

A Standard for Testing the Dryness and Suitability of a Concrete Slab Intended to Receive Floor Coverings Utilizing Anhydrous Calcium Chloride or In-Situ Method

NWFC will examine and determine all of the concerns regarding concrete as a suitable substrate for the installation of floor covering and/or floor coating materials. The testing will determine concrete moisture vapor emission and pH levels for comparison to floor covering manufacturer installation requirements. Some flooring and/or adhesive manufacturers print the maximum tolerable level(s) of moisture vapor emission and a range of pH for installations over concrete substrates.

Moisture vapor emission and pH levels in excess of specified manufacturer's parameters must be corrected prior to flooring or coating applications. The purpose of this specification standard is to ensure testing is performed by qualified personnel and the test results are reported to the Owner, Architect and General Contractor, in writing, for review and/or corrective action.

The Flooring Contractor is best served by including these tests in section 01450. In the past this testing was often left out of construction documents or it may have been included in individual sections of Division 9. The tests were to be performed by the General or Flooring Contractor; this should be avoided as testing performed by untrained personnel or someone with a biased or conflicted interest.