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- **Appreciate the Options**—Each ACI reference specification also includes a checklist that identifies alternatives to the requirements provided in the ACI reference specification. The checklist also defines the actions required or available to you, the specifier. You should review each of the items in the checklist and adjust according to the needs of a project by including those selected alternatives as mandatory requirements in the project specification.

Specifiers minimize their risk by using reference specifications to exploit each industry’s expertise. To reap these benefits and reduce conflicts, however, specifiers must know the contents of reference specifications, recognizing that providing clear and concise instructions to the

contractor ultimately benefits the owner.

Note: Additional information on the ACI specifications discussed in this article and AIA MasterSpec® can be found at [www.concrete.org](http://www.concrete.org) and [www.aia.org](http://www.aia.org), respectively.

Selected for reader interest by the editors.



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