

## Technical Committee Update - March 2009

The technical committee is fast becoming re-established within the Industry and that is pleasing to see given the hard work that the committee members have contributed in getting it back up and running. It was agreed at the last committee meeting on 18th March, that the time was right to develop a 5 year strategy for the technical committee and we are working hard on having that ready for the AGM in July, so it appears that we are here to stay.

A key focus of that strategy is working with other Industry organisations for the benefit of our members and a great example of that was the Asphalt Plant Accreditation Scheme (APAS) fact sheet that we developed in conjunction with Roothing New Zealand and put on the AQA website in December. This is one of several initiatives that we are currently working on with Roothing New Zealand and I am hoping to have some healthy debate on APAS in the AQA technical session at Conference.

We are also close to being able to publish the information submitted by members on the availability of coloured aggregates in New Zealand. This information was requested by the Cement and Concrete Association (CCANZ) who frequently get asked by architects and others what is available and where, so hopefully those members that have contributed may see some enquiries come their way.

Another important focus for the committee is the development of specifications and a key one that we are currently involved in is the review organised by NZTA of the TNZ M/4 specification and the development of the T15 Repeat Load Triaxial specification.

Many of you will be aware of the work that Dr. Greg Arnold has put in to developing the RLT test in New Zealand and I am representing the AQA on the steering group for reviewing and implementing these specifications. I will keep you updated and feel free to contact me if you have any comments or input that you would like taken in to account.

We also have an interesting project that is making good progress run in conjunction with the University of Auckland and Roothing New Zealand. Prof. Phillipa Black has recently completed the first part of an ambitious programme to link the geological characteristics of New Zealand rock types to the engineering properties. It is envisaged that this will become an important reference document in the future and the North Island geological document is due to be published soon and again it will be available for download from the web.

Finally, we have instigated a pilot study for implementation of a PSV database. This database will allow members to update their PSV information as they get new test results, along with being able to give a history for their quarry source. It is effectively an Industry self regulation tool and we have been talking to NZTA who see it as a very positive move by the Industry and we believe it is a step forward from what is currently available. Again, we are hoping to have the pilot database up and running by Conference so I can update further.

We will continue to try and look after the best interests of the Industry and all being well I look forward to catching up with many of you at Conference in Invercargill

Jason

Any questions on any of the topics above or that you believe are important to the Industry please contact the [vicepresident@aqa.org.nz](mailto:vicepresident@aqa.org.nz)