

Free SMM standardises concrete repair pricing

2004 saw the publication of ACRA's industry-changing *Standard Method of Measurement for Concrete Repair*.

Not, perhaps, as gripping a read as the *Da Vinci Code* you found in your Christmas stocking. But it will have a major impact on the way concrete repair contracts are procured and measured over the coming years.

Before SMM

The main problem before SSM was that everybody did it their own way.

Some consultants would ask contractors to price on a volumetric (per litre) basis.

Others would work out a surface area in square metres.

Still others would divide the repairs into small, medium and large and have their own definition of those terms.

Confusing? You bet!

Add to this the tendency for some consultants to request guaranteed lump sum prices from contractors for work that they couldn't possibly quantify from a brief inspection of the structure, and the whole situation was a bit of a mess.

After SMM

As its name implies, *SMM* is an attempt to standardise the way repair is measured.

This should make life easier for clients, consultants and contractors alike, as they will no longer be faced with comparing apples with pears.

SMM sets out a preferred method of procurement with tenders being sought on the basis of estimated quantities provided by the consultant and based on an inspection of the building.

The contractor gets paid for the actual work done—a result that's fair to all parties.

Of course, *SMM* can't prevent cost blowouts, but these will be minimised if the client commissions a thorough



initial
survey from an
ACRA consultant.

Get yours, free

There's a direct link from the ACRA home page (see below) to where you can download your free copy of *SMM*.

You'll find that *SMM*'s simple volumetric method will work for most of your projects.

But *SMM* does more, providing guidance on measuring cathodic protection systems and other more complex work.

Use *SMM* on your next project (or make sure your consultant does) and share the benefits.

OH&S seminar

ACRA's ever-popular series of seminars will continue early in 2005 with a not-to-be-missed session on occupational health and safety.

In these days of personal as well as corporate liability for injuries at work, can any of us afford to be in the dark as to our responsibilities?

Keep your eye on the News page on the ACRA website for further details. ■