

Meeting Notes
CCTIA General Meeting
June 18, 2004
REVISED 8/16/04

Attendees

Howard Yost	Earth Systems Southwest
Shawn Sharareh	Geotek, Inc.
Linus Vitkus	Twinning Labs of Southern California
Hung Nguyen	Twinning Labs of Southern California
Linda Hodo	Kleinfelder Inc.
Mohammad Fakharpour	Leighton Consulting Inc.
Ralph Humes	Leighton Consulting Inc.
Corey Dare	Fugro West, Inc.
Issam Makdissy	Terrasearch Inc.
William Chu	Converse Consultants
Greg Smith	Testing Engineers – U.S. Labs
Don Rose	Construction Materials Testing
Dan Cherrier	Kleinfelder Inc.
Greg Walker	Krazan and Associates
Aydin Akbarut	Smith-Emery Lab
Eric France	CA Division of the State Architect – Headquarters
Larry Lusch	Ninyo & Moore
Greg Simmons	Earth Systems Southwest
Mark Cuthbert	Ninyo & Moore
Mark Reeser	Ninyo & Moore

General Meeting

President Corey Dare called the meeting to order at 14:17.

President Dare discussed the mission and history of CCTIA. Copies of the Guidelines to Special Inspection (bluebook) were offered to all attendees. Issam discussed the June edition of the newsletter and several copies were made available.

President Dare announced that the normal meeting agenda would not be followed due to the special guest. At this point Eric France from the California Division of the State Architect was introduced.

Mr. France apologized for the recent lack of response from his office. He stated that numerous laboratory field visits have taken place over the last few weeks. In addition, Jeff Enzler is no longer associated with the LEA program, which has resulted in additional workload. Currently, Mr. France does not have any staff.

Information regarding laboratory certification on the DSA website will be moved from the Project Tacking link to a new section devoted entirely to material testing laboratories. Mr. France distributed a sample of the web page showing the expected links and format. The links provide a path to most of the new forms and LEA application materials.

Mr. France passed out new DSA acceptance letters for LEA approval. A new LEA application instruction document was developed January 1, 2004 that simplified the application process. The approval letter has revised wording and the services accepted page has been extensively modified. Many items that were previously under inspection are now in the testing section.

Effective immediately, Form 6 is no longer to be used by special inspectors. Mr. France passed out example forms for the construction inspection report, the laboratory report for testing results, the laboratory verified report, the special inspection verified report, and the engineered fill verified report. The format is quite different from DSA Form 6 and should be used immediately. DSA will be checking for conformance to these rules beginning in July 2004.

The laboratory verified report must be signed by the Civil Engineer (CE) listed on the LEA application or updated information. Mr. France added that DSA expects the responsible CE to be available in the laboratory to employees and to spend a significant amount of time overseeing laboratory operations. If the PE is not a full time employee of the specific location that has LEA approval, DSA should be notified and will evaluate if the CE can exercise sufficient responsible charge of the laboratory operation. The CE does not need to sign the individual laboratory test results.

The CE shall not sign any type of special inspection verified report unless they were approved by DSA, and personally performed the inspection; the individual special inspector approved by DSA is required to sign the SI verified report. If the employee leaves the firm, efforts have to be made to get his/her signature before he leaves. In addition, technicians/ special inspectors must sign the daily report at the end of each work shift.

Verified reports are due anytime there has been more than one month of field inactivity, if the individual or firm is terminated for any reason, and when the work is complete- (final verified). Should field work resume, the next verified report should indicate the word supplemental. . Should the laboratory be terminated from the project for any reason the verified reports are due immediately. .

The new approval letter specifies which items are considered tests and which are inspections. All laboratories are encouraged to read the form, as this is often misinterpreted .

Exceptions on verified reports should be in bold. Many laboratories objected to the word "all" in the verified reports.

Private inspectors, mostly in southern California, may not perform sampling for the laboratory. For example, the field inspector may not cast cylinders or masonry mortar or grout samples. A representative from a DSA accepted testing laboratory must perform all required tests, initial curing and handling of samples.. This requirement also applies to Inspector of Record.

No updates or changes have occurred during the past year for the Title 24 Special Masonry examination and certification. A revised shotcrete examination will be administered directly by DSA within the next year.

DSA has not been satisfied in some cases with the field / laboratory testing on masonry items. He distributed an announcement for a two-day masonry testing procedures certification course hosted by the National Concrete Masonry Association. Mr. France expects to require this course for all laboratory/field technicians within one year.

Mr. France has noticed that many laboratories are using pad-type caps for grout. This practice is prohibited on DSA projects. In addition, 4x8 cylinder molds for concrete may not be used. Expect a DSA circular within the next year stating that shrinkage testing (in some cases) may no longer be a required test on CMU blocks. Shrinkage has not been an issue; however, the circular will require control joints at closer spacing than currently used. Core drilled samples (for compression and shear) are always required on each 5,000 square feet of CMU wall.

All CMU block tests require thickness, absorption, and compression. Many laboratories are not including all necessary data in the report. All masonry field tests must include grout samples (sometimes-composite prisms) and mortar at the frequency specified in the project manual. Many laboratories are just submitting grout and mortar without the composite prisms or just the composite prisms.

Some laboratories have provided the distributor of the reinforcing steel with tags and having them place them. This practice is not allowed, a representative from the testing laboratory must provide identification, sampling, and tag the reinforcing steel, not the IOR, special inspector, or employee of the steel distributor. The laboratory representative must watch the heat bundles broken down; this is not to occur before his or her arrival.

Any laboratory performing soil inspection and testing must also participate in the AMRL program and have AASHTO approval.

ASTM manuals do not have to be replaced every year. At the time of DSA? Mr. Frances's site visit he expects to see each volume to be within one revision of the current. Copies of the 1997 UBC and 2001 CBC must be present during his visit. ?

Some firms are performing Nondestructive Testing (NDT) without the Level III being properly certified. Self or company Level III certification is no longer acceptable. The

Level III certification must come from The American Society for Nondestructive Testing (ASNT) by ASNT test, and be verifiable on the ASNT website. The facility's NDT written practice must be in accordance with ANSI/ASNT CP-189, 2001.

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All welding requires continuous special inspection as a minimum. The constant presence of the special inspector is required for fillet, multi-pass, and groove welds. The inspector must be in the shop at all times that welding is being performed. "Going to the Circle K is not allowed even if coming right back." Furthermore, for all complete penetrations or multipass welds the inspector must be near the point of welding. Many shop projects may require numerous inspectors if the work requires multipass welds.

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DSA will try to give laboratories advance notice when their LEA approval is to be removed. This does not apply to routine expiration of the LEA. He plans to work with DSA management this year to require that special inspectors must work for the testing laboratory. He did state that for laboratories with multiple locations, any location may perform inspections as long as, ALL testing is conducted by a facility/location currently acceptable to DSA.

Due to the lengthy meeting, attendees with additional questions were requested to contact Mr. France directly.

President Dare adjourned the meeting at 17:26.