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Preparing Activity: USACE

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UNIFIED FACILITIES GUIDE SPECIFICATIONS

References are in agreement with UMRL dated January 2025

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PLANT-PRECAST CONCRETE PRODUCTS FOR BELOW GRADE CONSTRUCTION 05/16

NOTE: This guide specification covers the requirements for precast, non-prestressed concrete products used for below grade construction (Sewage Systems, Subdrainage Systems, Storm Drainage Systems, Utility and Communications Structures, etc.).

Adhere to [UFC 1-300-02](#) Unified Facilities Guide Specifications (UFGS) Format Standard when editing this guide specification or preparing new project specification sections. Edit this guide specification for project specific requirements by adding, deleting, or revising text. For bracketed items, choose applicable item(s) or insert appropriate information.

Remove information and requirements not required in respective project, whether or not brackets are present.

Comments, suggestions and recommended changes for this guide specification are welcome and should be submitted as a [Criteria Change Request \(CCR\)](#).

PART 1 GENERAL

1.1 REFERENCES

NOTE: This paragraph is used to list the publications cited in the text of the guide specification. The publications are referred to in the text by basic designation only and listed in this paragraph by organization, designation, date, and title.

Use the Reference Wizard's Check Reference feature when you add a Reference Identifier (RID) outside of the Section's Reference Article to automatically

place the reference in the Reference Article. Also use the Reference Wizard's Check Reference feature to update the issue dates.

References not used in the text will automatically be deleted from this section of the project specification when you choose to reconcile references in the publish print process.

The publications listed below form a part of this specification to the extent referenced. The publications are referred to within the text by the basic designation only.

AMERICAN CONCRETE INSTITUTE (ACI)

ACI 211.1	(1991; R 2009) Standard Practice for Selecting Proportions for Normal, Heavyweight and Mass Concrete
ACI 211.2	(1998; R 2004) Standard Practice for Selecting Proportions for Structural Lightweight Concrete
ACI 305R	(2020) Guide to Hot Weather Concreting
ACI 306.1	(1990; R 2002) Standard Specification for Cold Weather Concreting
ACI 318	(2019; R 2022) Building Code Requirements for Structural Concrete (ACI 318-19) and Commentary (ACI 318R-19)
ACI 318M	(2019; Errata 2022) Building Code Requirements for Structural Concrete & Commentary

AMERICAN CONCRETE PIPE ASSOCIATION (ACPA)

ACPA 01-102	(2000) Concrete Pipe Handbook
ACPA 01-110	(1984) Design Manual for Sulfide and Corrosion Prediction and Control
ACPA QPC	(2021) QCast Plant Certification Manual

AMERICAN WELDING SOCIETY (AWS)

AWS D1.1/D1.1M	(2020; Errata 1 2021) Structural Welding Code - Steel
AWS D1.4/D1.4M	(2018) Structural Welding Code - Reinforcing Steel

ASTM INTERNATIONAL (ASTM)

ASTM A36/A36M	(2019) Standard Specification for Carbon Structural Steel
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ASTM A153/A153M	(2023) Standard Specification for Zinc Coating (Hot-Dip) on Iron and Steel Hardware
ASTM A615/A615M	(2024) Standard Specification for Deformed and Plain Carbon-Steel Bars for Concrete Reinforcement
ASTM A706/A706M	(2024) Standard Specification for Low-Alloy Steel Deformed and Plain Bars for Concrete Reinforcement
ASTM A767/A767M	(2019) Standard Specification for Zinc-Coated (Galvanized) Steel Bars for Concrete Reinforcement
ASTM A775/A775M	(2022) Standard Specification for Epoxy-Coated Steel Reinforcing Bars
ASTM A884/A884M	(2019; Errata 1) Standard Specification for Epoxy-Coated Steel Wire and Welded Wire Reinforcement
ASTM A1064/A1064M	(2024) Standard Specification for Carbon-Steel Wire and Welded Wire Reinforcement, Plain and Deformed, for Concrete
ASTM C31/C31M	(2024c) Standard Practice for Making and Curing Concrete Test Specimens in the Field
ASTM C39/C39M	(2024) Standard Test Method for Compressive Strength of Cylindrical Concrete Specimens
ASTM C138/C138M	(2024a) Standard Test Method for Density (Unit Weight), Yield, and Air Content (Gravimetric) of Concrete
ASTM C143/C143M	(2020) Standard Test Method for Slump of Hydraulic-Cement Concrete
ASTM C171	(2020) Standard Specification for Sheet Materials for Curing Concrete
ASTM C173/C173M	(2024a) Standard Test Method for Air Content of Freshly Mixed Concrete by the Volumetric Method
ASTM C192/C192M	(2024) Standard Practice for Making and Curing Concrete Test Specimens in the Laboratory
ASTM C231/C231M	(2024) Standard Test Method for Air Content of Freshly Mixed Concrete by the Pressure Method
ASTM C309	(2019) Standard Specification for Liquid Membrane-Forming Compounds for Curing

