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Prevailing Wage Section

Division 9 Finishes inc.

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RE. *Concrete Diamond Grind & Polish
Painter vs. Cement Mason*

Jim,

Jesse Starr

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I have had many conversations with Jesse Star regarding wage determinations for concrete grinding and polishing. Can the process be classified under the Section 09900 architectural guide (enclosed) for Finishes and secondarily be classified under painting? Following is the email that I had sent to Jesse. He directed me to your address.

Regarding diamond grind/polish (G&P) concrete floors, I believe the classification should be in the Painter trade. Currently G&P is listed in the 033000 Concrete Section. G&P is a finish. Division 09900 is the Finish Section of the Mater Format Architectural book of trades. Should G&P be in the Section 09900 finish Section?

Following is the history of G&P.

1. History. *The last 25 years have brought many technologies to the industry. D-9 has grown from the industrial painters world. Surface Prep includes grinders, sand blasters, shot blasters, pressure washers, sanders, liquid prep and many hand tools. D-9 purchased its first concrete grinder 17 years ago to provide prep, material removal and to plane concrete surface defects. The same grinder is used today to provide G&P. Long before G&P was introduced, the same grinders were used for concrete prep thereby concluding that it is a painters prep tool.*

2. Tools. *G&P is borrowed technology from the Terrazzo and Paint trades. The G&P machines, diamonds, materials, supplies were born from and borrowed from the Terrazzo and Painter industry. Grinders, diamonds and supplies were used in the Terrazzo and Painting industry long before G&P existed. Painting and Terrazzo is written in the Division 09900 Finish Section of the architectural guide. G&P technology is an extension of both Terrazzo and Painter trades.*

In the Master Format Architectural book of trades used by architects to write the specification for each trade when designing a building, Terrazzo is in the Division 9 Finishes Section; 096613, 099615, 096623. Floor Coatings come under Section 096670, 0966723, 096713, 099000, 099600, 099653. The fact that Painting & Terrazzo sections install their trade to a building in the D-9 finish section illustrates that Paint and Terrazzo is a Div. 9 finish, as well as G&P. Cement Masons do not apply commercial finishes. Painting and Terrazzo do. Please see attached Arch divisions.

3. The G&P manufactures, representatives, managers, owners of equipment companies, veterans that I work with in the industry brought the G&P technology from Germany to the US. In 1991. They started the G&P industry and used Terrazzo equipment from Germany to install a G&P finished concrete floor. Terrazzo is a Section 09900 finish to the floor like G&P.

4. Finishes. Concrete is a structural material installed as a base in a building similar to walls and ceilings. Concrete is installed at the beginning of the construction project with cement masons. All base materials are covered with a Finish product including floors, walls and ceilings. G&P is a Finish applied to the concrete at the end of the building project. Other floor finishes are carpet, tile, wood or sheet vinyl. Structural materials are installed on the building at the beginning of the project. Finish materials are installed at the end of the project. Cement masons install structural materials, Painters install finish materials.

5. Liquid and Cement products. Cement masons install cement based products like, cement, block and brick. The materials like block and brick have a factory finish. Block and brick finishes are supplied at the factory. Cement receives a floor finish like carpet, wood, sheet vinyl, paint or G&P. The Cement Masons do not install a finish on cement, block and brick. Cement Mason buy cement based products. G&P is a liquid product. Painting is a liquid product. Painting trades install liquid finishes on site, G&P is a liquid product installed on site and appears to belong in the Section 09900 finish section.

6. Painters and G&P purchase liquids, like sealers, densifiers, paint, varnish, laquer, stains. Cement Mason buy and install cement based mortars and products. Painters install the finishes on site onto the building, cement masons finished products are supplied to them.

Can diamond grind and polish occupy to trades? Painter and Cement Mason.

Would you review and provide direction for this inquiry?

Thanks

KEITH BONERTZ

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