



eNewsletter

Summer 2016

July 25, 2016

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OPCA Assistant Director Appointed

Toni Thompson has accepted the position of Assistant Director, effective July 1. Working with Sam Lines, current OPCA Executive Director, she will learn his tasks and responsibilities, become familiar with our members, and help with planning and facilitating the 2017 Conference. Sam will phase into the assistant role as Toni assumes more responsibility next year. He will remain the OPCA Technical Liaison as he continues his work as Concrete Sealants' Managing Engineer.



Toni resides in Piqua, Ohio, with her husband Joe and their three sons, Nick, Alex and Aaron. She holds BA and MBA degrees from The University of Dayton, and has spent most of her

professional career in marketing. She has also worked and volunteered in human service-based, non-profit organizations.

Most recently, she launched her own business, Independent Marketing Support, and has been working with Concrete Sealants, Inc., learning about the industry and assisting them with new product promotional projects. Toni is excited to begin working with OPCA. "To me, this industry is a fascinating blend of art, science, function and great people," she said. "Society takes it for-granted, but we live better lives and travel more safely and efficiently because of their hard work. I am looking forward to meeting our members, supporting their efforts, and promoting awareness of the Association's many benefits to all Ohio precast producers, associates, and related professionals."

New Members—Here we Grow Again

The Ohio Precast Concrete Association welcomes three new members. Haarup North America and Irving Equipment join as associate members, and USA Precast joins as a producer member.

Haarup North America, Inc. is in Portland, Oregon. They offer batching equipment, batching/mixing controls, batch plants, computer hardware/software (mix design & batching), conveyors, mixers/pans, mixer liners and other related products & equipment, conveyor systems, silos, moisture probes and planetary mixers. John Higgins is their contact.

Irving Equipment, LLC, is in Tiffin, Ohio. Their service facility includes 20-ton overhead cranes, a fully-equipped machining center and fabrication shop, as well as spare parts inventory. They

offer boom inspection and certification, along with in-house operator training. They sell and service concrete pumps, truck-mounted articulating cranes, and Loop Belt truck-mounted conveyors. Their contact is Mark Irving.

USA Precast Concrete, Ltd. is in Canal Fulton, Ohio. Krista Gesaman and Jeff Augustine are contacts for this producer of precast products and services to the wet utility markets (septic tanks, holding tanks, sanitary and storm products), dry utility markets (electrical and meter vaults), commercial products (light pole bases, and car stop bumpers), highway products (box culverts, temporary median barrier and retaining walls) and specialty markets (high strength security products and nuclear and radiation shielding products).

We welcome these new members to our Association.

We're on the web!
www.ohioprecast.org

The Value of ASTM Membership

ASTM International is a Standards body which governs over 12,000 unique standards for products, testing, and materials. These standards are developed and maintained by more than 30,000 industry experts creating consensus and improving performance in manufacturing and materials, products and processes, systems and services. Learn more about ASTM International by clicking the logo at right, or [here](#) to visit the website.

As a precast concrete producer or associate, being involved in ASTM International should be a priority. Membership is not expensive, and it includes valuable benefits. One of the greatest benefits that membership brings is a voice; specifically, your voice from your perspective.

As a consensus standards body, the creation or revision of a standard must proceed through a very structured process; one where every member has a voice. New standards and/or changes to existing standards must proceed through a balloting process, allowing every member of the committee or sub-committee an opportunity to vote affirmative, negative, provide comments, or abstain. An official vote is limited to one per member company. A large, multi-site company with hundreds of employees gets the same vote as the owner of a precast plant with just two or three employees. In addition, committees must be balanced with producers and general interest or users.

There are two specific committees within ASTM International that precast producers should join. Producers of reinforced concrete pipe, box culverts, and manholes should belong to ASTM C13. Producers of wastewater tanks, utility vaults, architectural precast, burial vaults, and storm detention products should belong to ASTM C27. Within both committees there are a number of subcommittees. A member can be involved in as many committees or subcommittees as they wish. Members of committees and subcommittees are expected to, at a minimum, participate in the balloting process for the committees or subcommittees to which they belong.

