

# PCI Plant Quality Talk Quality Enhancement Committee



## SERIES 2, ISSUE 5 – PROPER STEEL FORM CARE

Purchasing metal forms and/or rails to create formwork for concrete is expensive. However, when forms are cared for properly they can provide years, and even decades, of useful service.

The use of release agents at fresh concrete contact surfaces is recommended in every case. The use of a release agent helps to prevent concrete from sticking to the forms, which can result in buildup and possibly damage the integrity of the concrete members. Concrete buildup can cause damage to the forms when trying to remove hardened concrete from them. Forms with permanently attached hardened concrete will produce a surface of reduced quality.

### Form Setup

- Apply the release agent with a sprayer and wipe the forms down with a rag or mop to distribute the form oil evenly if there is excessive release agent on them.

### During Form Use

- Ensure formwork is securely fastened to prevent blowouts or form buckling from the concrete pressure applied when placing and vibrating.
- Ensure the forms fit tightly together to prevent movement and potential form damage during concrete placement, and to prevent paste leakage, which causes honeycombing.

### Cleanup and Maintenance

- Inspect forms after each use for surface damage or attached concrete.
- Remove concrete residue from the forms with a scraper.
- Closely examine the backs of the forms or the insides of the form rails and remove any concrete buildup. Removing buildup reduces the weight of the forms and the energy required of employees during setup.
- After cleanup, coat the face of the forms lightly with a form release agent to prevent corrosion, using either a spray or brush-on application.

### Storage

- Store the forms under a roofed area, or in the worst case, place the forms under a securely fastened waterproof tarp.
- Spray or brush the form surfaces liberally with release agent if the form storage is expected to be longer than one month, then recoat them every two to six months while idle, depending on exposure.

**Note:** Please complete this form and return to the Quality Control Manager. All crew members should be observant and report to their foreman anything out of the ordinary on a project. *See something, say something.*

| NOTES     | ATTENDEE SIGNATURES |
|-----------|---------------------|
| DATE      |                     |
| PRESENTER |                     |