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By Luc Saint-Martin

Evaluation Services of the Canadian Construction Materials Centre

Many building officials who attended the last OBOA Annual Meeting spent some time getting acquainted with the services of the Canadian Construction Materials Centre (CCMC) at the NRC booth. CCMC offers a national evaluation service for innovative construction materials, products, systems and services of all types.

Because this is such an essential and complex service to building officials, I felt it would be useful to write about it in our column for the benefit of those who could not attend the conference or did not have the time to stop by our booth.

A CCMC evaluation is an impartial, technical opinion on the suitability of a product for its intended use, usually with respect to the requirements of the National Building Code of Canada and, in many cases to provincial codes including the OBC. Operating within the National Research Council's Institute for Research in Construction (IRC), CCMC ensures that its evaluations are based on the latest technical research and expertise. CCMC Reports and Listings are utilized throughout the country by building officials and other authorities as a basis for determining the acceptability of products.

Where a company's product is so novel that no appropriate standard exists, CCMC develops a set of technical criteria in consultation with experts from elsewhere in IRC and from other organizations. CCMC then directs the client to appropriate independent testing laboratories. CCMC Evaluation Officers review the test results and if these are favourable, they publish a positive opinion on the product's suitability in an Evaluation Report, together with necessary installation conditions.

For products for which specific standards exist, industry often relies on CCMC's evaluations to demonstrate conformity. Opinions on these products are published in Evaluation Listings. Depending on the nature of the product, an evaluation may take from four months to one year.

All Evaluation Reports and Listings are contained in CCMC's Registry of Product Evaluations, indexed to the Master format system used throughout North America. With this useful publication, thousands of subscribers have quick access to up-to-date technical and regulatory information on hundreds of evaluated construction materials, products and systems.

CCMC is specifically designated in the OBC as a materials evaluation body for the purposes of supporting Minister's rulings on innovative products. Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and Public Works and Government Services Canada accept CCMC-evaluated products on projects which they finance or sponsor.

Updated twice a year, CCMC's Registry is especially valuable for building officials, who use it to check plans, the acceptability of specified products and their installation. CCMC operates under the general policy and technical advice of the Canadian Commission on Construction Materials Evaluation, whose members are drawn from across the country. The membership represents regulators, industry and general-interest categories.

To obtain a FREE copy of the CCMC Registry of Product Evaluations and for more information, contact:

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