Membership in ASTM is \$75 annually, which includes one volume of ASTM Standards in either online access, a CD, or a printed volume. There are hundreds of volumes available, but precast concrete products specifically fall under volume 04.05. Additionally, 04.01 has the standards for cement, 04.02 contains standards for concrete and aggregates, and 01.04 contains the standards for structural steel and reinforcing. Members can choose to purchase additional volumes when they join or renew.



Precast Concrete Safety News

US Department of Labor announces new rules to adjust civil penalty amounts — June 30, 2016

WASHINGTON - In 2015, Congress passed the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Improvements Act to advance the effectiveness of civil monetary penalties and to maintain their deterrent effect. The new law directs agencies to adjust their penalties for inflation each year using a much more straightforward method than previously available, and requires agencies to publish "catch up" rules this summer to make up for lost time since the last adjustments.

As a result, the U.S. Department of Labor announced today two interim final rules to adjust its penalties for inflation based on the last time each penalty was increased.

"Civil penalties should be a credible deterrent that influences behavior far and wide," said U.S. Secretary of Labor Thomas E. Perez. "Adjusting our penalties to keep pace with the cost of living can lead to significant benefits for workers and can level the playing field for responsible employers who should not have to compete with those who don't follow the law."

The first rule will cover the vast majority of penalties assessed by the department's Employee Benefits Security Administration, Mine Safety and Health Administration, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Office of Workers' Compensation Programs, and Wage and Hour Division. The second rule will be issued jointly with the Department of Homeland Security to adjust penalties associated with the H-2B temporary guest worker program.

Under the 2015 law, agencies are directed to publish interim final rules by July 1, 2016. The department will accept public comments for 45 days to inform the publication of any final rule.

The new method will adjust penalties for inflation, though the amount of the increase is capped at 150 percent of the existing penalty amount. The baseline is the last increase other than for inflation. The new civil penalty amounts are applicable only to civil penalties assessed after Aug. 1, 2016, whose associated violations occurred after Nov. 2, 2015.

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Safety News *(Continued from p.2)*

The rules published under the 2015 law will modernize some penalties that have long lost ground to inflation:

OSHA's maximum penalties, which have not been raised since 1990, will increase by 78 percent. The top penalty for serious violations will rise from \$7,000 to \$12,471. The maximum penalty for willful or repeated violations will increase from \$70,000 to \$124,709.

OWCP's penalty for failure to report termination of payments made under the Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act, has only increased \$10 since 1927, and will rise from \$110 to \$275.

WHD's penalty for willful violations of the minimum wage and overtime provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act will increase from \$1,100 to \$1,894.

A Fact Sheet on the Labor Department's interim rule is available [here](#). A list of each agency's individual penalty adjustments is available [here](#).

Here is the latest on 3 OSHA Hot Topics

1. Crane Certification: OSHA previously delayed a rule requiring all crane operators to be certified; however, the new date of November 2017 is quickly approaching. The delay has given NPCA more time to work with industry crane operator certifying bodies to develop a boom truck certification appropriate for the precast concrete industry and to give plants more time to prepare operators for the certification.



The latest update is the Crane Institute Certification (CIC) will develop an under 21 ton boom-truck specific certification that will meet OSHA requirements. In addition, NPCA now offers a preparatory course to help crane operators become familiar with load charts commonly used within the precast concrete industry. The charts are similar to ones that may appear on the national certification written exam.

Further information will be presented at the NPCA 51st Annual Convention, Sept. 28 – Oct. 1 in Austin, Texas. Meanwhile, the boom truck task force has created a crane certification [FAQ sheet](#) that gives detailed clarification about the OSHA crane requirement and compliance needs. It will be updated as information becomes available. Click [here](#) for more details.

2. Final Rule on Respirable Crystalline Silica

Exposure: The final rule became effective on June 23, 2016. Start-up dates for specific provisions for construction are set in [Sec. 1926.1153\(k\)](#).

The evidence in the record for this rulemaking indicates that workers exposed to respirable crystalline silica are at increased risk of developing silicosis and other non-malignant respiratory diseases, lung cancer, and kidney disease. This final rule establishes a new permissible exposure limit of 50 micrograms of respirable crystalline silica per cubic meter of air (50 µg/m³) as an 8-hour, time-weighted average in all industries covered by the rule. It also includes other provisions to protect employees, such as requirements for exposure assessment, methods for controlling exposure, respiratory protection, medical surveillance, hazard communication, and recordkeeping. Click [here](#) to learn more and see the full rule.

