



**International Code Council
And
California Division of State Architect
Shotcrete Inspector
EXAM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

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A Closer Look: ICC and the California Division of State Architect In the Development of the Shotcrete Special Inspector Certification Exam

Background of California DSA

The California Division of the State Architect (DSA) provides design and construction oversight for K–12 schools, community colleges, and various other state-owned facilities and also develops standards and codes for use in California.

As a result of the 1933 Long Beach Earthquake, 230 school buildings in Southern California were destroyed or rendered unsafe for occupancy. Had the earthquake occurred during school hours, thousands of casualties—mainly children—would have occurred. California lawmakers promptly passed the Field Act and DSA was given the responsibility to oversee public school design and construction to ensure Field Act compliance.

Shotcrete Construction Projects

Shotcrete is mortar or concrete that is pneumatically projected at high velocity onto a surface. All shotcrete construction on projects under DSA jurisdiction requires continuous inspection by an appropriately qualified individual per the California Building Code (CBC). The individual must be DSA certified in shotcrete inspection as required in Section 1705A.18 of the CBC and Section 4-335(f) of the California Administrative Code.

Shotcrete Special Inspectors and Plan Reading

DSA Shotcrete Special Inspectors are required to have a thorough knowledge of plans, building materials, application standards and codes for this specialty. The code requires that they shall be able to read and interpret plans and specifications.

Through the ICC exam process, the DSA relies on ICC providing testing on plan reading skills necessary to perform the job of shotcrete inspection. One prerequisite for candidates seeking DSA Shotcrete Special Inspector certification is to first pass the ICC Structural Masonry Special Inspector exam. Once they have passed this ICC exam which focuses heavily on plan reading, they must then pass the separate DSA exam, on which ICC testing staff has been working with the content experts in overseeing the exam validation process.

New Shotcrete Special Inspector Exam

The new updated exam will be available in August 2017. Candidates must apply to DSA and be approved to take the exam. Refer to the DSA website for detailed information.

Exam Development Committee

ICC has been working with The California DSA in developing and professionally validating the Shotcrete Special Inspector certification exam according to rigorous and nationally accepted examination standards. The ICC / DSA Shotcrete Examination Development Committee is made up of outstanding content experts with extensive experience in this industry. The value of the background and expertise of this committee cannot be overstated. Their many years of experience on the job and with the standards is invaluable and a key to the exam development process. The many hours of work they have contributed are a testament to their dedication and that of DSA in helping provide for the safety of the public.