

EIFS BRIEFS

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Calendar

ICC Green Code Hearings
April 27-May 4
Memphis, Tennessee

Northwest Wall and Ceiling Bureau Annual Convention and Trade Show
May 1-3, 2014
Huntington Beach, California

National Association of Realtors Trade Expo
May 14-15, 2014
Washington, DC

National Fire Protection Association Conference & Expo
June 9-12, 2014
Mandalay Bay Hotel
Las Vegas, Nevada

EIMA GUARDING EIFS INTERESTS AT GREEN CODE HEARINGS



EIMA's Technical and Research Steering Committee has taken positions on a number of proposed code changes that will be voted on at the International Green Construction Code (IgCC) hearings that are being held April 27 through May 1. If adopted, some of these changes will have an adverse effect on the EIFS industry. The most significant change would add an appendix in the IgCC that would greatly limit the use of EIFS in 'high hazard' areas and would preclude the use of EIFS unless there was a fire

separation of 30 feet. The current fire separation requirement for EIFS is now 5 feet. The code change is proposed by the Portland Cement Association. EIMA intends to focus on how erroneous the justifications are for this proposed code change: EIFS can meet the durability requirements of code in high hazard areas, including hurricane prone areas, and that tests demonstrate that EIFS can meet the requirements for flame spread to permit its use in fire separations 5 feet or less.

EIMA also is opposing a proposal that will require the periodic inspection of wall drainage systems. EIMA is pointing out that the proposal presents a requirement that is virtually impossible with which to comply in a pre-occupancy period as well as post-occupancy period, and if it is complied with, the cost to do so in both situations is prohibitive as well as creating more damage to the building by destructive testing than if it was left alone. At press time, action was not yet taken at the hearing.



EIMA MOURNS PASSING OF DANNY BONNELL

Staunch EIFS industry supporter Danny Lee Bonnell of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina passed away on Saturday April 5, 2014. Mr. Bonnell was born on September 5, 1942 in Bertha Hill, West Virginia, a small community just outside of Morgantown.

As a passionate entrepreneur and values-driven businessman, Danny earned the re-

spect of his peers and industry. He was the co-founder of the Carolinas Lathing and Plastering Contractors Association. He was a longtime and dedicated member of EIMA and a member of AWCI. His wife, Crystal, who he married in 1962, passed away on August 9, 2012. In 1985, he and son Danny Lee II, started Commercial Systems, Inc. which grew to become one of

the most respected commercial wall system companies on the East Coast.

In addition to Danny Lee II and his wife Amy, Danny and Crystal are survived by children Beth Bonnell, Leigh Bonnell and Ashleigh Hansberger, and five grandchildren.



2014 ANNUAL MEETING COMMITTEE UPDATES

Technical and Research Committee:

The EIMA Technical and Research Committee members rolled up their sleeves to work on an extremely ambitious agenda during its meeting at the annual meeting. The committee discussed evaluation reports, the summary for the ORNL/EIMA Phase III study, and the status of the proposed ANSI/EIMA EIFS standard. The committee received excellent presentations from three experts in their fields: Jess Beitel, EIMA's fire code consultant, reported on the progress of implementation of AB 127, a bill passed in California in the last session and enacted into law, which requires study of California's flammability requirements. Doug Evans, a code official with the Clark County, Nevada Building Department, reported on the National Fire Protection Association's task force studying exterior wall fires on an international basis, and Mike Merigan of the Uniform Evaluation Service, a subsidiary of the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO), spoke on how the evaluation report process worked at the Ser-



vice. The committee agreed that its steering committee would hold a conference call at a future date to address the proposed code changes to be presented at the hearings on the International Green Construction Code. (IgCC).

Communications and Education Committee:

The Communications and Education Committee continued its focus on next steps for the recently completed market study, conducted by Grail Research. The committee has identified areas for EIMA to focus efforts on making sure the market place is better educated, so the appropriate updated information is available to the public. Several upcoming meetings will continue to refine the messaging that EIMA will use. A one page summary of the study and its findings are forthcoming.

Advocacy and Industry Relations Committee:

The Advocacy and Industry Relations Committee discussed several pending ordinances, as well as some new and expanded efforts being undertaken. The committee first heard updates on DeKalb County, GA and Baltimore, MD, both of which have active ordinances being discussed. New efforts in Chicago, IL and the State of Texas were also discussed, which included outlining some additional efforts in both areas. The final topic the committee spent some time discussing was the need to address insurance coverage for the EIFS industry. The committee agreed to continue to put an emphasis on this issue, and will be meeting with several insurance companies, who have negative images of EIFS, this coming year.

Membership Committee:

Much good news was discussed on the membership front. EIMA membership continues to be on the upswing with retention and new member statistics on the rise. Goals for 2014 include adding more contractors to the membership rolls.

