



CCSA PUBLICATIONS PROVIDE PLASTERING GUIDELINES

BY JAN DE BEER

Cement & Concrete SA (CCSA) has two leaflets among its extensive publications dealing with plaster problems. It has been among the most frequent technical inquiries CCSA and its predecessors received for decades.

Hanlie Turner, Business Development Manager of CCSA, says many building contractors need help to evaluate good plastering, mainly because there are no formal standards or regulations covering plaster quality. "This makes it difficult for homeowners and other clients to force a contractor to make repairs," she states. In addition to the tuition in plastering provided by CCSA's School of Concrete Technology in its regular training courses, CCSA publishes two free downloadable leaflets with detailed guidelines on plastering:

- Successful Plastering provides the technical information necessary to ensure that plastering is done correctly. It deals with selecting materials (including assessing the suitability of sands), calculating mix proportions, and providing instruction for the preparation of the surface of various substrates before the plaster is applied;
- Common Defects in Plaster discusses assessing if a plastering job is acceptable and covers the most common defects in this part of the building process. The leaflet includes advice on structural and non-structural cracking, debonding, lack of hardness, grinning (when mortar joints are visible through the plaster), expansion, and popping. The causes and repair methods for each problem are discussed.

Free copies of these two publications can be downloaded from the CCSA website, www.cemcon-sa.org.za, or for more information, phone 011-3150300.