Concrete

ASTM C443	(2021) Standard Specification for Joints for Concrete Pipe and Manholes, Using Rubber Gaskets
ASTM C443M	(2021) Standard Specification for Joints for Concrete Pipe and Manholes, Using Rubber Gaskets (Metric)
ASTM C857	(2016) Standard Practice for Minimum Structural Design Loading for Underground Precast Concrete Utility Structures
ASTM C858	(2010; E 2012) Standard Specification for Underground Precast Concrete Utility Structures
ASTM C877	(2021) Standard Specification for External Sealing Bands for Concrete Pipe, Manholes, and Precast Box Sections
ASTM C877M	(2021) Standard Specification for External Sealing Bands for Concrete Pipe, Manholes, and Precast Box Sections (Metric)
ASTM C891	(2020) Standard Practice for Installation of Underground Precast Concrete Utility Structures
ASTM C920	(2018; R 2024) Standard Specification for Elastomeric Joint Sealants
ASTM C923	(2008; R 2013; E 2016) Standard Specification for Resilient Connectors Between Reinforced Concrete Manhole Structures, Pipes and Laterals
ASTM C923M	(2008b; R 2013) Standard Specification for Resilient Connectors Between Reinforced Concrete Manhole Structures, Pipes and Laterals (Metric)
ASTM C990	(2009; R 2019) Standard Specification for Joints for Concrete Pipe, Manholes, and Precast Box Sections Using Preformed Flexible Joint Sealants
ASTM C990M	(2009; R 2019) Standard Specification for Joints for Concrete Pipe, Manholes, and Precast Box Sections Using Preformed Flexible Joint Sealants (Metric)
ASTM C1064/C1064M	(2023) Standard Test Method for Temperature of Freshly Mixed Hydraulic-Cement Concrete
ASTM C1107/C1107M	(2020) Standard Specification for Packaged Dry, Hydraulic-Cement Grout (Nonshrink)

ASTM C1116/C1116M	(2023) Standard Specification for Fiber-Reinforced Concrete
ASTM C1244	(2020) Standard Test Method for Concrete Sewer Manholes by the Negative Air Pressure (Vacuum) Test Prior to Backfill
ASTM C1244M	(2020) Standard Test Method for Concrete Sewer Manholes by the Negative Air Pressure (Vacuum) Test Prior to Backfill (Metric)
ASTM C1478	(2019) Standard Specification for Storm Drain Resilient Connectors Between Reinforced Concrete Storm Sewer Structures, Pipes and Laterals
ASTM C1478M	(2019) Standard Specification for Storm Drain Resilient Connectors Between Reinforced Concrete Storm Sewer Structures, Pipes and Laterals (Metric)
CSA GROUP (CSA)	
CSA A23.4	(2016; R 2021) Precast Concrete - Materials and Construction
NATIONAL PRECAST CONCRETE ASSOCIATION (NPCA)	
NPCA QC Manual	(2017) Quality Control Manual for Precast and Prestressed Concrete Plants

1.2 SUBMITTALS

NOTE: Review submittal description (SD) definitions in Section 01 33 00 SUBMITTAL PROCEDURES and edit the following list, and corresponding submittal items in the text, to reflect only the submittals required for the project. The Guide Specification technical editors have classified those items that require Government approval, due to their complexity or criticality, with a "G." Generally, other submittal items can be reviewed by the Contractor's Quality Control System. Only add a "G" to an item, if the submittal is sufficiently important or complex in context of the project.

