

WINTER 2011

# OFF THE WALL



An Industry Publication by the Wall-Ceiling & Carpentry Industries of New York, Inc.

## Columbia's Expansion Allowed by U.S. Supreme Court

— see page 18

Holiday Party  
photos inside  
on pages 10-15



# CALENDAR

2011

<b>FEB</b>	09 (WED)	7:30 AM	OFFICE	BOARD MEETING
<b>MAR</b>	15 (TUES)	4:00 PM	TBD	BOARD MEETING
	15 (TUES)	6:00 PM	TBD	MEMBERSHIP MEETING
<b>APRIL</b>	02 (SAT)	7:30 PM	TERRACE IN THE PARK	14TH ANNUAL DINNER/DANCE
<b>MAY</b>	17 (TUES)	4:00 PM	TBD	BOARD MEETING
	17 (TUES)	6:00 PM	TBD	MEMBERSHIP MEETING
<b>JUNE</b>	15 (WED)	7:30 AM	OFFICE	BOARD MEETING
	20 (MON)	6:30 AM	NO. HEMPSTEAD COUNTRY CLUB	GOLF OUTING

## Off The Wall Winter 2011



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## OFF THE WALL

*Off The Wall* is published through the Promotional Fund by the Association of Wall-Ceiling & Carpentry Industries of New York for the benefit of the membership. It is distributed to members, associate members, union affiliates, and legislators. Editorial contributions, including pictures and story ideas, are welcome and should be forwarded to the WC&C office, 125 Jericho Tpke., Suite 301, Jericho, NY, 11753.

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*From the  
Executive Director  
John DeLollis*

## **TIME'S UP!**

This year nearly every major construction labor union contract in New York City is up for renewal. Most important to us is our agreement with the New York City District Council of Carpenters. 2011 is viewed as the most crucial point in our history by most construction professionals. We are the first association to have started negotiations and the industry is watching us.

The most significant difference I am witnessing — in my nearly forty year involvement with labor negotiations — is the cooperation between labor and management. For the first time there is an honesty as to what the real problems are, an understanding of the needs of each side and an effort to find a solution acceptable to all.

The major problem as we all know is the loss of market share to the nonunion sector. The cause is the vast difference in the cost of labor. The solution is to reduce labor costs without negatively affecting our most important asset, the union carpenter. In a labor intensive industry such as interior systems, where labor can account for as much as eighty percent of total cost, the solution to the problem becomes a matter of survival.

We are working together with consideration toward working conditions, government imposed restrictions, wages, hours and benefits. There will be more negotiation sessions before we are through and lots of work to be done. We have proposals for both short term changes and long range goals such as positive reform of benefit plans. There is still a long way to go but we would like to complete this process in time to set an example for others.

In addition to a fair contract we must concentrate on educating our contractors, labor leaders and workers and secure legislative action to level the playing field. Together labor and management must market our industry in terms of quality, efficiency, safety, project management and above all, value.

I believe that we will do what is best for our industry and start on the road towards revival of union construction in the City of New York and its surrounding area. While the task is daunting, the participants are optimistic and up for the challenge. *We are New York!*

— *John DeLollis*



*From the  
PRESIDENT  
Michael Weber*

## **Starting Over**

2011 is off to a running start with the recent gains in the stock market for the month of January. Perhaps the momentum can carry over to our industry. Since the paradigm shift in the global economy and the impact it has had on running a business, planning and projecting marketing trends is a daunting task. The legal challenges to the healthcare legislation and how this may affect the union construction sector is still a fuzzy picture to say the least.

As most of you are aware we have a new executive director heading up our association for the first time in 15 years. With John DeLollis' vacancy on the board, the opportunity arose to seat Chris Boccia as a new board member. Chris is the first female board member in the history of our association and will no doubt bring a refreshing perspective voice to our board and membership. Congratulations to Chris and good luck.

On the CBA (Collective Bargaining Agreement) our initial dialog with our negotiation with the carpenters has been promising. Don't pop the champagne bottle yet. First I need to know that the Kool-Aid we've been drinking is not spiked. With the newly informed interior systems local and a proposed labor/management cooperation committee, these negotiations are shaping up to be quite different from my past experiences. With the glass half full, I remain cautiously optimistic. With unprecedented unemployment and eroding union market share our opportunity to become more competitive is NOW. Labor and management needs to START OVER and work through our differences for the survival of our industry. Stay tuned and stay engaged.

— *Mike Weber*

# OFF THE WALL

WINTER 2011



An Industry Publication by the Wall-Ceiling & Carpentry Industries of New York, Inc.

## An Invitation

Off The Wall magazine would like to offer a forum for your ideas and thoughts.

