

EIFS BRIEFS

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Calendar

Northwest Wall & Ceiling Industries Convention & Trade Show
May 3-5, 2018
Tucson, Arizona

ABAA CONFERENCE 2018
May 8-9, 2018
Salt Lake City, Utah

NFPA Conference & Expo
June 11-14, 2018
Las Vegas, Nevada

Building Owners and Managers Association Convention
June 23-26, 2018
San Antonio, Texas

ASHRAE Annual Conference
June 23-27, 2018
Houston, TX

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EIFS IN THE SPOTLIGHT: KEAUHOU LANE, HONOLULU

Keauhou Lane is a unique project in Honolulu – a so-called Transit Oriented Development (TOD), an exciting trend in creating vibrant livable communities which are compact and walkable, centered on high quality train systems. The architects for the Keauhou Lane TOD wanted the look of stone and metal in unique colors to mimic the salt beds endemic to the area. The cost of the natural materials was too great to build the project. Dryvit showed a skeptical architect the TerraNeo® and Reflectit™ finishes that would provide an

affordable alternative to the originally specified products. As a result, the project was able to be built in the aesthetic the architect and the owner desired.

And most importantly, Jennifer Camp, AIA, project architect at Principal Hierarchy, LLC, saw the Dryvit Outsulation® Plus MD system as a great deal more than just a winning aesthetic solution for the building exterior. The long-term performance values were just as important of a con-

sideration. “You need to make sure that this product, at the end of the day, is going to lead to a successful project, to be viable for 150 years. Can it stay up? Can it meet that requirement?,” Camp said. “The Dryvit system gave us the performance we needed to be very confident this project will stand the test of time.”



EIMA DISCUSSES OPTIONS TO EXPAND EIFS RESIDENTIAL MARKET WITH HOME INNOVATION RESEARCH LAB

EIMA staff and members of the Technical and Research Steering Committee met with the Home Innovation Research Labs in March to discuss options to increase the use of EIFS within the residential market.

The EIFS residential market presently only comprises three percent of the overall residential market, and it is predominantly concentrated in the Southwest United States. Based on Home Inno-

vation Labs’ internal research, the perception of EIFS is not the main barrier among homebuilders, but it is other issues that prevent them from using it, such as difficulty obtaining insurance, stylistic considerations within a given neighborhood, a lack of skilled labor to install it, and negative perceptions from realtors.

Some of the options discussed at the meeting to expand the EIFS residential

market included conducting case studies of homebuilders who have used EIFS or are considering switching from stucco to EIFS, hosting a focus group with homebuilders who are using EIFS or would consider using it to see what motivates them, and rebranding EIFS for the residential market to overcome any pre-existing negative perceptions.

NFPA FIRE TEST COMMITTEE AGREES TO EXEMPT EIFS FROM NEW NFPA 285 JOINT REQUIREMENTS

Language to exempt EIFS from the new mandatory and vertical joints in the NFPA 285 test standard was approved by the NFPA Fire Tests Committee at their meeting on March 22 in New Orleans. The latest edition of NFPA 285 was recently returned to the NFPA Fire Tests Committee for further consideration after EIMA won its appeal to the NFPA Standards Council to overturn revisions to add mandatory vertical and horizontal joints to the multistory fire test for exterior walls. Following the successful ap-

peal, the Fire Tests Committee sought public comments on how to rework the amendment to NFPA 285 that would have required a new configuration for the test sample.

EIMA and members of its Technical Committee submitted comments recommending that EIFS, and other wall assemblies that demonstrate improved fire performance when joints are included in the test specimen, be exempt from the joint requirements. EIMA's primary argument was that the addition of joints in

the test assembly would actually make it less difficult for EIFS to pass the NFPA 285 test because joints in an EIFS assembly limit the amount of molten EPS that can accumulate at a given location, thus reducing the fuel available to a fire; act as fire stops; and provide support to EIFS lamina during a fire.