For Army projects, fill in the empty brackets following the "G" classification, with a code of up to three characters to indicate the approving authority. Codes for Army projects using the Resident Management System (RMS) are: "AE" for Architect-Engineer; "DO" for District Office (Engineering Division or other organization in the District Office); "AO" for Area Office; "RO" for Resident Office; and "PO" for Project Office. Codes following the "G" typically are not used for Navy

and Air Force projects.

The "S" classification indicates submittals required as proof of compliance for sustainability Guiding Principles Validation or Third Party Certification and as described in Section 01 33 00 SUBMITTAL PROCEDURES.

Government approval is required for submittals with a "G" or "S" classification. Submittals not having a "G" or "S" classification are for Contractor Quality Control approval. Submittals not having a "G" or "S" classification are for information only. When used, a code following the "G" classification identifies the office that will review the submittal for the Government. Submit the following in accordance with Section 01 33 00 SUBMITTAL PROCEDURES:

SD-01 Preconstruction Submittals

Quality Control Procedures

SD-02 Shop Drawings

Standard Precast Units; G, [_____]

Custom-Made Precast Units; G, [_____]

Special Finishes

SD-03 Product Data

Standard Precast Units

Proprietary Precast Units

Embedded Items

Accessories

SD-05 Design Data

Design Calculations; G, [_____]

Concrete Mix Proportions

SD-06 Test Reports

Test Reports

SD-07 Certificates

Quality Control Procedures

SD-11 Closeout Submittals

Recycled content for fly ash and pozzolan; S

Recycled content for Ground Iron Blast-Furnace Slag; S

Recycled content for Silica Fume; S

Recycled content for Synthetic Fiber Reinforcement; S

Recycled content for steel; S

1.3 QUALITY ASSURANCE

Demonstrate adherence to the standards set forth in **NPCA QC Manual** or **ACPA QPC**. Meet requirements written in the subparagraphs below.

1.3.1 NPCA and ACPA Plant Certification

NOTE: The use of this paragraph may limit competition. Verify the availability of NPCA and ACPA certified precasters in the bidding area.

The precast concrete producer must be certified by the National Precast Concrete Association's or the American Concrete Pipe Association's Plant Certification Program prior to and during production of the products for this project.

1.3.2 Qualifications, Quality Control and Inspection

1.3.2.1 Qualifications

Select a precast concrete producer that has been in the business of producing precast concrete units similar to those specified for a minimum of 3 years. The precast concrete producer must maintain a permanent quality control department or retain an independent testing agency on a continuing basis.

1.3.2.2 Quality Control Procedures

Submit quality control procedures established by the precast manufacturer in accordance with **NPCA QC Manual** and **ACPA QPC**. Show that the following QC tests are performed as required and in accordance with the ASTM standards indicated.

1.3.2.2.1 Slump

Perform a slump test for each **115 cubic m 150 cu yd** of concrete produced, or once a day, whichever comes first. Perform slump tests in accordance with **ASTM C143/C143M**.

1.3.2.2.2 Temperature

Measure the temperature of fresh concrete when slump or air content tests are made and when compressive test specimens are made in accordance with **ASTM C1064/C1064M**.

1.3.2.2.3 Compressive Strength

Make at least four compressive strength specimens for each **115 cubic m 150 cubic yards** of concrete of each mix in accordance with the following Standards: **ASTM C31/C31M**, **ASTM C192/C192M**, **ASTM C39/C39M**.

1.3.2.2.4 Air Content

Perform tests for air content on air-entrained, wet-cast concrete for each 115 cubic m 150 cu yd of concrete, but not less often than once each day when air-entrained concrete is used. Determine the air content in accordance with either ASTM C231/C231M or ASTM C173/C173M for normal weight aggregates and ASTM C173/C173M for lightweight aggregates.