If you would like to present your opinions on topics pertaining to our industry, or, if you or someone in your organization is contributing to the community at large or has done something notable, we would like to publish it. Photographs are encouraged. Please keep it informative and within appropriate boundaries. The association reserves the right to reject or edit submissions.

Forward your content to the WC&C office at [association@wcc-ny.com](mailto:association@wcc-ny.com) and indicate "For Off The Wall."

## Buildings Commissioner Reports Drop in Construction-Related Accidents in 2010

Construction-related accidents dropped 28% in 2010, a significant decline that illustrates how government and industry working together can make this City stronger and safer than ever before says NYC Commissioner of Buildings Robert LiMandri.

With new regulations, more thorough inspections and greater communication between this agency and industry members, large and small, safe construction has continued throughout the City despite the economic downturn.

In the past year, the Department has not only focused on facilitating safe development but also improving the quality of life for all New Yorkers.

From coordinating a competition to beautify construction sites with art to implementing a new Energy Conservation Code to distributing flyers warning about illegal conversions, we are constantly looking for ways to make this City a better, safer place to live, work and build.

This year, we will be examining ways to further streamline the construction process so industry members can submit more documents electronically and do business more efficiently -- without sacrificing safety.

Construction is critical to the growth of this great City, but public safety must be paramount.

In 2010, four workers lost their lives because they did not have proper fall protection on the job site. Together, we must work to ensure these accidents are prevented in the future. •



# It's The Law

By Mark A. Rosen

Mark A. Rosen is legal counsel to the Association of Wall-Ceiling & Carpentry Industries of New York, Inc.

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## *An Introduction...*

Mark A. Rosen is the new legal counsel to the Association of Wall-Ceiling and Carpentry Industries of New York. He is a partner in the firm of McElroy, Deutsch, Mulvaney & Carpenter, LLP.

A graduate of NYU, Mark received his Juris Doctorate cum laude from the State University of New York at Buffalo where he served as editor of the Law Review. He is a member of the bars of New York and the U.S. District Courts of the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York and the bar of New Jersey and the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey. He was an adjunct professor in Construction Law at the New Jersey Institute of Technology.

Mark practices in the areas of construction and contract law, public contract law, arbitration, surety, and general commercial litigation. He can be reached at [mrosen@mdmc-law.com](mailto:mrosen@mdmc-law.com).

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## **RECENT AMENDMENTS TO WICKS LAW UPHELD**

A New York state court recently upheld the validity of the 2008 amendments to the Wicks Law. The Wicks Law is the statute that requires the award of separate prime contracts for electrical, plumbing, heating and air conditioning and general contracting work on public projects exceeding a certain monetary threshold.

The 2008 amendments at issue increased the threshold amount that triggered the application of the Wicks Law from

\$50,000 to \$3,000,000 in certain counties, including New York City's five counties, Nassau, Suffolk and Westchester. The amendments also enabled public agencies to bypass the Wicks Law, regardless of the project's cost, by agreeing to use project labor agreements. The amendments required contractors working on a project that exceeded the threshold amount for the application of the Wicks Law but involved a project labor agreement to participate in state-approved apprenticeship programs for at least three years.

The Associated Builders and Contractors

Empire State Chapter, among others, brought a lawsuit challenging the validity of these amendments. The court dismissed the action finding that the plaintiffs lacked standing. However, the court upheld the validity of the subject amendments. The court found that they were enacted "in furtherance of . . . a substantial statewide concern that was within the legislature's purview".

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## **NEW LAW TO COMBAT WORKER MISCLASSIFICATION GOES INTO EFFECT**

A New York state law intended to combat construction employee misclassification went into effect October 26, 2010. The law was triggered by surveys that found that somewhere between 15% and 25% of construction workers in New York are improperly classified as independent contractors.

Under the new law, construction workers are presumptively classified as employees unless three criteria are met:

- they are "free from control and direction in performing the job, both under his or her contract and in fact";
- their services "must be performed outside the usual course of business pursuant to which the services are performed"; and
- they are "customarily engaged in an independently-established trade, occupation, profession, or business that is similar to the service at issue."

The law requires that workers be provided with notification of their classification status and protects workers by making it a violation of the law to retaliate against those who assert their rights under the law. Violations of the law carry potential civil and criminal penalties and substantial fines and possible debarment. Employers are required to post a notice about the

statute in a prominent and accessible place on the jobsite.

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### **BENEFIT FUND ADMINISTRATOR ALLOWED TO CONTINUE TO SEEK PERSONAL LIABILITY AGAINST COMPANY OWNER FOR UNPAID CONTRIBUTIONS**

A benefits fund was allowed to proceed with a claim against the individual owner of union and nonunion electrical companies, jointly and severally, for unpaid contributions to the fund.

