

## EIFS BRIEFS

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## Calendar

*ASTM "Call for Papers" for Symposium on EIFS*  
by October 31, 2013

*International Risk Management Institute (IRMI) Construction Risk Management Conference*  
November 17-21, 2013  
San Diego, CA

*International Builders Show*  
February 4-6, 2014  
Las Vegas, Nevada

*EIMA Annual Meeting*  
March 31-April 1, 2014  
Mandalay Bay  
Las Vegas, Nevada

## ICC SAYS FLAME RETARDANTS TO STAY IN FOAM INSULATION

The International Code Council has determined that flame retardants are to remain in foam insulation. The ruling came during ICC's Public Comment Hearings in Atlantic City, New Jersey on October 2-9. These hearings, which are the final stop for pending code changes, were formerly called the Final Action Code hearings.

This action represents a major victory for EIMA and its allies, all members of the Energy Efficient Code Coalition (EEFC). The vote on the two proposals (RB 163 and RB 164) to ban flame retardants in the International Residential Code (IRC) occurred on Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup>. Only about a dozen persons voted in favor of the changes; the remainder, well over 100, voted against.

At the Committee Action Hearings in Dallas last April, the first step in code development, the IRC Building Committee voted down these proposals. They were brought back for consideration by the sponsors of the proposals

submitting 'public comments' on the rejected proposals, a procedure that is permitted by the International Code Council's (ICC) codified rules for code development. Under these rules, defeated proposed code changes can have a public comment submitted. They then can be heard at the subsequent Public Comment Hearings, with a vote held by those code officials in attendance at the full assembly on whether to support the committee's action at the previous hearing or to review the public comments on the previously defeated code changes.

The EEFC strategy at this hearing was largely developed by Jess Beitel, EIMA's fire code consultant, and Lorraine Ross, a consultant for Dow. The testimony presented by the 11 representatives for EEFC was well-coordinated, non-redundant and concise. EEFC witnesses addressed fire and toxicology



concerns previously raised by

the code change proponents, including 3 industrial hygienists, one toxicologist, and a representative from Underwriters Laboratory. Also, 3 others felt strongly enough to lend support: Mike Beaton of Intertek, a representative from the Vinyl Siding Institute, and J.C. Harrington of FM Global.

The opposition sent only two to testify this time and their points, which were anticipated by EEFC in advance, were easily neutralized by the 14 persons who testified first to ask the voting code officials to uphold the expert committee decision to disapprove these proposals.

## EIFS ADDRESSED AT AWCI MIDYEAR CONFERENCE

EIFS were a significant topic at the AWCI Industry Executives Conference held in San Diego on September 17 - 20. At the EIFS Curriculum and Examination Committee meeting, the committee discussed the growth of the EIFS

engineered wall panel market, the Phase III study conducted by the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, water-resistive barriers, and the lack of awareness of the durability of EIFS along with others. At the meeting of the AWCI Tech-

nical Committee's EIFS and Related Products Subcommittee, EIMA Executive Director Dave Johnston provided a comprehensive report on the activities of EIMA.

## EIMA QUARTERLY PROJECT AWARD ANNOUNCED

Earlier this year, EIMA started the Quarterly Project Award, where one EIFS project will be recognized per quarter for the several benefits this exterior wall system provides. This quarter's recognition goes to a Dryvit Systems Inc. project, the Lancaster

Bible College out of Lancaster, PA. Among the many benefits of this project was



Bible College was able to open early with a savings in the budget and is now already seeing the benefits of their new energy efficient commons and library since its opening in the fall of 2012. Out-insulation by Dryvit Systems Inc., was used helping the college enjoy a durable and energy efficient project, to meet

the new energy codes and requirements for continuous insulation.

the ability to shorten construction timeframes, when using EIFS. The Lancaster

## DOE UPDATES FEDERAL BUILDING ENERGY-EFFICIENCY REQUIREMENTS

DOE recently issued a final rule requiring new federal commercial and multi-family buildings to meet the requirements of ASHRAE Standard 90.1-2010: Energy Standard for Buildings Except Low-Rise Residential Buildings. This is the same standard that DOE

requires states to adopt by this past October 18<sup>th</sup>. ASHRAE 90.1-2010 represents a 30 percent gain in energy efficiency over the 2004 edition of this standard. Issuance of this DOE rule follows a legislatively-mandated analysis to deter-

mine that the new edition of 90.1 would achieve greater energy efficiency in a cost-effective manner than the 2007 version of 90.1. This rule applies only to new federal buildings with design and construction beginning after July 9, 2014.

