

# BENCHMARK

by Michael Crewdson

## Fact Sheet

Benchmark is a website where anyone can go and get useful information on weathering and corrosion testing. We are not consultants\*, we don't have a fee schedule, because we don't bill you. We are here to help. The website is a trove of information, and being added to on a regular basis. But if there's something you need and it isn't there, contact us and we'll see about putting something up. This is a part time side-hustle for me, but adding new stuff is my primary daily activity.

Working for most of the commercial weathering services, I have amassed over 40 years of experience in the weathering and corrosion testing business. I have filled most positions on my way up the ladder, starting out as the field technician putting specimens on the outdoor racks in Florida. I had a science degree which allowed me to get into more technical positions, and then my customer service abilities kicked in. I built several accelerated test laboratories, a whole new exposure test site which became the world's largest, and created a complete ISO 17025 Quality System to run all of them. I am on multiple standards writing organizations, including ASTM, ISO, SAE, and others. I am currently the Chair of ASTM Committee G03 on Durability, G03.02 Natural Weathering, and D01.25 on Evaluation of Weathering Effects.

Along the way I learned a lot about the business side of the testing industry too. How to manage resources and people, to understand profitability, and how to say no to difficult or risky propositions. I have that "been there, done that" history in this business. I feel though that I have not finished making my contributions yet, and I would like to pass on as much as I can before I do indeed finally retreat to the mountains or the beach. I have retired and no longer work full time though.

Here are some areas where I may be able to help. Of course, please ask about anything else you might not see here.

*Laboratory Audits:* Do you want to know if you are doing the right things to pass that ISO 10725 Audit?

*Buyers Guides:* Should I buy that piece of equipment, is it worth it, does it do what I want it to do?

*Insider Tips:* How much should I spend on that commercial test? How to take advantage of the lab's pricing policy.

*Standards Help:* Can't understand how that test method is meant to be run? Instructions not clear?

*Interpretation of Results:* Statistical help; what does that number really mean, is there really any difference?

*Training Programs:* For lab technicians, quality staff, evaluators and instrumental measurement takers.

On the website too, we have our newsletter, some (tongue-in-cheek) editorials, a calendar of upcoming events, standards update news. I have also added a number of short powerpoint presentations that perhaps you can borrow and incorporate into your own presentation, and some articles that I hope will make you think about perceptions we take for granted.

### Contact Information

Below is the information for our website. You can also email us at [info@bestweathertest.com](mailto:info@bestweathertest.com) but there is no phone number to contact us at. I need my quiet time to myself, but rest assured I will get back to you pretty darned quickly.



[www.bestweathertest.com](http://www.bestweathertest.com)

[www.bestcorrosiontest.com](http://www.bestcorrosiontest.com)

\*Consultants – I'm not a huge fan of consultants, some are really good, but some are passing time in "heaven's waiting room" trying to squeeze meaning out of their last few years. They do this by recommending more and more complicated solutions, which require more and more cash from their clients. I'm a huge believer in Ockham's Rule so consultants are generally not on my Christmas Card list. If you would like a second opinion about what your consultant is recommending, let me give the proposal a once-over and double check it for you. Confidentiality is effective on everything I see and hear.