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February / March 2012

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EIFS Council’s EQI Program Heads West

By / Jessica Kirby
photos courtesy of John Garbin

The EIFS Council of Canada (ECC) has headed west with its EIFS Quality Assurance Program (EQI) as it prepares for accelerated EIFS market share growth. The program officially launched last summer in Ontario and rolled out to Western Canada in November 2011.

“This is a game changer for the cladding space,” says John Garbin, president and CEO of the EIFS Council of Canada. “It’s the first certified quality assurance program for any cladding system in North America.”

More than 180 industry members participated in a recent EQI Technical Review and exam session in Toronto, and more than 625 EIFS mechanics, manufacturer representatives, and EQI auditors have participated in similar sessions across the country to date.

“The Toronto session was probably the largest one-time gathering ever in North America of EIFS industry personnel writing a certification exam of any kind,”
says Garbin. “It could also be seen as one of the largest sessions of its kind in any industry.”

Four such sessions have been held in Western Canadian cities throughout December, January, and February, including one at the BC Wall and Ceiling office in Surrey. Additional sessions are scheduled in Halifax, Ottawa, Calgary, and Toronto from mid-February through March.

EQI has several key components including research and development, standards and specifications, certification & licensing, site auditing, conflict resolution, and third party warranty assurance. Certified and licensed EIFS professionals will be active in all levels of the system’s use from design through manufacturing of materials to assembly and in-place performance audits.

Under EQI, manufacturer products and systems are evaluated against EIFS Standards criteria and, when successful, the manufacturer is certified and licensed.

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The growth expectations also come as a result of the completion of ULC S716 EIFS National Standards which are a result of the completion of ULC S716 EIFS National Standards which are a result of the completion of ULC S716 EIFS National Standards which are a result of the completion of ULC S716 EIFS National Standards which are a result of the completion of ULC S716 EIFS National Standards which are a result of the completion of ULC S716 EIFS National Standards which are a result of the completion of ULC S716 EIFS National Standards which are a result of the completion of ULC S716 EIFS National Standards which are a result of the completion of ULC S716 EIFS National Standards which are a result of the completion of ULC S716 EIFS National Standards which are a result of the completion of ULC S716 EIFS National Standards which are a result of the completion of ULC S716 EIFS National Standards which are a result of the completion of ULC S716 EIFS National Standards which are a result of 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regulatory community to utilize and enforce,” says Garbin. “These EIFS Standards are now published and available to the marketplace.”

The unique part of the EIFS Standards is the Part 3 Design component which goes beyond the typical materials and installation parts found in current industry standards.

“EIFS is the first product and/or technology with a dedicated design standard targeted at the design community. We are definitely pioneers on the standards front,” says Garbin.

“It may have taken a little longer to complete the release of the standards but it will provide tremendous assistance to the marketplace and sets the precedent for other industry standards to follow.”

Next on the drawing board for the ECC is the release of the new EIFS Practice Manual, a comprehensive design and educational resource for use by anyone involved with specifying or constructing EIFS.

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