3. Revised HazCom Requirements Now in Effect:

Beginning June 1, chemical manufacturers, importers, distributors and employers are required to provide a common approach to classifying chemicals and communicating hazard information on labels and safety data sheets. Chemical manufacturers and importers must provide a label that includes a signal word, pictogram, hazard statement and precautionary statement for each hazard class and category.

Beginning in December, distributors may only ship containers labeled by the chemical manufacturer or importer if the labels meet these requirements.



The June 1 deadline was established when OSHA aligned its Hazard Communication Standard in 2012 with the global standard for chemical product labeling. The provisions for labeling offer workers better protection from chemical hazards while also reducing trade barriers and improving productivity for American businesses that regularly handle, store and use hazardous chemicals. The updated standard also provides cost savings for American businesses that periodically update safety data sheets and labels for chemicals covered under the standard, saving businesses millions of dollars each year.

Labels for a hazardous chemical must contain:

- Name, Address and Telephone Number
- Product Identifier
- Signal Word
- Hazard Statement(s)
- Precautionary Statement(s)
- Pictogram(s)

The new format for Safety Data Sheets requires 16 specific sections to ensure consistency in presentation of important protection information. For more information, click the table above or [here](#) to visit OSHA's Hazard Communication webpage.

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OUR PURPOSE

The Ohio Precast Concrete Association (OPCA) is a group of producer members and associated industries cooperating together as an association. The intent being to bring pertinent issues and information that impact the Precast Concrete Industry, to the attention of government agencies which participate in the origination of these issues.

The OPCA is interested in assisting these agencies by providing expert advice and counsel in the development of regulations involving the industry and the general public.

The OPCA producer and associate members whose products and services range from the construction of buildings and highways to the manufacture of precast concrete products for the treatment of commercial and residential waste water. The OPCA member products and services affect the lives of nearly every Ohioan on a daily basis.

Some specific areas of interest being pursued by the OPCA are as follows:

The introduction of new sewage guidelines relating to the specific construction and operation of home waste water treatment products (septic tanks, aerators, etc.) by the Ohio department of health and the Ohio EPA.

The introduction of programs and policies relating to the testing of materials and products being used on Ohio Department of Transportation projects.

The development of quality control procedures and inspections services training by the Ohio Department of Transportation.

The Ohio Precast Concrete Association will be expanding its' scope of interest as membership roles grow and diversify. The need for input, regarding issues and regulations which effect the large segment of the public which it serves, comes to the forefront.

OPCA Member Companies

PRODUCER MEMBERS

Carey Precast Concrete
E.C. Babbert, Inc.
Encore Precast, LLC
Everly Concrete Products, Inc.
Forterra Pipe and Precast
J.K. Precast, LLC
Lindsay Precast
Mack Industries
MW Concrete
Norwalk Concrete Industries
Portage Septic Tank
Premier Precast Products
Quaker City Septic Tanks, LLC
Scioto Valley Precast
Sickels Septic Tanks, Inc.
Spoerr Precast Concrete, Inc.
Stiger Precast, Inc.
Uniontown Septic Tank, Inc.
United Precast Industries, LLC
USA Precast Concrete, Ltd.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

A-lok Products, Inc.
A.L. Patterson, Inc.
Blackthorn, LLC
Champion Pump Company
Concrete Sealants, Inc.
EJ USA, Inc.
EMH, Inc.
Engineered Wire Products, Inc.
Essroc Cement Co.
Euclid Chemical
GCP Applied Technologies
Gotham Staple Co., Inc.
Haarup North America, Inc.
Hamilton Kent, LLC
Hill and Griffith Company
Infiltrator Systems, Inc.
Irving Equipment, LLC
Jet, Inc.
M.A. Industries

Mixer Systems, Inc.
Ohio Electric Control, Inc.
Polylok, Inc. / Zabel Environmental
Premiere Concrete Admixtures, LLC
Press-Seal Corporation
Sika Corporation
St. Mary's Cement
Tuf-Tite, Inc.
W.P. Hilts & Company

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERS

Concrete Engineering Solutions
Delta Engineers
Knight Insurance, Matt Werner