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TESTING YOUR PRODUCT TO GET AN EVALUATION REPORT FROM ICC EVALUATION SERVICE (ICC-ES)

Companies seeking an evaluation report usually have to get their products tested to show that they meet building-code requirements or the requirements of an ICC-ES acceptance criteria. The following are important things to keep in mind if you need to have your product tested as part of an ICC-ES evaluation:

- a. ICC-ES will readily accept data from any independent testing laboratory that is accredited by the International Accreditation Service, Inc. (IAS) We strongly encourage you to take a look at the list of accredited laboratories on their web site (www.iasonline.org), and to choose a laboratory accredited to perform the type of testing that you need done.
- b. ICC-ES will also accept data if it comes from an independent laboratory accredited by one of IAS's partners in the mutual recognition arrangement (MRA) of the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC). For information on signatories to the ILAC MRA, you may contact IAS directly (562-699-0541, consult the ILAC web site (www.ilac.org), or talk to the ICC-ES technical staff member assigned to your file.

Note that ICC-ES will only accept data from a laboratory accredited by one of the signatories to the ILAC MRA if the data is accompanied by a copy of the laboratory's accreditation certificate. (This is so we can make sure that the laboratory is accredited for the specific type of testing under consideration.)

- c. ICC-ES *may* accept data from a nonaccredited laboratory, but only after an ICC-ES representative has visited the facility, and only after it has been shown that the laboratory meets applicable requirements of ISO/IEC Standard 17025, the international standard for laboratory accreditation. ICC-ES should be notified before you contract for any testing by a nonaccredited laboratory.
- d. If you are using an accredited laboratory, you must make sure the laboratory is accredited for the *specific type of testing* you need done. For example, if you need to submit reports to ICC-ES on tensile testing under ASTM D 2290, you should make sure the laboratory's accreditation certificate specifically cites this test method.
- e. Occasionally, a manufacturer seeking an evaluation report will want to submit data from the manufacturer's own testing laboratory. In this case, the testing must be done under the supervision of an independent, accredited laboratory, and the independent, accredited laboratory must issue the test report(s). The manufacturer's laboratory also must show, to the satisfaction of the supervising laboratory, that it meets requirements of ISO/IEC Standard 17025.

- f. As regards the sampling of products for testing: If the product is required to be under a third-party inspection program, you will need to have the product sampled by either the inspection agency or the accredited laboratory. The laboratory must verify that the product tested is truly representative of the standard manufactured product to be covered in the evaluation report and as described in the quality documentation submitted to ICC-ES.

In cases where the product is *not* required to be under a third-party inspection program, you will have to submit an affidavit certifying that the product tested is representative of the standard manufactured product to be covered in the evaluation report and as described in the quality documentation submitted to ICC-ES. (Alternatively, the laboratory may independently draw the test specimens from the manufacturing site.)

If the test specimen is an assembly, laboratory personnel must witness or verify the proper construction of the assembly.

For further information on submitting test reports, consult the ICC-ES Acceptance Criteria for Test Reports (AC85).