

Legionella and ready-mixed concrete

There is a single report in a World Health Organisation report from 2007 concerning a site construction worker who contracted Legionnaires' disease - *'...the person was working near a concrete batching plant where warm water (about 30 °C) was added to a concrete batcher to facilitate the chemical process during cold weather. The untreated warm water source was a storage tank containing borehole water, heated by an adjacent boiler. A powered jet washer connected into the warm water supply was used to hose down and remove concrete from the batcher plant, surrounding areas and lorries...'*

As ready-mixed concrete warm water systems will be working during this winter it is worth checking them to ensure a problem is not developing. The QNJAC Occupational Health Information Sheet 4 'Legionella' is available at: <http://www.safequarry.com/Search.aspx?Search=Legionnaires+Disease>

Specification for Highway Work, Series 1700 Structural Concrete

Specification for Highway Works and Notes for Guidance Series 1700, Structural Concrete as amended December 2014 are available on the Highways Agency website www.standardsforhighways.co.uk

Changes, or absence of changes I noted on a quick read through are:

- CEM II/A-L and CEM II/A-LL are included
- Colour index for fly-ash omitted
- EN 206-1 is referenced rather than EN 206 (The SHW is a notifiable regulation and the notification was pre EN 206:2013 publication)
- For cement, aggregates, additions and admixtures then the Agency is asking for *'... Evidence of compliance ... demonstrated by CE marking and a Declaration of Performance'*
- As expected the 30 minute limit on placing fresh concrete adjacent to already placed concrete without a construction joint is retained
- For cold weather work the maximum concrete temperature at placing has been increased to 35°C where CEM/II-B or CEM III cements are used

The next Highways Agency liaison meeting with MPA is set for 23 February 2015.

NHBC – Building for Tomorrow

Chris A Clear has agreed to contribute to the NHBC Building for Tomorrow 2015 series of nine seminars 26 February to 16 April 2014, at: Hemel Hempstead, Haydock, Bristol, Esher, York, Cumbernauld, Cambridge, Birmingham and Belfast. As well as concrete NHBC are particularly interested in the use of additions, recycled aggregate and screed.

British Concrete Standard (BS 8500)

Public comment via the BSI draft review system on the British Standard for Concrete closed promptly on 31 December 2014. The BSI drafting committee have set meetings on 5 and 10 February to consider these comments. The BRMCA Concrete Technical Panel met on 20 January 2015 where it looks like fears concerning Designated Cement-Bound concrete have been largely allayed.

Chris A Clear, 23 January 2015