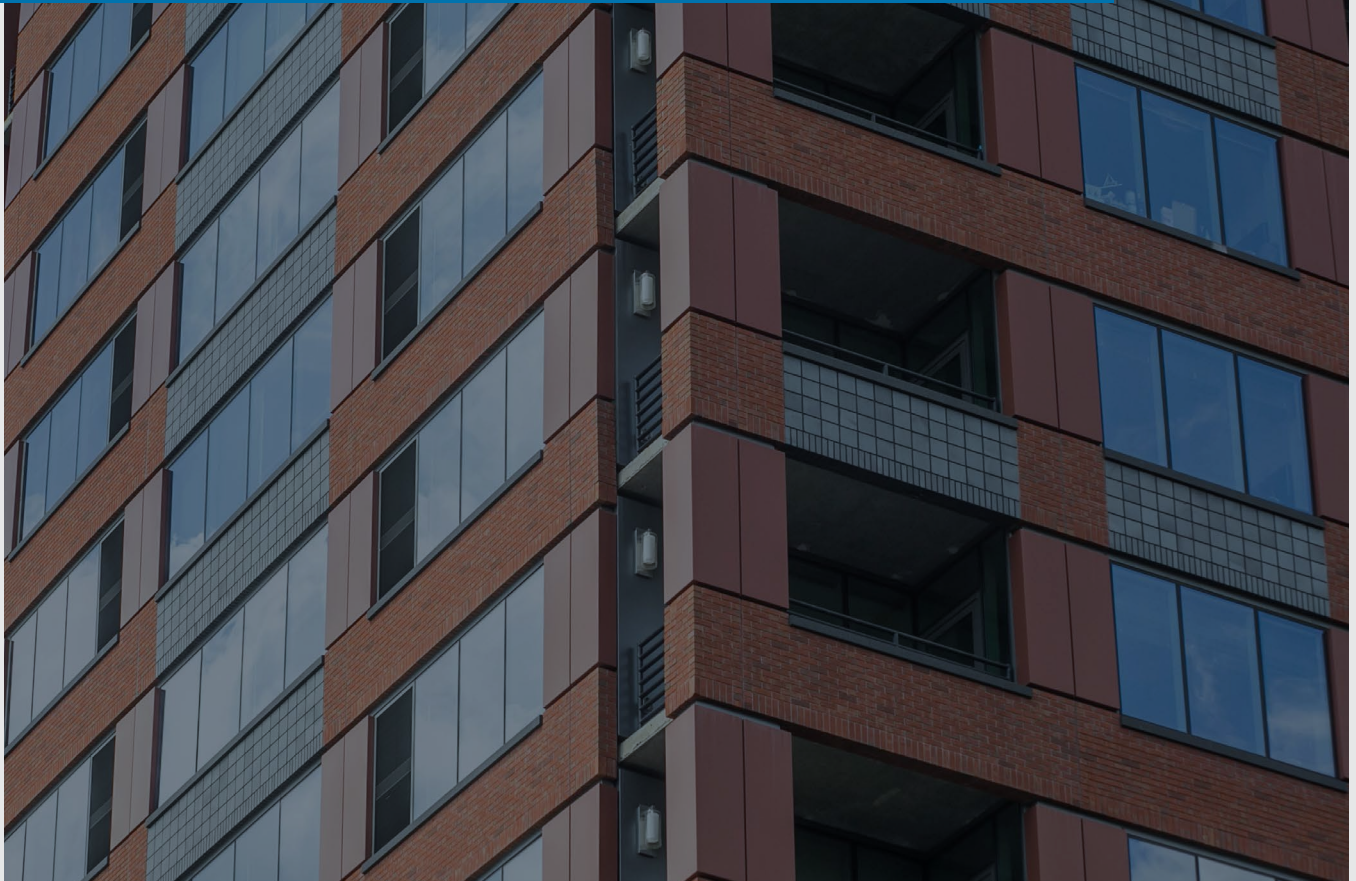




PCI Mid-Atlantic
A Chapter of Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute

THE PCI ARCHITECTURAL CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

Specifying the Standards Behind
High-Quality Structures





It's always more expensive to fix an error than do it right the first time. The design and construction community knows this truth intimately. And when reputations are on the line—owners, developers, general contractors, construction managers, architects, and product producers and installers—it helps to have a method of achieving predictable project outcomes.

In this guide, learn more about the established, unbiased quality assurance system of integrated practices that make up the [PCI Architectural Certification Program](#).



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AN OVERVIEW OF PCI CERTIFICATION

PCI Certification is recognized as one of the most widely specified quality-assurance programs in the construction industry, accepted by all major specification entities and government bodies in the US and Canada. Certification requires comprehensive internal quality systems and in-plant production and field installation auditing to assure all products are manufactured and installed to stringent industry standards.

The Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute

Technical Institute | Body of Knowledge | Industry Standards

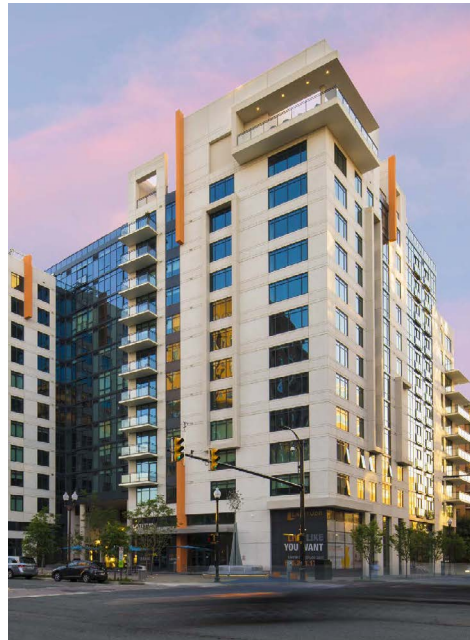
As one of the top technical institutes and trade associations in the US, PCI is dedicated to advancing the use of high-quality precast concrete in structures and bringing faster, stronger, and more aesthetically innovative concrete products to the built market.



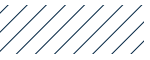
Lehigh Valley Charter High School for the Arts



Jefferson Health Medical Office Building



The Latitude Apartment Building



ARCHITECTURAL CERTIFICATION PROGRAM UPDATES

Leveraging feedback from both producers and designers, PCI has enhanced the Architectural Certification Program to better serve the design and construction communities. These changes go into effect after October 1st, 2021, and impact how architects and engineers specify and design architectural precast concrete.

- Align designer needs and plant production capabilities
- Accurately categorize products in market segments
- Differentiate certified producers in the marketplace
- Pre-qualify architectural precast bidders



5 New Project Complexity Categories



Accurate Aesthetic & Tolerance Criteria



Built-In Quality Assurance Checks



Applicability in All Market Segments

What Is Considered Architectural Precast Concrete?

Any precast concrete component cast off site in a controlled environment, shipped to a job site, and erected on a building that contributes to the architectural form and finished effect of the structure through shape, finish, color, or texture.

THE ARCHITECTURAL CERTIFICATION CATEGORIES

Five categories, each with specific quality, inspection, and performance requirements, are defined by project complexity and aesthetic features. They classify producers' manufacturing capabilities based on the type of architectural precast concrete products they typically produce. This allows the program to meet the demands of all market segments, from highly functional structures to artistic façade impressions and BIM-generated exterior envelopes. Aligning producer capabilities with specific project needs through these distinctions is the most efficient way to move from vision to reality.

Specifiers should select categories based on project complexity requirements.

Tolerance | Finish Type | Form | Texture



AA:
Heightened
tolerance
and shape
complexity.



AB:
Greater
emphasis on
shape and
alignment
tolerance.



AC:
Similar to the
high-quality
architectural
products
in current
category A1.



AD:
High-quality
products
meeting
PCI MNL 116
requirements
for structural
product and
industrial
wall panel
applications.



AT:
Small products,
including
coping, trim,
and small
accent pieces.

***AA and AB** require post-project surveys with the architect and construction manager to evaluate processes from early design to final acceptance.*

*Plants certified as **AA**, **AB**, and **AC** will be required to use PCI-certified erectors to install their architectural precast. The installation process is one of the most critical steps to the process. These erectors must be certified in Category A for architectural products and follow all aspects of the quality control manuals and the PCI MNL 127 Standards and Guidelines for the Erection of Precast Concrete Products. This manual covers pre-construction planning, proper practices and procedures, equipment requirements, and appropriate tolerances. It also establishes the quality control procedures and safety protocols an installation company should follow.*

THE BENEFITS OF ARCHITECTURAL CERTIFICATION

Certification empowers designers to control the building process, giving them the opportunity to pre-qualify bidders early in the design process. Specifying certified products and systems helps ensure finished products meet outcome expectations. What's designed is what's built.

- Reduce Risk & Liability
- Increase Project Success
- Certify Product Performance
- Prequalify Bidders
- Improve Cost-Effectiveness
- Support Structure Resilience
- Require Less Supervision
- Simplify Legal Paperwork
- Ensure Schedule Adherence

Not limited to standard sizes and shapes, architectural precast concrete offers maximum freedom in architectural expression with the economy of mass production. A designer well-versed in precast production can replicate a simple design across multiple pieces to create unique and interesting facades.

Precast parking garages range in aesthetic appearance and complexity too.



Penn State Hershey
Medical Center
Parking Garage



Villanova Pike Field
Parking Garage



NJIT Parking Garage



500 Pearl Street



Martha Jefferson
Hospital Parking
Structure

Why Work with Certified Professionals?

Work with certified professionals to achieve predictable, consistent outcomes that align with specifier and owner expectations. Each PCI producer plant receives two unannounced annual audits by an independent, third-party engineering company. This guarantees that the company is improving their process over time and incorporating the most up-to-date industry means and methods.

Visiting a producer's manufacturing facility is an opportunity to share project goals and gain a complete understanding of their capabilities.

HOW TO TAKE ACTION ON CERTIFICATION

Collaboration is what will move your project forward. Architectural precast producers, installers, and design professionals should work together as a team, guiding project leads and offering assistance from initial concept to final bid to completion.

Architects

Consult with a certified precast producer early in new projects as part of the design-assist process.

Producers & Erectors

Help architects define categories for project needs and write architectural specifications to designs.


Owners, Developers, Contractors & Construction Managers

Connect with precast producers and erectors to certify quality and manage site logistics and safety.

LEARN MORE


- Read through the PCI Architectural Certification [brochure](#)
- Visit pci.org/archcert for FAQs and supplemental materials
- Watch a [free webinar](#) for a walk-through of program updates
- Schedule a [live virtual session](#) with the PCI Mid-Atlantic team

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