1.3.2.2.5 Unit Weight

Perform tests for unit weight a minimum of once per week to verify the yield of batch mixes. Perform unit weight tests for each 75 cubic m 100 cu yd of lightweight concrete in accordance with ASTM C138/C138M.

1.3.2.3 Inspection

The Contracting Officer may place a Government Quality Assurance inspector in the plant when the units covered by this specification are being manufactured. The precast concrete producer must give notice 14 days prior to the time production of the units will commence, as well as 14 days prior to when the completed units will be available for plant inspection. Neither the exercise nor waiver of inspection at the plant will affect the Government's right to enforce contractual provisions after units are transported or erected.

1.3.2.4 Test Reports

Submit the following:

1.3.2.4.1 Material Certifications or Laboratory Test Reports

Include mill tests and all other test data, for portland cement, blended cement, pozzolans, ground granulated blast furnace slag, silica fume, aggregate, admixtures, and curing compound proposed for use on this project.

1.3.2.4.2 Mix Test

Submit reports showing that the mix has been successfully tested to produce concrete with the properties specified and will be suitable for the job conditions. Such tests may include compressive strength, flexural strength, plastic or hardened air content, freeze thaw durability, abrasion and absorption. Clearly detail in the specifications special tests for precast concrete or cast-in items.

1.3.2.4.3 Self-Consolidating Concrete

Submit sufficient documentation, when the use of self-consolidating concrete (SCC) is proposed, showing a minimum of 30-days production track records demonstrating that SCC is appropriate for casting of the product.

1.3.2.4.4 In-Plant QA/QC Inspection Reports

Submit inspection reports upon the request of the Contracting Officer.

1.4 DELIVERY, STORAGE, AND HANDLING

1.4.1 Delivery

Deliver precast units to the site in accordance with the delivery schedule to avoid excessive build-up of units in storage at the site. Upon delivery to the jobsite, all precast concrete units will be inspected by the Contracting Officer for quality and final acceptance.

1.4.2 Storage

Store units off the ground or in a manner that minimizes potential damage.

1.4.3 Handling

Handle, transport, and store products in a manner to minimize damage. Lifting devices or holes must be consistent with industry standards. Perform lifting with methods or devices intended for this purpose as indicated on shop drawings.

PART 2 PRODUCTS

2.1 SYSTEM DESCRIPTION

Furnish precast concrete units designed and fabricated by an experienced and acceptable precast concrete manufacturer who has been, for at least three years, regularly and continuously engaged in the manufacture of precast concrete work similar to that indicated on the drawings. Coordinate precast work with the work of other trades. Below grade structures must comply with [ASTM C858](#).

2.1.1 [Standard Precast Units](#)

Design standard precast concrete units to withstand indicated design load conditions in accordance with applicable industry design standards [ACI 318M](#) [ACI 318](#), [ASTM C857](#)[, [ACPA 01-102](#), Chapter 7-Design for Sulfide Control]. Design must also consider stresses induced during handling, shipping and installation as to avoid product cracking or other handling damage. Indicate design loads for precast concrete units on the shop drawings. Submit drawings for standard precast concrete units furnished by the precast concrete producer for approval by the Contracting Officer. These drawings must demonstrate that the applicable industry design standards have been met. Include installation and construction information on shop drawings. Include details of steel reinforcement size and placement as well as supporting design calculations, if appropriate. Produce precast concrete units in accordance with the approved drawings. Submit cut sheets, for standard precast concrete units, showing conformance to project drawings and requirements, and to applicable industry design standards listed in this specification.

2.1.2 [Custom-Made Precast Units](#)

Submit [design calculations](#) for custom-made precast units, prepared and sealed by a registered professional engineer, for approval prior to fabrication. Include in the calculations the analysis of units for lifting stresses and the sizing of lifting devices. Submit drawings furnished by the precast concrete producer for approval by the Contracting Officer. Show on these drawings complete design, installation, and construction information in such detail as to enable the Contracting

Officer to determine the adequacy of the proposed units for the intended purpose. Include details of steel reinforcement size and placement as well as supporting design calculations, if appropriate. Produce precast concrete units in accordance with the approved drawings.

