

Salt Application Verified Equipment Program

Managing Risk While Saving Money

THE CURRENT STATE OF SNOW AND ICE MANAGEMENT

For years, the snow and ice management industry has been preoccupied with risks associated with liability for slips, falls and other ice related accidents. These concerns, combined with a lack of tools to effectively challenge slip and fall claims, has encouraged contractors to over-apply road salts on parking lots and sidewalks. The application of salt in excess of what is needed drives up the price of winter maintenance contracts, accelerates corrosion of building infrastructure and adversely impacts neighbouring soils, vegetation and waterways.

RECENT ADVANCES

Over the past three years, a consortium of provincial, municipal and non-governmental organizations, coordinated through Landscape Ontario, have established scientifically defensible salt application rates for parking lots, based on extensive monitoring by researchers at the University of Waterloo. These rates will help provide the long needed evidence for contractors to effectively challenge law suits and prove their due diligence. In order to use the established rates, however, salt spreading equipment needs to be calibrated and verified to ensure that target application rates verified through scientific testing are being achieved in practice. The program aims to do just that.

THE PROGRAM

The proposed program is a third party certification program consisting of the following components:

Authorized Certification Depots – fee-for-service system for select salt depots that have certified inspectors on staff to calibrate and verify equipment and provide on-site contractor training on salt management best practices and new equipment technology

On-Site Calibration & Audits – for large volume contractors, onsite calibration and verification of equipment and audit process during the winter

Annual Verification Program – requirement for equipment operators to verify equipment calibration and obtain vehicle certification label on an annual basis

Certification Directory - list of contractors with calibrated equipment available on-line for facility managers and property management companies

Education - education related to snow and ice maintenance contract procurement, site assessment, contractor rating system, spreading equipment, snow melt products and terminology for facility managers and property management companies



KEY FACTS

- Over \$1 billion is spent annually on the purchase of road salt in Canada
- Contractors are using up to 13 times more salt on parking lots than is being applied to municipal roads
- Calibrating salt spreaders can result in up to 47% less salt being used, without increasing slip and fall risks
- In 2001 Environment Canada recommended that road salt be listed as a hazardous material under Schedule 1 of the Canadian Environment Protection Act
- 2010 survey to equipment manufacturers confirms no documented process for calibrating equipment
- 2012 Canadian Infrastructure Report Card estimates the cost to replace the municipal roads in fair to very poor conditions at \$91.1 billion



For more information about the program, contact:

Robert Rozell, Program Director
robert@SAVEprogram.ca
416-795-9466

Tim Van Seters, Manager, Sustainable Technologies
Toronto and Region Conservation Authority
tvanseters@trca.on.ca
289-268-3902