Architecture)
Keystone Walling
Kwena Concrete Products
Lategan Cement Works
Marley Roofing
Mobicast
Monier Roofing South Africa
MVA Bricks
Swakop Tiles cc
ReMacon Products
Revelstone
Reya Pele Bricks Ltd
Rocla
Shukuma Flooring
Southern Pipe Contractors
Style Decor Design & Manufacturers
Technicrete
Topfloor
Vaka Concrete (Pty) Ltd
Vanstone Precast (Pty) Ltd
West End Cement Bricks

CONTRACTOR MEMBERS

Decorton Retaining System
Friction Retaining Structures (Pty) Ltd
PYW Paving
Roadstone Civil & Paving
SA Paving Gauteng

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

ARQ Consulting Engineers
British Precast Concrete Federation
ILIFA Africa Engineers (Pty) Ltd
JC Paving Consulting
Pipes cc
Sekhukhune & Associates
SNA Civil & Structural Eng
Tjeka Training Matters
Young & Satharia Consulting Civil Engineers

CEMENT MEMBERS

PPC Ltd
AfriSam South Africa (Pty) Ltd

NON-PRODUCER MEMBERS

Able Equipment
Ash Resources (Pty) Ltd
Birkenmayer H (Pty) Ltd
BASF Construction Chemicals South Africa (Pty) Ltd
Chryso Southern Africa (Pty) Ltd
Delta Bloc South Africa (Pty) Ltd
Dick King Lab Supplies
Kavango Block & Brick
Kaytech
Kerneos Aluminate
Kobra Moulds B.V.
Manitou SA (Pty) Ltd
Mapei SA (Pty) Ltd
Pan Mixers SA (Pty) Ltd
Sika South Africa (Pty) Ltd
Smartstone (Pty) Ltd
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