CHICAGO EIFS WEBSITE GOES LIVE



For the past couple of years, EIMA has been working with local members and others in the Greater Chicago area on addressing concerns with EIFS. After both meeting with local groups and City of Chicago officials, EIMA has released the EIFSforChicago.com web-

site to help educate others about EIFS. The website went live in early April, right before the 2014 EIMA Annual Meeting, and includes both updated information and contacts for those using EIFS in the Chicago area.

Additional questions which may not be addressed on the website can be forwarded to EIMA's Manager of Public Affairs at srobinson@eima.com.

www.eifsforchicago.com

EIMA REPS ACTIVE AT ASTM PERFORMANCE OF BUILDING COMMITTEE

The ASTM Performance of Buildings Committee, which has the numerical designation as E 06, met in Toronto, Ontario on April 6-9. This committee develops and services most of the standards within the model building codes that apply to EIFS. Several EIMA members attended to serve on the many subcommittees that affect EIFS. Bill Egan of BASF serves as the chair of the E 06.58 Subcommittee on EIFS, and Terry Viness of Sto serves on this committee and

the Subcommittee on Air Leakage and Ventilation, E 06.41. The E 06.58 subcommittee continued making progress updating several important EIFS standards and also reviewed progress on the ASTM symposium on EIFS that will be held in New Orleans on October 5 and 6. At the E 06.41 subcommittee meeting, EIMA members expressed concern over the proposed standard for fluid applied water-resistive barriers (WRBs). Some of those interests not supporting EIMA

offered a change to the proposed standard (inserting the use of the ASTM D 530 test) to accommodate previous EIMA concerns. Although this was a move closer to EIMA's position, the change still includes the need for WRBs to accommodate cracking in the substrate. EIMA members present at this meeting still consider this latest proposal as unacceptable and will work with other interests to make it acceptable to all.

UPDATE: EIMA QUESTIONS HOME DEPOT SALE OF EIFS REINFORCING MESH

Following up on the cover story from the January-February edition of EIFS Briefs, EIMA has now issued a press release raising questions about the "EIFS" mesh being sold at Home Depot. This comes as a follow up to discussions at the 2014 EIMA Annual Meeting, during multiple committee meetings, after attempts to

contact Home Depot have gone unanswered.

EIMA is attempting to contact Home Depot to ascertain why it is advertising and selling EIFS reinforcing mesh when it is the EIFS manufacturer responsibility to supply the mesh. The potential problem in this instance is Home Depot selling a

non-code compliant reinforcing mesh, and like all EIFS components, must meet requirements of ASTM E2568. Included in these requirements are requirements for fire testing. One of these tests is NFPA 285 which requires the reinforcing mesh to be tested in situ with the whole EIFS system.

EIFS Industry Members
Association, Inc.

513 West Broad Street
Suite 210
Falls Church, Virginia 22046-3257

Toll Free: 800-294-3462
Fax: 703-538-1736
E-mail: eifsinfo@eima.com

www.eima.com

EIMA WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

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

Distributors:

Acoustical Ceiling Distributors, Inc.

Brad Barr
Rich Griffin
15610 Industrial Parkway
Cleveland, OH 44135
(216) 898-0200
www.acdsales.com

Capitol Materials of Alabama

Jimmy Dennis
Tom Mueller
307 Commercial Park Circle
Calera, AL 35040
(205) 668-0600
www.capmat.com

Affiliate:

RADCO

Jay Mishra
Mike Ziemann
3220 E 59th Street
Long Beach, CA 90805
(562) 272-7231
www.radcoinc.com

HBS Building Supplies, Inc.

Scott Thompson
Clyde Howson
1 Riverton Way
Rochester, NY 14586
(585) 334-4020
www.hbsbuildingsupplies.com

ProCoat Systems

Martin Diner
Jim Diner
4343 Holly Street
Denver, CO 80216
(303) 322-9009
www.procoatssystem.com

HBS Building Supplies, Inc.

595 Fillmore Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14150
(716) 692-0084
www.hbsbuildingsupplies.com

EIFS MANUFACTURERS TO DEVELOP PCR'S INDIVIDUALLY

The EIMA Board of Directors has decided that EIMA will not participate in an effort to develop a product category rule (PCRs) for exterior wall claddings on an industry-wide basis. PCRs are a set of rules, requirements and guidelines for developing Environmental Product Declarations (EPD) for one or more product categories. A product category is a group of products that can fulfill equivalent

functions – for example, 'floor finishes, 'concrete blocks' or 'insulation.' The only way an EPD can be developed is if a PCR is in place.

The end goal for the initiator of this effort, the Vinyl Siding Institute, was to enable the development of environmental product declarations (EPD), according to ISO 14025, which are being requested by the green building

industry from product manufacturers. The EIMA Board's decision was based on the fact that each EIFS manufacturer and most associates are developing PCRs individually. The Vinyl Siding Institute (VSI) is the only association to agree to go forward. The entire masonry and concrete industry has decided not to join in. The wood industry is still undecided.

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