CMA CERTIFICATION SERVICES (PTY)LTD

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CERTIFICATION OF PRODUCTS TO COMPLY TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL STANDARDS SPECIFICATIONS.

A Quality Management System (QMS) does not get compiled and implemented overnight! A good indication in terms of time span for design and implementation of a QMS is approximately 12 months, if done from scratch. CMA Certification Services can guide any manufacturing business in terms of the design and implementation of a QMS.

1. Introduction

When we certify a product to comply to the South African National Standard (SANS) specification we need to know what the specification is applicable to the product we want to certify to comply.

In the precast concrete manufacturing industry, there are more or less 16 specification applicable to precast concrete products. Visit the CMA's website (www.cma.org.za) to view and download a list of these specifications.

2. Step 1

The first step in product certification is to obtain the SANS specification applicable to your product, and to make sure that you understand the requirements of the specification.

These specifications can be purchased from the South African Bureau of Standards (SABS) by visiting their online "Webstore" (www.store.sabs.co.za):

- Create a user profile.
- Log in and search for the specification.
- Add it to the "cart".
- Pay for it by card.
- Register the specification in your name…
- …and download your electronic document.

The specification will:

List the requirements of the standard. As example:

- Shape, appearance, and colour
- Surface texture
- Dimensions
- Reaction to exposure to water
- Soundness
- Compressive-, tensile strengths, load, or abrasion resistance
- Marking of the products
- A sample plan – how many and how often to do tests.

Give detailed procedure on inspections and methods of test.

You will be audited:

Against the requirements of the specification mentioned above. An audit will call for the existence of:

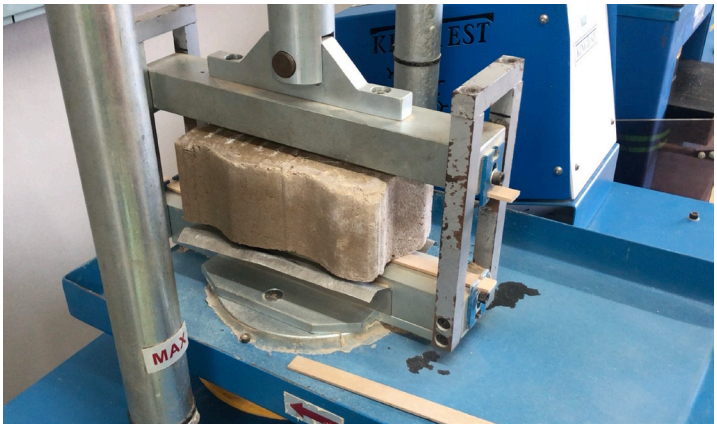
- Documentation explaining procedures,
- Evidence of documentation to record findings, measurements, and test results,
- Evidence of competency of staff.
- Measurement and testing equipment calibration certificates.
- …To name a few.

By reading and understanding the SANS specification applicable to your product you will be able to determine exactly what the requirement is in terms of the documentation and systems you need to put in place for meeting the requirements of the standard.

3. Product Testing

It is highly recommended to have an equipped and functional on-site laboratory available when you apply for product certification. It is not economically viable to outsource testing to an external laboratory. It remains a good practice to occasionally send product for external testing, to reference in house laboratory tests results with results from a SANAS accredited independent external laboratory.

This forms the basis of your product quality audit.



Tensile strength testing as applicable to SANS 1058:2021.

It is however fact that many other factors may also influence the consistency of your product quality these could include:

- Knowledge of the quality objectives of the business.
- Job and process descriptions applicable to the operations of the business
- Staff competency and training.
- Record keeping.
- Managing external suppliers.
- Monitoring client feedback
- Having internal meetings to discuss operations and putting measures in place to better operations.
- Implementing internal audits to highlight operational problems and allow for corrective measures to be implemented.
- … To name a few.

The above-mentioned form part the organisations quality management system (QMS). Quality management systems gets designed to meet the specific requirements of a business. After a quality management system has been designed it needs to be implemented and maintained. A quality management system grows with the organisation over years.

During an audit your QMS will be scrutinised. The following are typical requirements which will be verified during an audit:

- Quality policy.
- Organogram.
- Defined responsibilities and authorities.
- Process flow chart(s) referencing the applicable documented procedures, test methods, work instructions, inspection and test points (including subcontracted processes).
- Manufacturing procedures including controls.
- Management representative appointed.
- Procedure for document control.
- Procedure for record control.
- Procedure for handling complaints.
- Procedure for corrective and preventive action.
- Procedure for QMS reviews (advance effectiveness).
- Procedure for internal audits/reviews.
- Procedure for control of non-conforming product.
- Procedure for control on test and measuring equipment.
- Personnel competency records indicating approved competencies.
- Records relevant to the above-mentioned QMS requirements.

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