

# Spanish Terminology in the Shotcrete Industry

by Cesar Chan and Raul Bracamontes

**F**or effective communication and interaction among groups in this industry, the knowledge and use of the Spanish language in the American construction industry has been increasingly recognized as a growing requirement, rather than an exception. According to U.S. Census Bureau reports for the year 2000, of the 281 million inhabitants in the United States, 35 million (12.5%) are Hispanic, which is actually slightly higher than the black population (12.3%). A large increase in the Hispanic population was observed in the last decade. This group has grown by almost 40% since 1990, with much of this growth being attributed to new jobs in construction. To date, it is estimated that Hispanic workers account for up to 15% of the workforce in the construction

industry. Many of these workers are very capable and highly skilled, but communication with them has often been an obstacle.

In addition to construction business activities within the United States, international projects, including consulting, materials supply, and technology transfer in Spanish-speaking countries, have added to the pressure for broadening language skills to improve communication. As such, there has been a rise in the need for bilingual documents, bilingual education, and translators. The need for Spanish documentation has, to a large extent, been recognized in the concrete industry. For example, for many years, the American Concrete Institute has provided a one-page summary of abstracts in Spanish in each issue of its *Concrete International*

## **ENGLISH**

## **SPANISH**

Air (compressed) .....	Aire comprimido
Air ring .....	Anillo de distribución de aire
Blowpipe .....	Soplete
Buildup (shotcrete) .....	Espesor / Capa
Curing .....	Curado
Cutting screed (rod) .....	Cíncel
“Sharp-edged cutting screed used to trim shotcrete to forms or ground wires” .....	Herramienta de limpieza
Delivery equipment .....	Cualquier equipo de lanzado que introduce el material en la manguera
Dry-mix shotcrete .....	Concreto lanzado de mezclado en seco (Concrete lanzado vía seca)
Fibers (steel) .....	Fibras de acero
Fibers (synthetic) .....	Fibras sintéticas
Finish coat .....	Capa para acabado
Finishing .....	Acabado
Formwork .....	Cimbras
Ground support .....	Soporte de terreno
Gun .....	Equipo de vía seca
Gun finish .....	Acabado natural, acabado de lanzado sin ningún tratamiento
Gunite .....	Concreto lanzado vía seca
Gunman (Gun operator) .....	Operador del equipo de lanzado en seco
Hose .....	Manguera
Mix design .....	Diseño de mezcla
Nozzle .....	Boquilla

magazine. Soon the shotcrete industry will, undoubtedly, face such a challenge. Currently, there is no official Spanish document for educational purposes, guides, standards, or certification in the shotcrete industry. With the growth in the shotcrete industry and the increasing availability of a skilled Hispanic workforce, however, there will be a continued demand in the industry to consider and, possibly, implement a bilingual practice.

This article presents a list of terms, in both English and Spanish, that are commonly used in the shotcrete industry. This list is intended to provide a convenient reference for users. It does not purport to provide an exhaustive glossary of words employed in the industry. Also note that usage of specific words may vary from region to region and from country to country in the Hispanic world.



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## **ENGLISH**

## **SPANISH**

Nozzleman .....	Lanzador de concreto
Overspray .....	Salpicaduras / rocío
Pass .....	Pasada
Predampening .....	Pre-humedecer
Pump .....	Bomba
Pump operator .....	Operador de la bomba
Quality control .....	Control de calidad
Rebound .....	Rebote
Reinforcing bar .....	Varilla de refuerzo
Rock slope stabilization .....	Estabilización de taludes de rocas
Rolling .....	Enrollamiento
Sagging .....	Desprendimiento / escurrimiento por exceso de agua en la mezcla
Sand pocket .....	Cavidades de arena
Screed wire .....	Cable de alineamiento / cable de nivel
Shotcrete .....	Concreto lanzado (Hormigón proyectado)
Shooting .....	El lanzado
Sloughing .....	Desprendimiento
Slugging .....	Flujo intermitente de concreto
Strength (compressive) .....	Resistencia a compresión
Strength (flexural) .....	Resistencia a flexión
Water ring .....	Anillo de distribución de agua
Wet-mix shotcrete .....	Concreto lanzado de mezclado en húmedo (Concreto lanzado vía húmeda)