2.1.1.3 Proprietary Precast Units

Products manufactured under franchise arrangements must conform to all the requirements specified by the franchiser. Items not included in the franchise specification, but included in this specification, must conform to the requirements in this specification. Submit standard plans or informative literature, for proprietary precast concrete units. Make available supporting calculations and design details upon request. Provide sufficient information as to demonstrate that such products will perform the intended task.

2.1.1.4 Joints and Sealants

Provide joints and sealants between adjacent units of the type and configuration indicated on shop drawings meeting specified design and performance requirements.

2.1.1.5 Concrete Mix Design

2.1.1.5.1 Concrete Mix Proportions

Base selection of proportions for concrete on the methodology presented in [ACI 211.1](#) for normal weight concrete and [ACI 211.2](#) for lightweight concrete. Develop the concrete proportions using the same type and brand of cement, the same type and brand of pozzolan, the same type and gradation of aggregates, and the same type and brand of admixture that will be used in the manufacture of precast concrete units for the project. Do not use calcium chloride in precast concrete containing reinforcing steel or other embedded metal items. At a minimum of thirty days prior to precast concrete unit manufacturing, the precast concrete producer will submit a mix design and proportions for each strength and type of concrete that will be used. Furnish a complete list of materials, including quantity, type, brand and applicable data sheets for all mix design constituents as well as applicable reference specifications. The use of self-consolidating concrete is permitted, provided that mix design proportions and constituents meet the requirements of this specification.

2.1.1.5.2 Concrete Strength

Provide precast concrete units with a 28-day compressive strength (f'_c) of [_____] MPa psi.

2.1.1.5.3 Water-to-Cement Ratio

Where exposed to freezing and thawing, furnish concrete containing entrained air and with a water-cementitious ratio of 0.45 or less. Where not exposed to freezing, but required to have a low permeability, furnish concrete with a water-cementitious ratio of 0.48 or less. Where exposed to deicer salts, brackish water, or seawater, furnish concrete with a water-cementitious ratio of 0.40 or less, for corrosion protection.

2.1.1.5.4 Air Content

The air content of concrete that will be exposed to freezing conditions

must be within the limits given below.

NOMINAL MAXIMUM AGGREGATE SIZE	AIR CONTENT PERCENT	
	EXPOSURE CLASS F1	EXPOSURE CLASSES F2 and F3
10 mm 3/8 inch	6.0	7.5
13 mm 1/2 inch	5.5	7.0
19 mm 3/4 inch	5.0	6.0
25 mm 1.0 inch	4.5	6.0
38 mm 1.5 inch	4.5	5.5
Note: For specified compressive strengths greater than 34.5 MPa 5000 psi, air content may be reduced 1 percent		

2.1.5.5 Corrosion Control for Sanitary Sewer Systems

Follow design recommendations outlined in Chapter 7 of ACPA 01-102 or the ACPA 01-110 when hydrogen sulfide is indicated as a potential problem.

2.2 MATERIALS

Except as otherwise specified in the following paragraphs, conform material to Section 03 30 00 CAST-IN-PLACE CONCRETE.

2.2.1 Material Sustainability Criteria

For products in this section, where applicable and to extent allowed by performance criteria, provide and document the following in accordance with Section 01 33 29 SUSTAINABILITY REQUIREMENTS AND REPORTING:

- Recycled content for fly ash and pozzolan
- Recycled content for Ground Iron Blast-Furnace Slag
- Recycled content for Silica Fume
- Recycled content for Synthetic Fiber Reinforcement
- Recycled content for steel, 75 percent minimum

2.2.2 Pigments

Non-fading and lime-resistant

2.2.3 Reinforcement

2.2.3.1 Reinforcing Bars

NOTE: Specify ASTM A706/A706M reinforcing where welding or bending of reinforcement bars is important. In addition, ASTM A775/A775M epoxy coated reinforcing may be specified where extra reinforcement corrosion protection is required.

