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## **Media Release**

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### **Silica Fume Association (SFA) Announces Availability of a Silica Fume Standard Reference Material**

A Standard Reference Material (SRM)<sup>®</sup> 2696 Silica Fume for checking the accuracy of existing laboratory practices and to provide a tool for instrument calibration is now available from National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). The SRM 2696 Silica Fume will help to minimize erroneous testing, simplifying the test process through standardization and provide the user/specifier reliable data. Certified values are now established for SiO<sub>2</sub> and six other chemical constituents plus reference values for five chemical constituents and the physical measurement parameter Specific Surface Area. All values are a product of extensive testing by NIST and collaborating laboratories from state departments of transportation, universities, commercial testing laboratories, distributors and manufacturers.

SRM 2696 is the culmination of a five-year development project carried out by the SFA and NIST, and financed in part by the Federal Highway Administration. "The Silica Fume Standard Reference Material was developed in response to the increased usage of silica fume as an ingredient of High Performance Concrete (HPC)", stated Gary Gapinski who managed the project on behalf of the SFA. "Many states have developed HPC specifications that use silica fume and have implemented specifications for chemical composition and physical properties of silica fume, which has created a need for a suitable certified reference material", said Dr. Terence C. Holland, SFA executive director.

Each unit of SRM 2696 consists of a single, sealed bottle of approximately 70 grams of powder supplied with a Certificate of Analysis and a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS).

SRM 2696 can be ordered directly from NIST through the secure, online SRM Order Request System: <https://srmors.nist.gov/index.cfm>. Copies of the Certificate and MSDS are also available (no purchase required) from the website or by telephone (301) 975--6776, fax (301) 926-4751, or email [srminfo@nist.gov](mailto:srminfo@nist.gov).

The Silica Fume Association was formed in 1998 to promote the benefits of silica-fume concrete and increase its usage in the United States. Based in Lovettsville, VA the association is comprised of manufacturers of silica fume and has a cooperative agreement with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) designed to educate state transportation agencies and industry professionals on the benefits of silica-fume concrete as well as expand the use of the high-performance concrete in state highway and bridge projects. For more information about SFA, call (540) 882-4001, or visit [www.silicafume.org](http://www.silicafume.org).

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