

WHY ACCREDITATION MATTERS

In June 2007, acceptance criteria were adopted for helical foundation systems by the International Code Council (ICC). This criteria, called AC358, was adopted in order to provide assurance of system capabilities to code officials, engineers, architects, and contractors. It also levels the playing field for evaluating such systems.

The International Accreditation Service (IAS) is a non-profit, public benefit corporation and a leading accreditation body in the United States. The accreditation process measures our services against international standards, ensuring our competency and accuracy. An IAS stamp of approval means you can be confident that the services CTL|Thompson, Inc. is providing meets the most stringent of standards. By having your products tested by an accredited laboratory, it also assures your clients they are receiving a quality product, and will help raise the bar for entry in your market and place you above your competition.

TESTING

The tests that are administered are designed to mimic the real forces that helical piers are subjected to after installation. The foundation systems are tested for resistance to axial compression, axial tension, lateral loads, or any combination of the three. The AC358 dictates that the resistance to these forces shall be measured using four primary structural elements of the helical systems: Bracket Capacity, Helix Capacity, Shaft Capacity, and Soil Capacity.

CTL|Thompson is the only IAS laboratory currently accredited as a helical test facility. Our lab is currently setup to conduct all of the lab tests specified in AC358 including

- shaft torsion
- helix compression
- coupling rigidity
- bracket capacity

In addition, we are equipped to conduct field tests required by AC358 including axial compression, axial tension, and lateral load.

On the forefront of our capabilities is the Tinius Olsen electro-mechanical torsion testing machine with 1-Million in-lb (83,000 ft-lb) torsion capacity, computer data acquisition and logging capability, an adjustable rotation rate of 5 to 180 deg per minute.

LEADERS IN SERVICE

With an extensive background in helical pier foundation design and construction, it's no wonder CTL|Thompson, Inc. is currently the only laboratory in the world accredited to provide ICC certification testing and support. We offer quality independent testing which fulfills the requirements of AC358.

We work with you to tailor a testing program that meets your specific needs. We consider you a partner in our testing program and will incorporate your company's capabilities, where possible, in an effort reduce the burden of testing costs. Again, the goal is accreditation; our job is to help you get there.

BUSINESS PROTECTION

Helical piling is a relatively new and competitive industry with innovative product features being constantly developed. Your products and plans are held strictly confidential and will at no time be available to your competition. Although we encourage clients to visit our facilities, we insist on prior notification and arranged meeting dates to ensure products currently being tested are completely protected. We afford this level of business protection to all of our ICC testing clients.

BEYOND

The unique capabilities of CTL|Thompson, Inc. allows us to offer more than just ICC related testing. With an experienced structural design team on staff, we can provide assistance in product design and improvement. We can also assist you with project specific foundation design now and in the future.