The Fire Tests Committee are still considering public comments on NFPA 285. The latest edition likely will not be ready for approval until the 2019 NFPA Technical Meeting.

EIMA PROTECTS EIFS INDUSTRY INTERESTS AT ASTM COMMITTEE MEETINGS

EIMA staff and Technical Committee members participated in meetings of ASTM Committee E06 on Performance of Buildings on April 10 in San Diego, CA. During the morning session, the ASTM EIFS Subcommittee (E06.58) met and discussed the configuration of test samples for the incorporation of a precision and bias statement into the Test Method for Determining the Drainage Efficiency of EIFS Clad Wall Assemblies (ASTM E2273).

In the afternoon, EIMA staff and members participated in an ASTM Air Leakage and Ventilation Performance Subcommittee that is currently developing a Standard Specification for Membrane Forming Fluid Applied Air and Water Resistive Materials. The

proposed standard has the potential to negatively impact the EIFS industry because it currently requires declared properties for substrate crack bridging and tensile strength and elongation, which could be used as a marketing tool by producers of thicker WRBs to the detriment of the thinner WRBs that EIMA EIFS manufacturers produce.

Since there were several negative ballots submitted on the latest version of this standard, the subcommittee was unable to vote on the merits of all of the negative ballots in the allotted amount of time. As a result, the subcommittee will need to consider the remaining negative ballots at its next meeting in Washington, DC in October 2018.

EIMA and its members also were given an opportunity to discuss a proposal to split the standard into two separate standards; one for thick-unreinforced WRBs and one for thin-reinforced WRBs. The standard has been at an impasse for several years now as a result of the task group choosing to take a "one size fits all" approach to the standard by requiring all fluid applied water resistive barrier technologies to undergo test methods that are not applicable to thin-reinforced WRBs. The conversation was tabled before the full subcommittee was able to vote on whether to split the standard.

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2018 EIMA ANNUAL MEETING A SUCCESS

"EIFS is the answer!" was stated loud and clear and multiple times during the 2018 EIMA Annual Meeting, in Ponte Vedra Beach, FL. Not only did the meeting include more attendees than in recent years, but there were more distributors, contractors, and first time members attending as well.

Among the many meeting highlights, the panel on "Continuous Insulation, Exterior Claddings, and Fire" made clear that EIFS has passed every stringent fire test. Additionally, the panel discussed the use of combustible foam plastic insulation on high-rise buildings, and the successful tests and code

requirements the United States has created for buildings.

Videos from the meeting will be available soon. The date and location of the 2019 EIMA Annual Meeting are in the works, stay tuned for more information.

EIFS WIN IN SHAWNEE, KS

Over a year ago, Shawnee, KS began the process of updating some of their building and construction codes. After a concentrated effort, the city agreed that EIFS is an exterior wall cladding that should be permitted.

The effort undertaken in Shawnee, KS is part of a larger effort in jurisdictions across the United States where distributors and contractors are taking a leader-

ship role by conducting meetings and outreach with local officials. In this case, Tracy Tanking of Architectural Building Systems, Inc., an EIFS distributor, was that individual.

EIMA began conversations with a representative of the City of Shawnee, and quickly started working with representatives from Dryvit Systems, Inc. and Tracy. Tracy attended meetings, had con-

versations with decision-makers, and kept EIMA in the loop whenever he was in need of information.

Working as a team, a winning solution was created to revise this outdated building code requirement. Thanks to Tracy, the EIFS industry had eyes and ears on the ground throughout the entire process.

MOUNT HOLLY MAKES CHANGE TO FURTHER PERMIT EIFS

In 2008, Mount Holly, NC passed a building code requirement that restricted the use of EIFS to architectural trim and accent designs. After years of successful testing and reports, Mount

Holly has changed course and now allows EIFS on up to 70% of a building's exterior.

Similar to the example and recent success in Shawnee, KS, this decision represents

another example of local jurisdictions lifting previous restrictions against EIFS.

