

## **ARCATspecNEWS No. 1 - Mid-August 2006**

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### **FM Global Revises Roofing Requirements**

If the building you are designing or specifying is insured by a Factory Mutual affiliated insurance company, your new roofing design and specs must change. In response to losses caused by hurricanes, FM Global has updated their Loss Prevention Data Sheet 1-29 "Roof Deck Securement and Above Deck Roof Components" to tighten the perimeter and corner securement requirements for adhered roofing assemblies over steel or concrete decks where the insulation is mechanically attached. Datasheet 1-29 is available from their website, [www.fmglobal.com](http://www.fmglobal.com), or you can contact your local roofing company representative.

### **BETEC, a New Technical Resource**

The Building Enclosure Technology and Environment Council (BETEC) is a council of the National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS) and promoted by the American Institute of Architects. BETEC is intended to foster effective cooperation among public and private interests seeking energy efficient and environmentally responsible homes and buildings.

Over a dozen new AIA/NIBS-BETEC chapters have organized around the country in the past two years, with architects, engineers, and those interested in building performance meeting monthly to discuss technical issues of the day (Boston, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Dallas, Seattle, Washington, Chicago, New York, St. Louis, San Francisco, Minneapolis and more). In Boston, the monthly meeting, attended by 25 people, begins with a business meeting and is followed by a speaker, pizza, and lots of networking. A membership application form is available at [www.nibs.org](http://www.nibs.org), or you can contact your local AIA component for meeting times. (Most chapters do not require you to be a member to attend.)

### **LEED Tips**

Always include the USGBC LEED scorecard in the spec for the contractor, and always indicate 'yes' or 'no' in the credit column. The contractor needs to know which points you are counting on, and 'maybe' always turns into 'no' in our experience. Update the scorecard and reissue it to the contractor periodically.

The regional material credit and recycled content credit are only for products in specifications in CSI Divisions 2 through 10. Elevators, entrance mats, and mechanical equipment don't count. The best way to ensure you'll get those credits is to take a preliminary pass at the excel spreadsheet that USGBC provides. For example, if you are seeking the recycled content point, and fly ash in your concrete and recycled steel in your framing and studs get you to the threshold, no other documentation for that credit is

required. We've seen designers who think that recycled content is required for every product by LEED - which is not correct.

If your project has a slurry wall, USGBC considers the spoils a product which must be accounted for by the construction waste management credits. Don't forget it in your calculations. If you're getting the two credits for 75 percent construction waste management, try for an innovation credit by getting to 92 percent.

There are four innovation credits available, but you can submit for up to six innovation credits hoping to get four. There is no real need to guess, as you can look at the Credit Interpretation Reports (CIR) on the USGBC website to determine which innovation credits have been accepted for other projects.

### **Performance vs. Proprietary Specs**

The upside of performance specs can be good price competition between bidders on your project. Specifying 3,000 psi concrete or AWI Custom Grade woodwork are good examples of effective performance specs. The downside, however, is knowing how many characteristics of a product you have to specify to ensure quality.

For building products which aren't commodities, the primary specifying influence is a balance of esthetics and performance. Designers base their drawings and specs around a particular manufacturer. If you specify a Modernfold 911 Series operable partition, for example, all the features of that partition are included in the manufacturer's spec - fire rating, flat panels, individual panel operation, STC rating, tracks, and many other items. Options that don't exist aren't listed.

Many of us actually look at a product such as Modernfold 911 as setting performance requirements based on a proprietary name. Other manufacturers may be considered equal if their products have the same performance - as judged by the designer. And when a contractor must bid a project in just a few short weeks, the subcontractors know how to price a product named by manufacturer and series with the confidence that they won't have to pad their bid based on fake or incomplete specs.

### **Streamlining Specs: Eliminate Dates on Standards**

Are you still putting the dates of applicable publications and standards in each of your specification sections? Stop! It's a holdover from the pre-internet era. We strongly agree with AIA Masterspec, which recommends using the following language in Division 1 (Section 014200, par 1.2B) - "Publication Dates: Comply with standards in effect as of date of the Contract Documents unless otherwise indicated." This eliminates the need to research dates for every project. One architectural firm estimated that they save two days production on every project by not having to constantly update the dates of the standards, and frankly no one in the firm could remember when the date of a standard had caused a problem. Also, the engineering consultants didn't follow the same practice in their specs, so half the battle was won or lost already, depending on your perspective.

### **Organizing Your Library Alphabetically**

As CSI Masterformat 2004 has come on the scene, architectural librarians are faced with new challenges. Reorganize or stay the same? Remove the 5-digit binder labels, and replace with the new 6-digit numbers? Move some building products to a new division? Ask for duplicate copies of binders when a manufacturer makes products that are classified in different divisions? One practical answer: organize your product binders

alphabetically. Kalin Associates spec consultants made the switch when they moved several months ago. "No more scanning the shelves for a binder when we already know the name of the company we're looking for", reports a specifier. Even the reps can find their catalogs now. With sites like ARCAT grouping manufacturers with similar products easily, the old advantage of going to the library shelf to find similar manufacturers is outweighed by the ease of searching when information is alphabetical.

### **Links You'll Like**

[www.wbdg.org](http://www.wbdg.org) (national whole building design guide)  
[www.etsy.com](http://www.etsy.com) (buying and selling all things handmade)  
[www.justcurio.us](http://www.justcurio.us) (answer a question, ask a question, just for fun)

Click here for ARCAT Manufacturer Updates, [www.arcacat.com](http://www.arcacat.com)  
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[www.arcacat.com/specwizard/sw\\_out\\_demo.htm](http://www.arcacat.com/specwizard/sw_out_demo.htm)

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