

ASCC Student Competition: Research and Presentation of a Position Statement

INTRODUCTION: In simplest terms, concrete construction projects can be broken into two distinct phases, each with its own interconnected cast of stakeholders and risk takers.

During the first phase, concrete placement begins. In addition to the concrete contractor, active project participants typically might include earthwork, shoring, waterproofing and MEP (mechanical, electrical, plumbing) trade contractors. The concrete contractor arrives on the jobsite with the expectation and understanding that the jobsite conditions have been prepared in accordance with the construction documents.

During the second phase, the concrete work is well underway, with a completion date on the near horizon. A new assortment of follow-on contractors arrives on the jobsite, each tasked with either attaching their work to (or covering up) the newly-placed concrete. Typical follow-on stakeholders might include masonry, partition (drywall), building skin, elevator and floor covering (e.g., tile, carpet, and wood flooring) installers. In this phase, the follow-on contractors arrive on the jobsite with the expectation and understanding that the concrete contractor has furnished and installed the concrete frame in accordance with the construction documents.

The Owner expects that the work scopes of both phases occur as planned, in a timely manner, and in accordance with requirements spelled out in the various construction contracts and subcontracts. In the real world, however, perfection rarely happens.

Disputes arise, causing each party to assume positions intended to defend their work and to mitigate financial risk.

CONDITIONS: Assume you have just been awarded a contract to furnish and install the structural concrete portion of a large commercial high-rise building. The concrete scope of work is scheduled to start during the 4th quarter of 2022. You have been given a copy of the joint ACI/ASCC "Contractor's Guide to Quality Concrete Construction" (MNL-5(19)), which includes 46 Position Statements developed by ASCC to address critical installation and finishing issues that concrete contractors typically encounter.

Intended to minimize disputes and to facilitate communication, the ASCC Position Statements clarify what can and cannot be reasonably expected as acceptable, industry-standard work product.

ASSIGNMENT: Using the Contractor's Guide as a starting point, study and understand each of the 46 ASCC Position Statements. Then apply the means and methods of your choosing (e.g., literature surveys, interviews with designers, contractors, ready-mix suppliers, etc.) to create the next Position Statement you may need to deploy on your

upcoming high-rise project. You are free to choose the topic and position you wish to take, as long as it is suitably supported.