

ICC Accepts EIFS into international commercial and residential building codes
EIFS Industry Members Association reports ICC decision and recent Department of Energy study validate product's performance

Morrow, Ga. - September 22, 2008 - Exterior Insulation and Finish Systems (EIFS) have been approved for inclusion in the 2009 International Building Code and International Residential Code (IBC/IRC).

These model building codes are the foundation for local building regulations throughout the United States and elsewhere. The final adoption occurred last week at the 2008 International Code Council (ICC) Annual Conference & Final Action Hearings in Minneapolis.

"This action validates the product and removes ambiguities in the interpretation of what EIFS are, and how they are implemented into the building code construction process," said Stephan Klamke, Executive Director of the EIFS Industry Members Association (EIMA).

The approval is the culmination of more than six years of effort by many individuals both inside and outside of the industry, according to Klamke.

"Earlier this year, the EIMA Technical Advisory Committee, working closely with Jesse Beitel of Hughes & Associates, Inc., secured preliminary approval for the inclusion of EIFS into the IRC and the IBC from the IRC Building and Energy Code Committee and the IBC Fire Safety Code Committee.

Klamke commented that several EIMA members, including EIFS manufacturers BASF, Dryvit, Parex, and Sto Corp., contributed time and personnel to attend the hearings and offer testimony.

"The acceptance of EIFS into the IBC and IRC is a long time coming and we are very pleased," said David Boivin, president of Sto Corp. and the EIMA Board of Directors. "We thank the members of the EIFS community who have been diligently working to satisfy the requirements of the ICC. The recognition clearly removes any remaining hurdles for full acknowledgment by the building industry that EIFS is the cladding of choice."

Klamke stated the achievement grew out of continuous and patient efforts of the Technical Advisory Committee ever since EIMA's accreditation as an ANSI standards organization in 1999. "It implements the EIMA Board of Director's specific instructions set down in 2006, directing the Technical Advisory Committee to make inclusion of EIFS in the international model building codes a reality," he said.

EIFS inclusion in the 2009 international building codes, combined with the recent Department Of Energy study demonstrating that EIFS performs better than brick, stucco and cement fiber siding, offers further evidence that EIFS (including EIFS with drainage) is an outstanding exterior cladding choice for achieving the key building performance goals of energy efficiency, temperature control, and moisture control in mixed, coastal, Zone 3 climates.

ABOUT EIMA

Founded in 1981, the EIFS Industry Members Association (EIMA) is a national non-profit technical trade association comprised of leading manufacturers, suppliers, distributors and applicators involved in the exterior insulation and finish systems (EIFS) industry. For information, contact EIMA at 800-294-3462, eifsinfo@eima.com, or www.eima.com.

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LET US HEAR FROM YOU

We encourage you to discuss and bring to our attention any issues of concern. We want to hear from you, and we are glad to discuss how EIMA can better serve you.