



**THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION
RATING AND INSPECTION BUREAU**

April 29, 2002

CIRCULAR LETTER NO. 1891

To All Members and Subscribers of the Bureau:

**Workers Compensation Classification Guide
Specialty Concrete Pumpers
Classification by Analogy to Class Code 9534**

The Bureau has carefully reviewed classification assignment of specialty concrete pumpers to the various appropriate concrete construction classification(s). There is no approved phraseology that addresses the classification of concrete pumping operations conducted by specialty contractors. Therefore, the assignment of concrete construction classifications to concrete pumping operations is classification by analogy, which takes into consideration the "scope" of existing approved classifications.

To date, our classification position regarding specialty concrete pumping operations has been that such operations are assignable, by analogy, to the following concrete construction classifications:

- Code 5213 - "Concrete Construction NOC"
- Code 5215 - "Concrete Work - incidental to the Construction of Private Residences"
- Code 5221 - "Concrete or Cement Work - Floors, Driveways, Yards or Sidewalks - & Drivers"
- Code 5222 - "Concrete Construction in Connection with Bridges or Culverts"
- Code 5223 - "Swimming Pool Construction - not Iron or Steel & Drivers"

However, after due consideration, we have concluded that specialty concrete pumping operations should be reassigned to class **Code 9534 – "Mobile Crane and Hoisting Service Contractors – NOC - including Yard Employees & Drivers."** In accordance with Rule IV-F.-2. – Business Not Described by Any Classification, the appropriate classification phraseology should read as follows: **"Concrete: Pumping – Specialty Contractor Only - including Yard Employees & Drivers"**. It is of extreme importance to note that any and all concrete pumping operations conducted by concrete construction crews remain properly assigned to concrete construction classifications, not Code 9534.

This change in the classification by analogy procedure is being applied to all qualifying new and renewal policies effective 12:01 a.m., May 1, 2002.

The Workers' Compensation Rating and Inspection Bureau of Massachusetts

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In order to clearly establish the basis for this change in classification by analogy, the following must be noted:

Specialty Concrete Pumping Contractors - Operation Specifics:

- ◆ Concrete pumping contractors are hired by the general contractor or the concrete contractor. Their sole job site responsibility is to pump concrete. All of the concrete is owned/purchased by the job contractor, and is delivered to the job site by unrelated redi-mix concrete dealers.
- ◆ The services of concrete pumpers are required on all jobs that are not readily accessible to the concrete redi-mix trucks. Whenever possible, the concrete is off-loaded by the redi-mix truck via a slide chute. Typically, 15' of slide chute is carried by redi-mix trucks. It is not feasible to off-load concrete beyond this distance and gravity assistance is required. Alternative methods of delivering concrete are limited to the use of wheelbarrows or hoisting via mobile crane with a concrete bucket (generally referred to as the "skip"). Both of these alternative methods have volume limitations and are avoided on all jobs requiring large amounts of concrete.
- ◆ The concrete pumps are either mobile units permanently mounted onto heavy duty truck chassis (ranges in size from six to eighteen wheeled trucks) or trailer mounted pumps. Most of the concrete pumping is accomplished with mobile units. The mobile units are equipped with knuckle booms (folded while in transit) ranging in size from 55' to 120'. In addition to the boom, these units carry sections of steel pipe (generally 10' in length/4" to 6" in diameter) and rubber hose (ranges in length from 10' to 12'/4" to 6" in diameter). As the job requires, sections of rigid pipe and rubber hose will be added; however, the majority of the pumping jobs are off the boom. Pump capacity ranges from 1 to 200 yards of concrete per hour. The maximum distances pumped are generally 300' vertically and 600' horizontally, the average distance ranges between 30' to 40' vertically, and 60' to 70' horizontally.
- ◆ Typically, concrete pumping jobs undertaken are commercial and industrial with some residential. The concrete is pumped into foundation forms, ground supported flooring, slabs, and self-bearing floors.
- ◆ With minor exception, only one mobile concrete pumper is dispatched to a job site. At times, the volume of a continuous pour may require that a back-up mobile unit be assigned. The back-up unit is on site only to be used as a replacement unit in the event of a breakdown.
- ◆ As is the case with concrete redi-mix trucks, only one driver/operator is dispatched to the job site with each mobile unit. The mobile unit is generally placed as close to the job site as possible, and will be moved throughout the pumping, as the job requirements dictate. Since the direction of the boom is controllable, the mobile unit is not usually required to move from its original set-up location.
- ◆ Upon arrival at the job site, the redi-mix truck and the mobile concrete pumper set-up as instructed by the hiring contractor. During the set-up process, the knuckle boom will be unfolded, and all of the required rigid pipe and rubber hose sections are un-racked. While the pump driver/operator assists in the un-racking of the rigid pipe and hose, its assembly is the sole responsibility of the concrete construction crew. The pump driver/operator may, at his discretion, elect to check the ground level hose connections. This optional inspection is usually conducted when the driver/operator questions the construction crew's expertise.

