



DEBATE

Frikkie Viviers

General manager of
WG Wearne Readymix

Frikkie Viviers is the general manager for WG Wearne Ready-mix and argues that readymix is convenient for any contractor. “A readymix supplier supplies concrete at a central point in the area where the contractor is building. So you don’t have to have any materials on site or batching plants on site. All you basically have to do is to call the readymix company and they deliver.”

Quality is something they pride themselves on, Viviers explains, “We are SABS ISO9001 company. The (standards bureau) is constantly auditing us. We are also a member of the South African Readymix Association (Sarma) and the Aggregate and Sand Producers Association of Southern Africa.

He has many concerns about the self-loaders. “The cost involved in buying one of those vehicles, well for the same cost, you can buy a readymix truck,” he says.

“And you might need one or two or three of them on a specific site.

They have weigh-batching and volume-batching, so there might be quality issues. If the driver makes a mistake it’s not just about finding a new driver; he’s got to have the knowledge to batch concrete. That’s not something you can teach someone in the blink of an eye.”

He also thinks that an aspect of the remote applicability of the machines is often overlooked: “Even if you are working in the bush where there is no readymix concrete, you still have to take the materials to where the (self-loading mixer) is. You can’t have the mixers travelling 50 km to batch and then deliver. You still have the issue of transporting materials to site.”

But what about a client who needs a small batch at short notice?

“If you are doing a slab of a 100 m³ of concrete and it’s a Friday afternoon and you still need to lay 1 or 2 m³ to finish the job, we are committed to finish that job. That’s how we treat our customers,” Viviers says. ■



Photograph by Munesu Shoko

An early brand of self-loading vehicles in South Africa was from Italian manufacturer Fiori, now represented by Pan Mixers South Africa, the official distributor of Fiori since 2009.