- a. Deformed Billet-steel: [ASTM A615/A615M](#)
- b. Deformed Low-alloy steel: [ASTM A706/A706M](#)

2.2.3.2 Reinforcing Wire

- a. Plain Wire: [ASTM A1064/A1064M](#)
- b. Deformed Wire: [ASTM A1064/A1064M](#)

2.2.3.3 Welded Wire Reinforcement

- a. Plain Wire: [ASTM A1064/A1064M](#)
- b. Deformed Wire: [ASTM A1064/A1064M](#)

2.2.3.4 Epoxy Coated Reinforcement

- a. Reinforcing Bars: [ASTM A775/A775M](#)
- b. Wires and Welded Wire: [ASTM A884/A884M](#)

2.2.3.5 Galvanized Reinforcement

Provide galvanized reinforcement conforming to [ASTM A767/A767M](#).

2.2.4 Synthetic Fiber Reinforcement

Provide fiber reinforced concrete in accordance with [ASTM C1116/C1116M](#) Type III, synthetic fiber reinforced concrete, and as follows. Synthetic reinforcing fibers must be [100 percent virgin] monofilament polypropylene fibers[, with a minimum of [5][10][_____] percent post-consumer recycled content, or a minimum of [20][40][_____] percent post-industrial recycled content]. Provide fibers that have a specific gravity of 0.9, a minimum tensile strength of [480 MPa](#) [70 ksi](#), graded per manufacturer, and specifically manufactured to an optimum gradation for use as concrete secondary reinforcement. [Toughness indices must meet requirements for performance level I.]

2.2.5 Inserts and Embedded Metal

All items embedded in concrete must be of the type required for the intended task, and meet the following standards.

- a. Structural Steel Plates, Angles, etc.: [ASTM A36/A36M](#)
- b. Hot-dipped Galvanized: [ASTM A153/A153M](#)
- c. Proprietary Items: In accordance with manufacturers published literature

2.2.6 [Accessories](#)

Submit proper installation instructions and relevant product data for items including, but not limited to, sealants, gaskets, connectors, steps, cable racks and other items installed before or after delivery.

- a. Rubber Gaskets for Circular Concrete Sewer Pipe and Culvert Pipe:
ASTM C443M ASTM C443.
- b. External Sealing Bands for Noncircular Sewer, Storm Drain and Culvert
Pipe: ASTM C877M ASTM C877.
- c. Preformed Flexible Joint Sealants for Concrete Pipe, Manholes, and
Manufactured Box Sections: ASTM C990M ASTM C990.
- d. Elastomeric Joint Sealants: ASTM C920

2.2.7 Pipe Entry Connectors

Pipe entry connectors must conform to ASTM C923M ASTM C923 or ASTM C1478M
ASTM C1478.

2.2.8 Grout

NOTE: Delete air-entraining requirements when the
project is located in a nonfreezing climate.

Nonshrink Grout must conform to ASTM C1107/C1107M. Cementitious grout
must be a mixture of portland cement, sand, and water. Proportion one
part cement to approximately 2.5 parts sand, with the amount of water
based on placement method. [Provide air entrainment for grout exposed to
the weather.]

PART 3 EXECUTION

3.1 FABRICATION AND PLACEMENT

Perform fabrication in accordance with NPCA QC Manual or ACPA QPC unless
specified otherwise.

3.1.1 Forms

Use forms, for manufacturing precast concrete products, of the type and
design consistent with industry standards and practices. They should be
capable of consistently providing uniform products and dimensions.
Construct forms so that the forces and vibrations to which the forms will
be subjected can cause no product damage. Clean forms of concrete
build-up after each use. Apply form release agents according to the
manufacturers recommendations and do not allow to build up on the form
casting surfaces.

3.1.2 Reinforcement

Follow applicable ASTM Standard or ACI 318M/ACI 318 for placement and
splicing. Fabricate cages of reinforcement either by tying the bars,
wires or welded wire reinforcement into rigid assemblies or by welding,
where permissible, in accordance with AWS D1.4/D1.4M. Position
reinforcing as specified by the design and so that the concrete cover
conforms to requirements. The tolerance on concrete cover must be
one-third of that specified but not more than 13 mm 1/2 inch. Provide
concrete cover not less than 13 mm 1/2 inch. Take positive means to
assure that the reinforcement does not move significantly during the
casting operations.

