

NPCA Plant Evaluation Program FAQs

Q: What is the NPCA Plant Evaluation Program?

A: The NPCA Plant Evaluation Program is available to concrete producers that want to improve their processes and product quality. An NPCA engineer evaluates your processes and documentation while providing feedback based on industry standards and best practices.

Q: Is NPCA's Plant Evaluation Program a consultation service?

A: No. The Plant Evaluation Program is not a consultation service. NPCA engineers are not permitted to provide consultation services.

Q: Does a Plant Evaluation specifically evaluate all precast concrete products manufactured at my facility?

A: No. The Plant Evaluation evaluates a plant's processes, not specific products. The NPCA engineer will offer suggestions and answers to questions that can help the plant better its processes, which in turn can improve the quality of individual products. The NPCA engineer also can provide information on codes and standards related to various precast products.

Q: What is required of the plant before the Plant Evaluation takes place?

A: A plant must submit the completed Plant Evaluation Program application with payment before the Plant Evaluation can be scheduled. There is no need for plant personnel to obtain any certifications before the evaluation takes place. NPCA strongly recommends that plants are operational and manufacturing precast products at the time of the Plant Evaluation.

Q: Does a plant need to be an NPCA member to receive a Plant Evaluation?

A: No. However, NPCA member plants receive a discounted rate for the Plant Evaluation.

Q: How long does a Plant Evaluation take?

A: The Plant Evaluation occurs on a single day. Depending on the facility's size, an NPCA engineer will spend a day at the facility performing the evaluation and answering any of the plant personnel's questions.

Q: What happens after the Plant Evaluation?

A: After the Plant Evaluation, the NPCA engineer returns to the NPCA office and drafts a detailed report about the evaluation that outlines areas or processes that need immediate attention, opportunities for improvement and suggestions to consider. The report also provides links to NPCA resources and training materials that can help the plant reach its goals.

Q: How soon can I receive a Plant Evaluation?

A: Once NPCA receives the completed Plant Evaluation Program application with payment, an NPCA engineer will contact the plant to schedule a date that works for both parties. Usually, this can take place within 1-2 months of receiving the application. Please note that the Plant Evaluation must occur within 90 days of application with payment. Otherwise, the funds will be refunded to the plant.

Q: What if a precast company has more than one plant that would like a Plant Evaluation?

A: Each plant needs to complete a separate Plant Evaluation Program application and payment. Each Plant Evaluation is performed separately.

Q: Is a Plant Evaluation required before applying for the NPCA Plant Certification Program?

A: No. However, many plants utilize a Plant Evaluation to gauge their readiness for NPCA Plant Certification.

Q: Can an NPCA Certified Plant receive a Plant Evaluation?

A: Yes. Some plants that already are NPCA Certified have Plant Evaluations to continue evaluating and improving their processes.

