

CCIL CONCRETE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM Q & A's

The CCIL Concrete Certification Program has now completed the agreed upon transition from CSA. CCIL inspectors have been receiving training from CSA staff over the last several weeks, and are now in a position to provide CSA Qualified Laboratories with continued and improved service. The files are currently being transferred from CSA to CCIL, and the program should continue without disruption. As you can appreciate, this sudden change in the concrete certification landscape has generated many questions, and the most common questions received are generically summarized below. We hope this information will be useful to you. If any information is not covered in this fact sheet, please feel free to contact us with any questions you may have.

Q. Will the standards for certification change?

A. No, at this time, CCIL will continue to audit laboratories in accordance with CSA A283.06, which is the Qualification Code for Concrete Testing Laboratories.

Q. If we are currently qualified with CSA, do we need to reapply with CCIL?

A. No, your CSA Qualification remains intact, until the next laboratory audit, at which time a CCIL certification is granted. You will be contacted by CCIL to arrange for an inspection date that is mutually acceptable. There will be no more "surprise" inspections.

Q. We have a number of CSA certified technicians. What happens with them?

A. They keep their certification until the expiry date on the CSA card. At that time, re-testing of technicians will be conducted by CCIL.

Q. Will our fees go up as a result of the acquisition of the CSA program?

A. No. CCIL has a history of running very successful asphalt and aggregate certification programs at a reasonable cost. The programs rely on the efforts of many volunteers, reducing the need additional salaried staff. At this time, concrete laboratories pay an annual fee (in the neighbourhood of \$1,600.00 per site) and additional fees for inspections and technician certification. The timing of the annual fee throughout the year can vary depending on the laboratory schedule. For our asphalt and aggregate certification programs, CCIL currently invoices all laboratories at the same time in each year. Our fee is all inclusive for those programs, and includes the laboratory audit component as part of the annual fee. It is our intention to streamline the process in a similar manner with the concrete program. Moreover, combining concrete laboratory audits with the asphalt and aggregate laboratory audits for those laboratories already certified by CCIL will result in significant cost savings to those laboratories.

Commencing June 5th, 2009, CCIL will be billing the identical CSA Annual Fee to CSA qualified laboratories. Those annual fees will be payable to CCIL. Any inspections conducted by CSA between June 5th and August 4th of 2009, will be invoiced by CSA and is payable to CSA. After August 4th, all fees are payable to CCIL. On the 2010 annual fee invoice, laboratories will be invoiced a pro-rated amount to bring them up to December 31st, 2010. Effective January 1st, 2011, a new fee structure will be established that will be all inclusive of the annual fee and laboratory inspections, which should be more cost effective for laboratories, and will be fixed to allow laboratories to budget for certification costs. We expect a cost savings to laboratories.

It should be noted that with our asphalt and aggregate certification programs, CCIL member firms receive a significant discount in certification fees, and it is our intention to use the same model in 2011, where CCIL members will receive a discounted certification fee for concrete as well.

Until December 31st, 2010, laboratory audits will be invoiced based on hourly rates and expenses for laboratory auditors and the Program Manager. In that CCIL hourly rates for our inspectors are significantly lower than those used by CSA, laboratories should see an immediate cost saving for laboratory inspections.

- Q. What about the cost for having technicians certified?
- A. If technicians are certified at the time of a laboratory audit, the only cost is for the additional time on site by the inspector to administer the testing. This would result in a minimal cost for technician certification. If a special trip is requested by the laboratory to have technicians certified, then the laboratory will be invoiced based on hourly rates and expenses for the CCIL inspector administering the testing.
- Q. I am interested in becoming a member of CCIL. How can obtain information on becoming a full member?
- A. Please visit our web site at www.ccil.com for information about CCIL. To obtain a membership application package, please contact the CCIL National Office at 613-746-3919, or by email at ccil@magma.ca.

For further questions concerning CCIL certification programs, please contact our Program Manager – Nabil Kamel at 905-632-6456 or nkamel@ccil.com.