EIFSMART CONTRACTOR

What is it?

The EIF*Smart* Contractor is a recognition awarded to **companies** that are committed to quality workmanship in exterior insulation and finish systems. The company demonstrates its merit and commitment through EIFS education and certification. The recognition requires that a specified percentage of the employees have been educated in EIFS application and theory, according to industry standards and accepted means and methods of high-quality installations.

There is accountability to the distinction such as adhering to a Code of Ethics. This entails, among other things, that the company employ trained and tested personnel in the **EIFS–Doing It Right** methods. Only those who pass a rigorous examination earn the certification. These personal certifications are a requirement for the company recognition.

Point of Clarification. The EIF*Smart* Contractor is a corporate credential. Only **companies** can earn it. **People** who pass the EIFS exam are certified.

How is it done?

To earn the EIF*Smart* Contractor seal, the company's employees must be instructed and certified through the national, standardized program available from the Association of the Wall and Ceiling Industry. The educational content is based on ASTM C1397 and other standards and best practices. This content is approved by authorities from various sectors of the industry. The examination for the associated certification is developed and maintained by subject matter experts and testing professionals.

For more information, visit www.awci.org and navigate to the EIFS section, or call (703) 538-1608.

COMMITMENT

Who recognizes the EIF*Smart* Contractor Seal?

This distinction has quickly found favor and recognition within various segments of the construction community. Because it is a helpful tool to identify the quality performers, an increasing number of architects, spec writers, general contractors, code bodies and insurance companies are requiring this seal. Based on the grassroots acceptance to date, the expectation is that the recognition and adoption of the EIF*Smart* Contractor seal will continue to increase.

What are the requirements?

Companies wishing to become recognized as an EIF*Smart* Contractor must meet the following requirements:

- ❑ 40 percent of the EIFS employees must hold a valid certification from AWCI.
- ❑ This ratio is to be carried for each project.
- ❑ At least one of the certified employees must be at the decision-making or management level so that the message of "EIFS–Doing It Right" is adopted and directed from the top down.
- ❑ The foreman for each EIFS project is to be AWCI certified.
- ❑ An annual reporting form attests that the criteria are met on a continuing basis in order to maintain the distinction and be listed on the National Registry at www.awci.org/registry.

QUALITY

The following industry segments each benefit by the EIF*Smart* Contractor seal:

❑ EIFS Contractor

The EIF*Smart* Contractor seal easily identifies companies that are committed to quality. The list of EIF*Smart* Contractors is found at www.awci.org/registry. Holding the distinction allows companies to bid work requiring the seal, raises their business prospects and helps with insurance negotiations. It also better enables the contractor to attract and retain quality employees who are more productive when they learn why they follow the procedures explained during the education process.

❑ General Contractor

Hiring an EIF*Smart* Contractor provides the GC with an increased confidence level in the caliber of work provided by the company. With a greater assurance of a correct installation, the GC may not feel the need to monitor the job as closely. He knows he will have skilled and knowledgeable installers on the job. The GC also benefits from the likelihood of fewer callbacks and problems. He is positioned to have lower insurance and legal costs because the EIF*Smart* Contractor will help ensure the project is done correctly. The EIF*Smart* Contractor backs up its declaration of excellence with the positive action of employee education and certification.

❑ Architects/Spec Writers

Specifying an EIF*Smart* Contractor is a simple and effective quality assurance vehicle. By reducing installation concerns, the architect can more confidently specify EIFS as the chosen cladding.

EDUCATION

❑ Building Owner

The building owner benefits by getting a well constructed building. The building is more likely to last for the intended duration and with less maintenance required. The owner has a greater assurance of resale. And a qualified contractor such as one that must pass the tests and adhere to the criteria of the EIF*Smart* program is more likely to perform a quality installation. Some EIFS manufacturers provide an extended warranty for a job installed by an EIF*Smart* Contractor.

❑ EIFS Manufacturers

A good-looking, well-performing cladding installed by an EIF*Smart* Contractor makes their product look good–it's good advertising. The EIFS manufacturer knows the applicator was instructed in sound generic techniques resulting in fewer difficulties.

❑ Insurance Companies

Carriers enjoy reduced risk with EIF*Smart* Contractors and are more willing to extend EIFS coverage when they know knowledgeable, quality-oriented installers are doing the work.

❑ Building Code Officials

The code official's work is easier when there are qualified installers on the job as some localities require proof of training and credentials. AWCI's certifications for the EIFS work force and the company recognition provide this documentation.

❑ EIFS Industry

When EIF*Smart* Contractor companies produce properly installed EIF systems that last, confidence in EIFS cladding is improved, and the reputation of the builder, EIFS contractor and the industry as a whole benefit.