- ◆ **Prior to pumping, the redi-mix truck driver will position his discharge chute so that gravity assisted off-loading can begin. The chute dumps the concrete mix into the concrete pump's hopper. The pump driver/operator will either stand on the unit's platform and use fixed controls, or use the remote control box, and stand alongside the unit to better observe and monitor the unit's hopper.**
- ◆ **During the pump, the pump driver/operator's responsibilities are limited to adjusting the flow rate, positioning the boom and relaying concrete mix consistency adjustment instructions to the concrete redi-mix truck driver. Throughout the pump, the construction crew alone distributes the concrete mix (i.e. they handle the hose and spread the concrete into the forms), and determines what is required regarding these adjustments and relay their orders via two-way radio, hand signals or by shouting. The pump driver/operator never physically assists the redi-mix truck driver or the construction crew.**
- ◆ **Once the pumping is completed, the construction crew will break down the rigid pipe and rubber hose sections, clean and return them to the pumper and assist the driver/operator in re-racking. The pump driver/operator alone will clean out the boom and hopper. The pumpers are equipped with water tanks, and this source, along with available site water is used to flush out the boom and hopper. After the cleaning is completed, the knuckle boom is returned to its travel position and the driver/operator will move on to the next job site or return to the garage/yard.**

Rationale:

- **The sole function of the pump driver/operator is to deliver the concrete mix via pump, as opposed to physically pouring the concrete mix into the concrete forms. The actual pouring of the concrete is performed exclusively by the concrete construction crew. Additionally, the concrete construction crew alone is responsible for assembly, disassembly and cleaning the rigid pipe and rubber hose sections.**
- **To some extent, the pump driver/operator has less exposure to the job site pour than his required counterpart, the redi-mix truck driver. On those jobs not requiring the use of a concrete pump, the redi-mix driver will be at a maximum distance of 15' from the form(s) into which he is off-loading (the gravity assisted slide chute must be positioned to dump the concrete mix into the form(s)).**
- **Aside from uncracking and re-racking rigid pipe and flexible rubber hose, and possibly inspecting ground level hose connections, throughout the entire pumping process, the driver/operator remains with the mobile equipment and is physically located on the back of the pumper operating fixed controls, or alongside the pumper operating a remote control box.**
- **An analogous alternative method to pumping concrete is hoisting via mobile crane equipped with a concrete bucket. From a classification assignment standpoint, such operations, if conducted by a mobile crane service would be properly assigned to class code 9534.**
- **Based on our review and further analysis of the specific operations of specialty concrete pumpers, we now consider such concrete pumping operations as being analogous to that of a mobile crane service; both are mobile equipment that require the presence of an operator, whose responsibilities rest solely with the equipment on construction jobs.**

In due course, revised entries clearly establishing our classification position on specialty concrete pumpers will be issued in the next available updated print version of the Massachusetts Master Alphabetical Classification Index [MACI] and NCCI's Scopes™ Manual. The Internet-based versions of these two manuals, accessible at www.wcribma.org and www.ncci.com, respectively, will be updated as soon as possible. These two noted publications are guides that detail classification assignments for those operations not specifically described by existing manual phraseology.

As always, questions regarding classification issues should be directed to the Bureau's Customer Service Department.

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