



BEYOND THE MARK

Building product manufacturers (building, plumbing, mechanical and gas) design their products in accordance with applicable codes and standards. Such products are by and large certified by an accredited product certification agency. Such agencies normally have a mark of conformity, which should mean compliance of the product with an applicable code and/or a standard. This mark of conformity is what code officials use as the vehicle to approve a product for installation.

But do all these marks of conformity have the same meaning? We believe not. There is one mark that stands out above all and goes “beyond the mark.” ICC-Evaluation Service PMG’s mark of conformity is that mark:



The Mark of Conformity That Code Officials Trust

The product certification process conducted by many certification bodies includes some common steps including testing, evaluation, inspection, certification decision, and follow-up monitoring of the certified product. Many certification bodies stick with these minimum requirements. What sets the PMG mark apart is the fact that ICC-ES PMG goes well beyond the minimum requirements—and that is why code officials across the United States and in Canada look for the PMG mark of conformity.



On the evaluation side, ICC-ES enjoys the employment of many engineers in a variety of disciplines. More than 30 of these engineers are licensed professional engineers. Many of these engineers possess advanced degrees in their areas of expertise, and have published widely in industry journals. Moreover, no other certification body has more experience than ICC-ES in evaluating building, plumbing, mechanical and gas products. Now let us look at some of the details of the ICC-ES PMG program. On the testing side, ICC-ES PMG requires test reports by an ILAC-MLA accredited testing agency to the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025. This requirement is not common among certification bodies. However, since testing is the most essential part of the product certification process, ICC-ES believes that such accreditation will give a higher level of confidence to the quality of the test reports used toward product certification. In addition, the acceptance of the test reports accredited by a variety of ILAC-MLA signatory testing agencies gives manufacturers an opportunity to conduct testing at a credible lab, at the lowest cost and the highest quality. This will allow manufacturers to introduce their products to market much faster.

On the inspection side, ICC-ES requires the inspection agencies that conduct plant inspections be accredited to the requirements of ISO/IEC 17020. ICC-ES believes that this requirement is critical because the most important part of product certification is to assure that a product continues to comply with codes and standards. The most important activity to determine such compliance is the manufacturing plant inspection activity by a qualified inspection agency.

ICC-ES is a subsidiary of the International Code Council (ICC), which publishes the codes used by most U.S. jurisdictions. These codes include the *International Building Code (IBC)*, *International Plumbing Code (IPC)*, *International Mechanical Code (IMC)*, *International Fuel and Gas Code (IFGC)*, *International Green Construction Code (IgCC)* and *International Residential Code (IRC)*. ICC code experts are at all times available to the ICC-ES technical staff for consultation as to whether a product complies with applicable sections of the aforementioned codes. This is definitely not a resource available to other certification bodies.

ICC enjoys a membership that is 50,000 strong, including 15,000 code officials. These officials look for the ICC-ES PMG mark of conformity because they know that ICC-ES goes “beyond the mark” when evaluating for code compliance. These officials know, too, that approval of products for installation is a weighty decision. No official takes such a decision lightly, and that is why they look for the ICC-ES PMG mark of conformity to assure product safety and compliance with the applicable codes and standards.

“Beyond the Mark” means that ICC-ES PMG goes the extra step before it allows its mark of conformity to appear on a product. “Beyond the Mark” is why “ICC-ES PMG” is the mark of conformity that code officials trust and look for.

