

“Basic” VS “Advanced”

By Marcus von der Hofen, Chair



As we move forward with the Contractor Qualification (CQ) Program the question of whether a Contractor is in the “Advanced” or “Basic” level of qualification has become a point of discussion with applicants and reviewers alike. Today I’ll present a few of the pros and cons of this issue and attempt to shed some light on possible

directions in the future.

- The policy states the “Basic” or “Advanced” level of qualification is based on **past project complexity**. Our qualification program is based upon the ASA Board of Direction Position Statement #1, “Shotcrete Contractor and Crew Qualifications.”
- Four main components (not two or one) are used to determine the level to which a contractor has operated. The projects completed, field personnel involved, management involved, and the capacity of operations (which includes equipment, financial, and industry involvement) are all evaluated to reach the Basic or Advanced level designation.

“Complexity,” as reviewed in this program, is more than just the complexity of performing the shotcrete alone. It also takes into consideration environmental factors, field conditions, scope of work, and all the defining attributes of the projects. The contractor’s detailed explanation of how their projects meet the items from the bulleted lists below is how a contractor helps to define and establish an advanced level of expertise for the reviewers. The review groups assigned by the CQ Committee use the completed project descriptions to determine the complexity, not only of the specific project, but also the operational capabilities of the contractor to perform on a project. The project reviews

also include variety. A contractor can be very skilled in one narrow type of application but that may not be enough, to be qualified as an Advanced Shotcrete Contractor. Variety is an element that sets the Advanced contractor apart with the experience, staffing, equipment, flexibility, and operational prowess to successfully execute more than one type of shotcrete project.

ASPECTS OF PROJECTS FOR CONSIDERATION AS A BASIC LEVEL OF QUALIFICATION

- Sections 6 in. (150 mm) or less in thickness
- One curtain of reinforcing with #5 (#16M) or smaller bars and non-contact lap splices with 2.5 in. (64 mm) separation
- Vertical height up to 8 ft (2.4 m)
- No overhead work
- No problems with subgrade soils or ground water
- Volume of shotcrete: 30 yd³ (23 m³) or less

ASPECTS OF PROJECTS FOR CONSIDERATION AS AN ADVANCED LEVEL OF QUALIFICATION

- Sections greater than 6 in. thickness
- Projects with reinforcing bars greater than #5 bars in a complex geometry or congested layout
- Vertical height over 8 ft
- Projects with overhead shooting
- Difficult access or environmental conditions
- Structures that require pre-construction test panels per the applicable Building Code
- Sections that require water stops, large embeds, pipes or movement joints

CONTRACTOR QUALIFICATION COMMITTEE

Marcus von der Hofen, Chair | Coastal Gunitite Construction Company

Ryan Oakes, Co-Chair | Revolution Gunitite

Cathy Burkert, Secretary | American Concrete Restorations Inc

Nadia Alexandre | AAA Shotcrete Inc

Lars Balck | Consultant

Michael Cotter | Consultant

Ashley Cruz | Cruz Concrete & Guniting Repair Inc

William Drakeley | Drakeley Industries LLC

Dick Frederick | Top Gun of Virginia Inc

Mason Guarino | South Shore Gunitite Pools & Spas Inc.

Greg McFadden | Prestige Concrete Products

Jason Myers | Dees Hennessey Inc

Axel Nitschke | WSP USA

Ryan Poole | Consultant

Mike Reeves | Gunitite Specialists Inc

Bruce Russell | CROM LLC

Frank Townsend | Patriot Shotcrete