



CALIFORNIA COUNCIL OF TESTING AND INSPECTION AGENCIES

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TO: California K-12 School Districts

SUBJECT: Sampling of Concrete/Masonry Materials by Project Inspectors

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The California Council of Testing and Inspection Agencies (CCTIA) is a non-profit, public benefit organization representing special inspection and testing agencies throughout the State of California. At the request of several member firms, this letter has been prepared to address some confusion regarding the authority to approve Project Inspectors to provide material sampling services on school projects.

Title 24 requires the sampling and testing of various construction materials to be provided by a testing facility acceptable to the Division of the State Architect. DSA Circular 17-1 (copy enclosed) further clarifies this responsibility in stating that only the DSA Field Engineer for the project may approve an alternate individual to provide for the sampling, protection, handling, transporting and storing of given samples. Clearly, the authority to provide this approval does not rest with the testing agency.

Additionally, Title 24 Section 4-355(d) *Test Reports* states that all reports shall show "...that the material or materials were sampled and tested in accordance with the requirements of these regulations and with the approved plans and specifications." The testing agency cannot attest to this when its personnel did not provide the service, thereby creating a non-compliant condition for the project.

While we understand school districts may consider the use of project inspectors to perform sampling services a potential efficiency, it is clearly not the intent of Title 24, or DSA's interpretation thereof. Irrespective, as previously stated, the authority to "approve" someone other than an employee of the testing agency rests with the DSA Field Engineer, and must be done in advance on an individual, project by project basis.

Please feel free to contact the undersigned if you have any questions, or if the Council may be of additional assistance to you in the future.

Very truly yours,

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**Sampling and Testing
of Structural Materials****DSA Circular 17-1**

Reference: California Building Code, Title 24, Part 1, Section 4-335

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Discipline: Structural

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This circular is intended for use by the DSA plan review engineers and field engineers to indicate an acceptable method for achieving compliance with applicable codes. Its purpose is to promote uniform statewide criteria for use in plan and construction review of projects within the jurisdiction of DSA. Other methods proposed by design professionals to solve a particular problem may be considered by DSA and reviewed for code compliance.

Purpose: The purpose of this Circular is to clarify who is responsible for the sampling, handling, and testing of structural materials as required by Title 24.

Background: Title 24 requires sampling and testing of various structural materials. Section 4-335 of Part 1 requires that a testing facility acceptable to Division of the State Architect (DSA) perform all tests. Testing facilities are evaluated and accepted as part of the Laboratory Evaluation and Acceptance (LEA) program. Accepted facilities are listed on the DSA web page (go to www.dsa.ca.gov, click on 'Project Tracking,' and then on 'Materials Testing Laboratories.')

Section 4-335(d) of Part 1 requires that all test reports state that materials were sampled and tested in accordance with the requirements of the DSA approved project construction documents. Reports must also state that materials meet the requirements of the DSA approved documents.

Requirements: Sampling and testing shall be performed as follows:

- The project inspector, a representative of the architect, engineer, DSA or the testing facility may select the locations for sampling. In no case shall the contractor, supplier, or construction manager select locations for sampling.
- Sampling, protection, handling, transporting and storing of samples may only be performed by qualified representatives of the LEA accepted testing facility unless written approval of an alternative individual is obtained in advance from the DSA Field Engineer for the project.
- Testing (including laboratory and field testing) may only be performed by qualified laboratory personnel of the testing facility identified on Form DSA-102, Contract Information Form.