# ICRI LAUNCHES NEW CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

## SLAB MOISTURE TESTING TECHNICIAN, GRADE I

BY PETER CRAIG AND KELLY M. PAGE

Moisture-related flooring and coating problems are one of the most serious and costly of construction-related issues being faced by owners, contractors, design professionals, installers, and manufacturers. Each year, hundreds of millions of dollars are being spent to correct such problems and deal with the legal disputes that follow.

When a flooring failure occurs, one aspect of the process that is always called into question is the moisture testing that was performed prior to the installation. Questions such as who performed the tests, what methods and equipment were used, how were the test sites prepared, under what conditions were the tests performed, how many tests were performed, and was the equipment properly calibrated are but the beginning of the scrutiny those who performed the tests will find themselves under. In all too many cases, the results of the moisture tests are discredited due to procedural errors on the part of those who performed the tests.

To help improve the quality and consistency of concrete slab moisture testing, ICRI has developed its Slab Moisture Testing Technician Certification Program. The purpose of this program is to help standardize the performance of existing moisture testing procedures to provide more consistent, accurate, and truly representative test results that will allow those responsible to make better decisions as to when a concrete floor is ready for a floor covering—be it new construction or renovation.

The ICRI certification program has two tiers. Tier 1 applicants are those who are not regularly engaged in moisture testing yet have an active interest in learning more about moisture testing, what the tests mean, and how the tests are to be performed. Likely candidates for Tier 1 would be owners, specifiers, contractors, project management, and manufacturers. Tier 2 is for those who are seeking full certification. Not only will they be required to take the instructional course and pass the written exam, but they will also have to perform each of the four tests under the watchful eye of a qualified judge who will not provide any level of coaching. The prerequisite for acceptance into full certification Tier 2 will be previous testing experience.

Tier 1 will consist of 3 hours of training, a written exam, and a training or observation session to become further acquainted with the physical performance of the tests. Those who pass the written exam will be issued a Letter of Education. Tier 2 will consist of the 3 hours of training, the written exam, and a field performance exam. By passing both the written and performance exams, a Slab Moisture Testing Technician, Grade I Certification and registration number will be issued by ICRI to the individual who has demonstrated the

knowledge and ability to properly perform and record the results of four basic field moisture tests on hardened concrete.

Both the written exam and the performance tests will be based on the following four ASTM standards, including all Annexes and Appendixes:

- F710 Preparing Concrete Floors to Receive Resilient Flooring; Section 5.3 pH Testing
- F1869 Measuring Moisture Vapor Emission Rate of Concrete Subfloor Using Anhydrous Calcium Chloride
- F2170 Determining Relative Humidity in Concrete Floor Slabs Using In-Situ Probes
- F2420 Determining Relative Humidity on the Surface of Concrete Floor Slabs Using Relative Humidity Probe Measurement and Insulated Hood

ICRI Slab Moisture Testing Technician Certification, Grade I, shall be valid for a period of 5 years from the date of completion of all applicable certification requirements.

The class will begin on the first day with registration from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m., followed by 3 hours of training. There will be a provided lunch and study break from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m., followed by the written exam from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. Following the written exam, there will be an opportunity for Tier 1 attendees to receive or observe hands-on training on how to properly perform the tests.

For those registered for the full Tier 2 certification, day two will begin at 8:00 a.m.; and those registrants will each be required to successfully perform each of the four previously listed ASTM tests.

The development and introduction of a credible moisture testing certification program is long overdue and has strong support not only from ICRI but also from many program partners and organizations in the flooring industry.

The following schedule for 2010 has been set:

June 22-23—Atlanta, GA
June 29-30—Denver, CO
September 14-15—Chicago, IL
October 5-6—Baltimore, MD
November 15-16—San Diego, CA
November 18-19—San José, CA

For more specific information on the program and to register, please go to **www.icri.org** and click on the Certification tab.

ICRI will also be offering this program on an in-house basis for companies or organizations with a minimum of 25 attendees at one location, at one time. For more information on this type of arrangement or if you have questions regarding this certification program, please contact Kelly Page, ICRI Executive/Technical Director, at kelly.page@icri.org.

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