3.1.3 Embedded Items

Position embedded items at locations specified in the design documents. Perform welding in accordance with AWS D1.1/D1.1M when necessary. Hold rigidly in place inserts, plates, weldments, lifting devices and other items to be imbedded in precast concrete products so that they do not move significantly during casting operations. Submit product data sheets and proper installation instruction for anchors, lifting inserts and other devices. Clearly indicate the products dimensions and safe working load.

3.1.4 Synthetic Fiber Reinforced Concrete

NOTE: Synthetic fiber reinforcement may be used in concrete as an aid in preventing plastic or shrinkage cracking in placements susceptible to this condition. Fiber reinforcement will not be used as a substitute for wire mesh and where service temperature may exceed 150 degrees C 300 degrees F. Concentrations above 0.1 percent by volume are not cost-effective.

Add fiber reinforcement to the concrete mix at the batch plant in accordance with the applicable sections of ASTM C1116/C1116M and the recommendations of the manufacturer. Use a minimum of 0.9 kg of fibers per cubic meter 1.5 pounds of fibers per cubic yard of concrete.

3.2 CONCRETE

3.2.1 Concrete Mixing

Mixing operations must produce batch-to-batch uniformity of strength, consistency, and appearance.

3.2.2 Concrete Placing

Deposit concrete into forms as near to its final location as practical. Keep the free fall of the concrete to a minimum. Consolidate concrete in such a manner that segregation of the concrete is minimized and honeycombed areas are kept to a minimum. Use vibrators to consolidate concrete with frequencies and amplitudes sufficient to produce well consolidated concrete.

3.2.2.1 Cold Weather Concreting

Perform cold weather concreting in accordance with ACI 306.1.

- a. Provide adequate equipment for heating concrete materials and protecting concrete during freezing or near-freezing weather.
- b. All concrete materials, reinforcement, forms, fillers, and ground with which concrete is to come in contact must be free from frost.
- c. Do not use frozen materials or materials containing ice.
- d. In cold weather the temperature of concrete at the time of placing must not be below 8 degrees C 45 degrees F. Discard concrete that

freezes before its compressive strength reaches 3.45 MPa 500 psi.

3.2.2.2 Hot Weather Concreting

Follow recommendations for hot weather concreting in ACI 305R. During hot weather, give proper attention to constituents, production methods, handling, placing, protection, and curing to prevent excessive concrete temperatures or water evaporation that could impair required strength or serviceability of the member or structure. The temperature of concrete at the time of placing must not exceed 32 degrees C 90 degrees F.

3.2.3 Concrete Curing

NOTE: Due to the immediacy of form removal, dry-cast products have a tendency to undergo undesirable accelerated drying. Consequently, early curing periods are most critical to ensure protection from extreme temperatures and dryness. Dry-cast products must be protected from drafts to prevent cracking.

Commence curing immediately following the initial set and completion of surface finishing.

3.2.3.1 Curing by Moisture Retention

Prevent moisture evaporation from exposed surfaces until adequate strength for stripping is reached by one of the following methods:

- a. Cover with polyethylene sheets a minimum of 0.15 mm 6 mils thick in accordance with ASTM C171.
- b. Cover with burlap or other absorptive material and keep continually moist.
- c. Use a membrane-curing compound, conforming to ASTM C309 and applied at a rate not less than 19 square m/4L 200 square ft/gallon, or in accordance with manufacturers' recommendations.

3.2.3.2 Curing with Heat and Moisture

NOTE: Cure surfaces that will be exposed to weather during service, a minimum of 3 days. Forms should be considered effective in preventing evaporation from the contact surfaces. If air temperature is below 10 degrees C 50°F the curing period must be extended.

Do not subject concrete to steam or hot air until after the concrete has attained its initial set. Apply steam, if used, within a suitable enclosure, which permits free circulation of the steam in accordance with CSA A23.4. If hot air is used for curing, take precautions to prevent moisture loss from the concrete. The temperature of the concrete must not be permitted to exceed 65 degrees C 150 degrees F. These requirements do not apply to products cured with steam under pressure in an autoclave.