## PROGRESS ON EIFS STANDARDS AT ASTM E06 MEETING

The ASTM EIFS and Related Products Subcommittee of the ASTM Committee on Building Performance (E06) met on October 22<sup>nd</sup> in Jacksonville, Florida to address a number of long-pending standards applicable to EIFS. Leading this subcommittee as chair is Bill Egan of BASF Wall Systems, and Tina Cannedy of Parex USA is the

subcommittee's secretary. The subcommittee addressed negative votes on E2134, E2359, E2430, and E2486. The subcommittee discussed at length a proposed change to E2570, Standard Test Methods for Evaluating Water-Resistive Barrier (WRB) Coatings Used under Exterior Insulation and Finish Systems (EIFS) or EIFS

with Drainage, that would enable fluid applied WRBs to be used with other claddings other than EIFS. The proposed change is opposed because it addresses these other wall claddings. The subcommittee also reviewed the progress on the Symposium on EIFS that will be held in October 2014 in New Orleans.

## ADVOCACY UPDATES

EIMA is continuing efforts on three separate initiatives that were previously reported over the summer. They include, DeKalb County, GA, the City of Baltimore, MD, and Arlington County, VA. To date, EIMA has sent information packets to each governing body, as well as participating in a variety of meetings and public hearings, voicing concerns about the proposed restrictions.

Though a vote on a proposal in DeKalb County, GA, was scheduled to be held multiple times over the summer in front of Board of Commissioners (BOC), that proposal was sent back to the Planning Commission for additional action, with a vote on November 7<sup>th</sup> scheduled, followed by the BOC's final action on November 19<sup>th</sup>. EIMA again reached out to several members in the area, as well as other supporters, asking them to send letters to the Planning

Commission and BOC prior to the votes. EIMA will continue to provide updates as this ordinance progresses.

The City of Baltimore's review of its zoning ordinance is long overdue, being called a "once in a lifetime" process. The ordinance is currently being heard by the Council's Land Use and Transportation Committee. The public hearing schedule was recently released and included four relevant dates for the EIFS industry, three of the dates were in October, leaving the hearing on November 20<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. as the most relevant remaining date when a hearing will be held on the entire package. EIMA has scheduled meetings with members of the Council's Land Use and Transportation Committee to better educate them on EIFS and our concerns with the proposed language.

EIMA's manager of public affairs, Scott Robinson, testified at the most recently public hearing and has since been asked to participate in the working group, which will be an opportunity to further discuss EIFS.

In Arlington County, Virginia, the Columbia Pike Neighborhood Form Based Code is still under review. EIMA initially encountered difficulty in scheduling meetings with the staff handling the proposal, but after informing the Board of Supervisors of the difficulties, a meeting was held. At the meeting, EIMA learned that this proposal was actually following an overall ban Arlington County currently has on EIFS. County officials that it might be outdated, but EIFS projects are currently only approved on a case by case basis. EIMA is now exploring other avenues for a broader scale approach.

### SAVE THE DATES!

EIMA  
Annual Meeting

March 31-  
April 1, 2014

Las Vegas, NV

## EIMA ATTENDS PIMA RECEPTION

EIMA Representatives were invited to the annual reception held by the Polyisocyanurate Insulation Manufacturers Association (PIMA) on October 29<sup>th</sup>, at the Whittemore

House in Washington, DC. This past year EIMA joined with PIMA and others to push back against legislation being pushed in California, relating to flame retardants. EIMA will

continue to be a partner of PIMA, seeking out areas that both associations can collaborate on, that will help promote both industries alike.

## EIMA SHOWS AT NAIOP

On October 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>, EIMA representatives attended the NAIOP Commercial Real Estate Development Association's Development '13 in San Diego, California. EIMA was able to discuss the commer-

cial real estate market with several individuals, while providing real estate development professionals with current information on EIFS and the EIFS industry. In addition

to having a booth at the conference, EIMA attended events throughout the week, including several led by experts in real estate development.

## EIFS CODE CHANGE PASSES

At the October ICC code hearings, a proposed code change, sponsored by EIMA, to clarify the use of EIFS in

residential construction passed by acclamation. This amendment to the IRC requires use of EIFS with Drain-

age unless the substrate is masonry. More details later.

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## EIMA WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

EIMA extends a most cordial welcome to its new members. We thank you for your support of the EIFS Industry.

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## EIMA QUESTIONS CSI ARTICLE

The September 2013 issue of **Construction Specifier**, contains an article beginning on Page 68, entitled *Claddings and Entrapped Moisture: Lessons Learned from Early EIFS*. EIMA has called into question several aspects of the article including, the intent of the article and the targeted audience. The entire article unjustly targets EIFS

for issues that can occur with any "building envelope system." Not until the conclusion of the article does it come full circle to say that these issues aren't even exclusively EIFS issues. EIMA further questioned the fact that the representative from "Masonry Technologies Inc." didn't discuss a masonry envelope, the significant challenges in

meeting the new energy codes, or continuous insulation.

Further discussions have occurred between EIMA and **Construction Specifier**, and the response, written by EIMA, will be published on the CSI website.