

LOAD-SHEDDING TRAFFIC DELAYS ADD TO CONCRETE TRUCK DRIVERS' RESPONSIBILITIES



By Jan De Beer

The critical role of ready mix concrete (RMC) truck drivers in providing top-quality concrete to construction sites on time is often overlooked, says Matthews Magwaza, lecturer at Cement & Concrete SA's School of Concrete Technology.

Magwaza says the drivers of RMC trucks must be skilled in many more aspects of concrete operations than merely delivering concrete to a building site. "How fresh concrete is batched and prepared directly affects its transport, and how the concrete is transported will affect the placing and concrete end-product," he explains.

"With load shedding now increasingly causing traffic delays, the fact that drivers of RMC trucks need to know when - and how - to adjust the mix they are carrying has become most important. The driver must know when his company should send a concrete technologist to assist the driver in adjusting the mix before delivery," Magwaza states.

He says among an RMC driver's general responsibilities are:

- Performing daily comprehensive vehicle checklists;
- Determining the consistency of the concrete mix to be transported by

ensuring that a slump test is carried out, either personally or by assigned colleagues;

- Being familiar with procedures when delays occur on-site or, as mentioned, in transit; and
- Knowing how to ensure his company is not held legally for failures should site supervisors insist on alterations to the mix, such as adding water.

"These are just a few aspects RMC truck drivers must be fully versed in. Training is essential to equip them with all the knowledge needed to represent their company capably. The School of Concrete Technology is again offering an 'SCT14 Concrete for RMC truck drivers' course that specifically deals with the vital considerations described above," Magwaza adds.

For more information about the courses and scheduled dates for 2023, email rennisha.sewnarain@cemcon-sa.org.za or phone 011 315 0300.

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