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Date: April 9, 2020
Re: OC Certification Program Update
To: Valued Members, Industry Associates and Friends
From: Tom Rozsits, P.E. - V.P., Director of Engineering *TR*

Over three weeks ago as we faced the growing outbreak of COVID-19, Ohio Concrete made the difficult, but necessary, decision to postpone all certification courses and exam sessions through the end of April. This was done due to continued CDC and State restrictions imposed on gatherings and events, and taking measures to decrease the risk of contributing to the spread of the virus to examinees, examiners, proctors, supplemental examiners, and any other individuals in direct contact with courses and sessions personnel. Our number one priority is for the health and safety of our staff, membership, and customers.

We understand that for some of your personnel their current ACI certifications may be expiring during this time period. Ohio Concrete has received questions as to how ACI was going to manage these expirations since most all exam sessions nationwide have been postponed. Provided below is the ACI Certification department's message to its Sponsoring Groups administering these exams:

The COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent emergency actions have caused many disruptions, including rescheduling of ACI Certification education and exam sessions to reduce the risk of spreading the virus. These actions may result in an individual's ACI Certification expiring before a rescheduled session takes place. As a result, ACI has been asked to extend certifications so that individuals may remain in compliance with project requirements as they await recertification testing. For a number of reasons, ACI has determined that extending certifications is not the best solution.

ACI believes the Engineer of Record and/or specifier is the proper individual to review a technician's credentials and determine if a waiver is warranted/appropriate. This can then be documented in the project files along with an explanation referencing recertification difficulties due to COVID-19 disruptions.

- John W. Nehasil, Managing Director, Certification - American Concrete Institute

To this end ACI has included a pop-up message on their Certification website under Verify a Certification (<https://www.concrete.org/certification/verifyacertification.aspx>) page that reads:

The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in the postponement of ACI Certification exam sessions, disrupting the opportunity for most Technicians, Inspectors, Craftsmen, and Specialists to recertify.

ACI has taken the position that the Project Owner's Representative (Engineer of Record, Specifier, etc.) is the proper entity to review a technician's credentials and determine if a waiver of active certification requirements is warranted/appropriate on a project-by-project basis. Therefore, project owner representatives may contact ACI Certification via email for information regarding individuals not appearing on this (active certification) list to assist the project owner in deciding if they should apply any waiver. Please send inquiries to ACI.Certification@concrete.org

Ohio Concrete suggests using this communication on your projects and, if necessary, requesting leniency with enforcement of any federal and/or state requirements for active certification credentials should you have any personnel that have expired certifications or soon will be expiring. Note that ACI has also been working with FHWA and DOTs, including ODOT, with their position on certification status (expirations) given the current COVID-19 related disruptions.

Ohio Concrete is reevaluating all programs that have been impacted by this pandemic disruption and plans to reschedule all certification sessions as soon as possible once we get a better picture of the foreseeable future. Please continue to look for communication sent from us as well as check our website at www.ohioconcrete.org

We trust that you understand the challenge we are all currently faced with and the extra precautions necessary to safeguard our health and that of others.

We will all get through this together.