3.2.4 Surface Finish

Finish unformed surfaces of wet-cast precast concrete products as specified. If no finishing procedure is specified, finish such surfaces using a strike-off to level the concrete with the top of the form.

3.2.4.1 Formed Non-Architectural Surfaces

Cast surfaces against approved forms following industry practices in cleaning forms, designing concrete mixes, placing and curing concrete. Normal color variations, form joint marks, small surface holes caused by air bubbles, and minor chips and spalls will be accepted but no major imperfections, honeycombs or other major defects will be permitted.

3.2.4.2 Unformed Surfaces

Finish unformed surfaces with a vibrating screed, or by hand with a float. Normal color variations, minor indentations, minor chips and spalls will be accepted. Major imperfections, honeycombs, or other major defects are not permitted.

3.2.4.3 Special Finishes

Troweled, broom or other finishes must be according to the requirements of project documents and performed in accordance with industry standards or supplier specifications. Submit finishes for approval when required by the project documents. The sample finishes must be approved prior to the start of production.

3.2.5 Stripping Products from Forms

Do not remove products from the forms until the concrete reaches the compressive strength for stripping required by the design. If no such requirement exists, products may be removed from the forms after the final set of concrete provided that stripping damage is minimal.

3.2.6 Patching and Repair

No repair is required to formed surfaces that are relatively free of air voids and honeycombed areas, unless the surfaces are required by the design to be finished.

3.2.6.1 Repairing Minor Defects

Defects that will not impair the functional use or expected life of a precast concrete product may be repaired by any method that does not impair the product.

3.2.6.2 Repairing Honeycombed Areas

When honeycombed areas are to be repaired, remove all loose material and cut back the areas into essentially horizontal or vertical planes to a depth at which coarse aggregate particles break under chipping rather than being dislodged. Use proprietary repair materials in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. If a proprietary repair material is not used, saturate the area with water. Immediately prior to repair, the area should be damp, but free of excess water. Apply a cement-sand grout or an approved bonding agent to the chipped surfaces, followed immediately by

consolidating an appropriate repair material into the cavity.

3.2.6.3 Repairing Major Defects

Evaluate, by qualified personnel, defects in precast concrete products which impair the functional use or the expected life of products to determine if repairs are feasible and, if so, to establish the repair procedure.

3.2.7 Shipping Products

Do not ship products until they are at least five days old, unless it can be shown that the concrete strength has reached at least 75 percent of the specified 28-day strength, or that damage will not result, impairing the performance of the product.

3.3 INSTALLATION

3.3.1 Site Access

It is the Contractor's responsibility to provide adequate access to the site to facilitate hauling, storage and proper handling of the precast concrete products.

3.3.2 General Requirements

- a. Install precast concrete products to the lines and grades shown in the contract documents or otherwise specified.
- b. Lift products by suitable lifting devices at points provided by the precast concrete producer.
- c. Install products in accordance with the precast concrete producer's instructions. In the absence of such instructions, install underground utility structures in accordance with **ASTM C891**. Install pipe and manhole sections in accordance with the procedures outlined by the American Concrete Pipe Association.
- d. Field modifications to the product will relieve the precast producer of liability even if such modifications result in the failure of the product.

3.3.3 Water Tightness

Where water tightness is a necessary performance characteristic of the precast concrete product's end use, watertight joints, connectors and inserts should be used to ensure the integrity of the entire system.

3.4 FIELD QUALITY CONTROL

NOTE: Manholes should be tested prior to backfilling to verify the integrity of the installed product. Testing prior to backfilling facilitates quick and easy repair when required. When vacuum testing a backfilled manhole, appropriate adjustments must be made to the testing procedure to account for site conditions such as high water tables as to avoid over loading boots and

connectors. Prior to vacuum testing, make calculations to ensure that connectors and boots are not loaded past the design limit as indicated in ASTM C923.

3.4.1 Site Tests

When water tightness testing is required for an underground product, use one of the following methods:

3.4.2 Vacuum Testing

Prior to backfill vacuum test system according to [ASTM C1244M](#) [ASTM C1244](#).

3.4.3 Water Testing

Perform water testing according to the contract documents and precast concrete producer's recommendations.

-- End of Section --