

Individual Plant Process Improvement

Batching Traffic Control

Description

Batching Traffic Control - Quality Assurance

Project Initiation

This plant has 160+ mix designs and it is not uncommon to be batching three different mix designs at the same time which discharge from the same chute,

as well as having three "batch trucks" pulling in and out of the batching discharge chute at the same time and then delivering concrete to specific areas and forms. It is critical to ensure that the correct batch truck operator gets the correct batch of concrete and mix design for the product that the operator is pouring. We needed a way to signal the batch truck operators that their load is ready and not someone else's. The batch guys added a 3 color light signal and assigned each production area a color, so when the correct mix design is ready for a particular area, they simply turn on the correct light and the batch truck operators are all signaled at the same time to know who is next to receive a load.

Project Benefits

There are a lot of different combinations of concrete when it comes to pipe and precast, we have wetcast and drycast and flowable and SCC, we have air entrained and non-air entrained, we have 4000, 5000, 6000, 7000, and 7500+ psi mix designs. It is critical to the performance and safety of our products that every form gets the correct concrete designed for that product. When you have an operation that mixes multiple mix designs at a time and distributes them to multiple areas of the plant, you need a way to ensure everyone involved knows what concrete goes where. This system ensures that this happens, and that it happens every time. Having the wrong concrete in a product can lead to both performance and durability issues, as well as safety issues if the product does not have design strength.

