

Complete Your ASA Contractor Qualification

By Marcus von der Hofen



The ASA Contractor Qualification Committee (CQC) was created by the American Shotcrete Association (ASA) to focus on establishing and maintaining standards for shotcrete contractors. Our committee plays a crucial role in ensuring that contractors meet specific qualifications, thereby enhancing the quality and reliability of shotcrete work in various construction

projects. The CQ committee is also working towards compiling resources for ASA-qualified contractors to assist them in their shotcrete businesses.

CONTRACTOR QUALIFICATION PROGRAM

The Contractor Qualification Program (CQP) is designed to evaluate and certify shotcrete contractors based on their experience and successful project completions. The committee reviews applications and assesses contractors' qualifications, ensuring they have a proven track record in quality shotcrete work.

We previously focused on two levels of qualification, and have now added a pool-specific category as well. The qualification also recognizes the shotcrete process the contractor uses, specifically dry-mix or wet-mix. Contractors can be qualified in a single process or both, depending on their experience. Self-performing shotcrete contractors may pursue the following ASA Qualified Shotcrete Contractor (QSC) qualifications:

- **Structural Level I (QSC – SI):** This level is for contractors who handle thin, lightly-reinforced shotcrete sections that are easily accessible.
- **Structural Level II (QSC – SII):** This level is for contractors dealing with thick, heavily-reinforced sections or those in difficult-to-access locations.
- **Pool Qualification (QSC – Pool):** Tailored specifically for contractors in the pool industry

PROMOTION AND VISIBILITY

ASA-qualified contractors are listed on the ASA website and promoted through various channels, including *Shotcrete* magazine and events where the ASA is represented. This visibility helps specifiers identify qualified contractors for

their projects, ensuring they select professionals who meet the necessary standards.

Shotcrete contractors often work closely with other construction professionals, such as engineers, testing labs, inspectors, project managers, and general contractors, to ensure that projects are completed efficiently and to specifications. Thus, the shotcrete contractor must oversee quality control of the concrete placement, ensure the project layout is safe and efficient, and ensure that the crew has training for both safety and quality shotcrete placement. An ACI-certified shotcreter is an essential part of the shotcrete crew, but the entire field team needs to work together for quality and safety.

The American Shotcrete Association (ASA) provides a contractor qualification program to ensure that shotcrete contractors meet high standards of quality, safety, and expertise. Read on for some key aspects of the ASA's contractor qualification program.

WHY IS ASA SHOTCRETE CONTRACTOR QUALIFICATION ESSENTIAL?

The comprehensive program requirements and detailed application ensure that shotcrete contractors qualified by ASA have the necessary experience, skills, crew, and equipment to apply shotcrete correctly. Thus, when a shotcrete contractor achieves the ASA qualification the owner and specifier on a shotcrete placement project can be assured of a potential for a high quality concrete structure that has the serviceability and durability equal or better than a form-and-pour job.

WHAT ARE THE BROAD REQUIREMENTS FOR ASA CONTRACTOR QUALIFICATION?

- **Experience and Expertise:** Depending on the level of qualification, contractors must have a minimum of 3 to 5 years of experience in shotcrete application, with a proven track record of successful projects.
- **Certified Shotcreters and Shotcrete Team:** They must have ACI-certified shotcreters on their field crews. The experience of their field supervisor(s) and foremen is also evaluated.
- **Equipment and Quality Control:** Contractors must have the necessary equipment and quality

control procedures in place to ensure correct shotcrete placement.

- **Education:** Contractors must have completed a full-day ASA education program that provides information on the key aspects of running a shotcrete contracting business. Contractors are also evaluated on the continuing education of their staff.

Full details of the ASA QSC program and applications could be found at [Shotcrete.org/Certification-Qualification](https://shotcrete.org/Certification-Qualification).

By becoming qualified through the ASA's program, shotcrete contractors demonstrate their expertise and commitment to quality, safety, and customer satisfaction through a close review by an experienced group of their peers. All ASA QSC must also adhere to this ASA Code of Conduct:

"As an ASA Qualified Shotcrete Contractor, we agree to ongoing compliance with the requirements and standards set forth in the ASA Shotcrete Contractor Qualification Program description. We will not knowingly or purposefully violate any project specifications or requirements. We agree to maintain required insurance coverage, staff our projects with trained and certified personnel, and strive to produce a high-quality product in a safe and professional manner."

By selecting an ASA QSC, owners and specifiers can be assured that the company has demonstrated by their company longevity, structure, field team, and equipment that they have the potential for quality shotcrete placement

ASA CONTRACTOR QUALIFICATION COMMITTEE

Marcus von der Hofen, Chair | Coastal Gunite
Construction Company

Joe Swann, Co-Chair & Secretary | CROM LLC

Ashley Cruz | Cruz Concrete & Guniting Repair Inc

Bruce Russell | CROM LLC

Frank Townsend | Patriot Shotcrete LLC

Greg McFadden | Prestige Gunite and Shotcrete Inc

Jason Myers | Dees Hennessey Inc

Lars Balck | Consultant

Raymond Schallom | RCS Consulting
& Construction Co Inc

Ryan Oakes | Revolution Gunite

Shaun Radomski | Thurber Engineering Ltd

William Drakeley | Drakeley Pool Company LLC.

on their projects. Our ASA CQ Committee is continually working to increase the visibility of the program, refine the overall program, and ensure it meets the needs of the concrete construction industry. The ASA CQC serves as a cornerstone for maintaining high standards in the shotcrete industry, ensuring that contractors are well-equipped to deliver quality work. Take advantage of this valuable ASA resource both as a contractor (to receive a review and nod from experienced industry peers – apply for your ASA QSC qualification) and project owners (to lean in on the expert review of industry leaders – look for ASA QSC for your projects). If you have any specific questions or need further details about the committee or its processes, feel free to ask! (info@shotcrete.org)

Finding a Qualified Shotcrete Contractor

QUESTIONS TO ASK A POTENTIAL SHOTCRETE CONTRACTOR:

- **Experience:** What experience do you have with shotcrete applications of a similar size and scope?
- **References:** Can you provide references from previous clients?
- **Qualifications:** Are you an ASA Qualified Shotcrete Contractor? Is the qualification in the application and process for your project?
- **Certifications:** Do you have ACI-certified shotcreters on your field crews?
- **Insurance and Bonds:** Do you have liability insurance and workers' compensation insurance? What is your bonding capacity, and who is your bonding agent?
- **Warranty:** Do you offer a warranty for your work?

RED FLAGS TO WATCH OUT FOR:

- **Lack of Certification:** Be wary of shotcrete contractors who are not qualified by the ASA. Other qualifications or certifications for non-shotcrete work have limited impact on quality shotcrete placement.
- **Poor Reviews:** Be sure to check the references provided. Check online reviews and ratings but be aware some "positive reviews" may be fabricated.
- **Unclear Pricing:** Be cautious of contractors who are unclear about their pricing or try to rush you into a decision.