



ASTM International & NCBVA

Standards for the 21st Century

Phillip Norder



What Is ASTM International?

- American Society for Testing Materials
- Founded in 1898 for railroad safety
- Not for profit
- One of the largest voluntary standards development organizations in the world
 - Over 30,000 members in over 100 countries



What Is a Standard?

- Documents developed and established through a consensus within the industry
- Everything from product design and development to accessing markets
- All concerned parties are in agreement
 - Producers (Vault manufactures)
 - Users (Cemeteries & funeral directors)
 - General interest (public)



How and Where Are Standards Used?

- Voluntary
- Purchasers and sellers incorporate into contracts
- Government gives the standards the force of the law (laws, codes, regulations)
- Examples
 - Safety equipment such as bicycle helmets and flame retardant pajamas for children
 - Things as simple as paper size to fit in envelopes
 - Practices for concrete production



How Is a New Standard Initiated?

- Idea submitted to ASTM International
- Assigned to the proper subcommittee
- Necessity argued



How Are ASTM Standards Developed?

- Task group is formed
- Standards are written
- Voting and modification
 - Sub-Committee
 - Main Committee
 - ASTM as a whole
- All negative votes are addressed
- Can take only six months but typically requires a couple years to establish a standard



What Does It Cost?

- ASTM International is a voluntary organization with a nominal \$75 fee for dues for an individual
- Standards are not required by manufacturers, but are often used to identify how the product is tested
- Each standard is copyrighted and sold only by ASTM International



Why ASTM and NCBVA???

- Globalization of standards
 - Use of pre-established specifications to create common practice throughout the industry and to consumers
 - A consensus created by many individuals within and outside of realm of burial vaults
- Review and update
 - Changing standards with changing times
- Collaboration not replacement
 - Company non-specific
 - Grow for external knowledge
 - An agreement of several organizations
 - NCBVA
 - Veterans Association
 - Catholic Cemeteries



ASTM Identification

- Main Committee
 - C27 Precast Concrete Products
 - Sub-committees contained within
 - C27.10 – Utility structures
 - C27.20 – Architectural and structural Products
 - C27.30 – Water and wastewater containers
 - C27.40 – Glass fiber reinforced concrete
 - C27.60 – Precast autoclave aerated concrete
- Subcommittee
 - C27.20 Architectural and Structural Products
 - Task Group: Earl Brutsche, Mike Crummit, Marvin Smith, Dan Wagner, Phillip Norder



Progress Report

- We have three standards in process:
 - Standard Practice
 - Requirements for product application
 - To be completed this year
 - Standard Specification
 - Manufacturing and sales standards
 - First ballot in December of 2007
 - Standard Test Method
 - May be balloted this year
- Working with other precast industries to construct
- Next sub-committee meeting is December in Miami



What ASTM is NOT!

- The attempt for one company to control the industry
- Squeezing out smaller producers
- An added expense
- Taking the place of NCBVA
- Something to fear



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