



ECO Certification



Dedicated to delivering creative promotions, advocacy and professionalism to the ready mixed concrete industry



CONCRETE
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What is ECO Certification?

ECO CERTIFIED Concrete Facility Certification is designed to provide owners, the communities in which they operate, and their customers with the highest degree of assurance that the concrete facility, company and products they have selected to supply their project, address sound and responsible Environmental and Sustainable Development Facilities management and operations; and that manufacturing practices and protocols support their choice of Responsible Material Procurement.

ECO identifies Environmental and Sustainable Development stewardship and responsibility of the facility's processes following LEED rating system to minimize the environmental footprint.

ECO Certification has two categories

1. **ECO – addresses MOE Environmental Compliance**
2. **ECO GOLD – ECO plus additional best practices**



Why Comply

If a business activities have potential to impact the natural environment, that business needs an Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA) from the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) to operate legally in Ontario.

It is also regulation to require a Permit to Take Water (exemptions), to screen for NPRI (exemptions), to require a Waste Permit (exemptions) and a Discharge Permit (exemptions).



RMCAO Support

RMCAO continues to work with MOE and supports regulations for compliance to operate. RMCAO works to increase social environmental responsibility of the concrete industry as, MOE is increasing its enforcement across the province.

- The realities of social acceptance of environmental and sustainable practices are growing (and are here to stay).
- To maintain a social license to operate in a community or to gain municipal/regional approval to open or relocate a concrete facility, there are more demands for company accountability and responsibility on waste, air, noise and water. It is also a way to differentiate.
- The concrete industry must show it is sustainable and responsible and we can only do that by supporting compliance issues.
- Concrete is one of the world's most sustainable materials with its long life and 3 Pillar Payback.
- It is necessary to position concrete and the concrete industry as strategic, responsible, accountable and sustainable.



MOE ECA process overview

1. It is a good business practice (but not mandatory) to retain the services of an environmental consulting company – the RMCAO website has a list of these companies who are also **RMCAO Associate Members**.
2. Complete an Emission Summary and Dispersion Modeling (ESDM) to predict air emissions from the facility and compare these to Point Of Impingement limits (POI). Mitigation may be required (e.g. drop point controls, enclosures) to meet POI limits. Identified controls must be installed following issuance of the ECA.
3. If required, complete an Acoustic Assessment Report to estimate noise impacts from the facility. If noise mitigation is required, the facility has the option to develop a Noise Abatement Action Plan, which includes:
 - a. Identify noise mitigation options to be implemented
 - b. Identify implementation timelines for each mitigation option
 - c. Identify the financial implications of each mitigation option
 - i. Are there capital cost issues and/or financial hardships for expenditures, etc.
 - ii. Business forecasts relative to financial ability, etc.

RMCAO has been informed that there are examples where Noise Abatement Action Plans have been negotiated with the MOE and approved for up to 3 to 7 years for final completion, according to some companies. RMCAO has also been informed that the environmental engineer may be able to assist with these negotiations.

4. Complete ECA application forms and submit with the MOE ECA Application Fee. This is a fee the MOE charges for reviewing the ECA application. The costs are set by the MOE Fees Regulation.
5. An MOE Application Processor briefly reviews the application package for completeness and the fee estimate. A “Reference Letter” is issued to the facility indicating if there are any deficiencies and posts the application request on the Environmental Bill of Rights (EBR) website for a public comment period. If noise mitigation measures are required, the MOE often requests an Acoustic Audit that is conducted by an independent consultant after mitigation measures are installed. If the Acoustic Audit shows non-compliance, further noise mitigation measures will be required.
6. After the EBR posting is complete the application and any comments received are filed and put into a queue to be assigned to a Review Engineer.
7. The review by MOE currently takes from 1-2 years.

Information contained in this document is intended to be a guide only. RMCAO members are advised to consult with a qualified professional for further clarification and accuracy.



RMCAO

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