The individual defendant in the case was the sole owner of a union and a nonunion electrical company. The Electrical Union Benefits Funds sued the companies and the owner individually to recover funds allegedly owed to the benefit funds.

The individual defendant moved to dismiss the case against him. In denying the motion, the court found that a controlling corporate officer can be held personally liable under ERISA if he defrauds or conspires to defraud a benefit fund of required contributions. The court must determine if the controlling corporate official's conduct rose to the level of common law fraud which requires a showing of (1) a material false representation or omission of fact, (2) acknowledgement of its falsity, (3) the intent to defraud, (3) reasonable reliance, and (5) damages to plaintiff. The court found that the individual defendant had deliberately used his nonunion company on a certain project to specifically avoid making contributions to the benefit funds.

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### **COMPANY HELD LIABLE AS ALTER EGO/SINGLE EMPLOYER FOR WITHDRAWAL LIABILITY**

A Virginia federal court found a company liable as the alter ego/single employer of a union company that had withdrawn from a pension fund.

When the union company withdrew from the pension fund, it was assessed withdrawal liability in the amount of ap-

proximately \$157,000. The fund sued a separate nonunion company claiming that it was liable for the withdrawal liability based upon a theory of alter ego/single employer.

The court found that the two companies were jointly and severally liable for the withdrawal liability. The court found

that the companies were owned by the same person, shared substantially identical management, employees, customers, supervision, business equipment and operations.

*If you have any questions regarding these items, contact Mark at [mrosen@mdmc-law.com](mailto:mrosen@mdmc-law.com).* •

## **US Army Adopts ASHRAE Standard**



U.S. Army officials issued their new sustainable design and development initiative that incorporates requirements of the green building Standard 189.1.

The policy applies to all construction and renovation of new buildings and structures in the U.S. territories, permanent overseas Active Army installations, Army Reserve Centers, Army National Guard facilities and Armed Forces Reserve Centers. The footprint of the existing Army buildings and structures worldwide covers more than 954 million square feet.

Standard 189.1, published early in 2010 by ASHRAE in conjunction with the Illuminating Engineering Society of North America (IES) and USGBC, provides a green building plan for those who choose to design, build and operate green buildings. The policy addresses site sustainability, water use efficiency, energy efficiency, indoor environmental quality, and the building's impact on the atmosphere, materials and resources.

The Army's policy sets a new approach to the design and construction of efficient military construction projects and major renovations by using Standard 189.1 as the baseline. The policy requires that facility construction projects follow specified requirements and guidance in the standard. "After nearly four years of peer review and collaboration with various members of industry, we are extremely pleased that the Army has taken up the initiative to incorporate the standard into its day-to-day practices," said Lynn G. Bellenger, ASHRAE president. •

# IRS Issues Guidance on In-Plan Rollovers to Roth Accounts for §401(k) and §403(b) Plans

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) recently issued Notice 2010-84,<sup>1</sup> which provides helpful guidance relating to rollovers from §401(k) and §403(b) plans to designated Roth accounts<sup>2</sup> within the same plan. The Small Business Jobs Act of 2010 (SBJA),<sup>3</sup> effective September 27, 2010, allows §401(k) and §403(b) plans to offer in-plan rollovers to Roth accounts immediately, if the plan offers a qualified Roth contribution program, and allows governmental §457(b) plans to offer both a qualified Roth contribution program and in-plan rollovers to Roth accounts, beginning in 2011.

Notice 2010-84 indicates that this guidance applies to Roth rollovers within §401(k) and §403(b) plans, but does not mention governmental §457(b) plans. However, it is likely that Notice 2010-84 will be the only guidance available to §457(b) plans on in-plan Roth rollovers when such plans are allowed to offer this feature as of January 2011. Therefore, the guidance under Notice 2010-84 applies to in-plan Roth rollovers for §457(b) plans to the extent the guidance relates to an underlying Internal Revenue Code (IRC) section that is applicable to §457(b) plans.

This *Compliance Alert* summarizes the guidance in Notice 2010-84, which clarifies a number of critical issues that were not addressed in the SBJA, including the following:

An in-plan rollover to a Roth account can be made as either a direct rollover or by a distribution to an individual who elects a rollover to the plan's Roth account within 60 days of the distribution.

Surviving spouse beneficiaries and alternate payees who are spouses or former spouses may elect an in-plan Roth rollover in the same manner as participants.

Unlike rollovers to Roth IRAs, in-plan rollovers to Roth accounts cannot be re-

characterized as a nontaxable rollover.

Plans that offer rollovers to Roth accounts must revise the required notice under IRC §402(f) to describe the tax consequences of an in-plan Roth rollover. Notice 2010-84 explains in detail how the safe harbor explanation under IRS Notice 2009-684 may be revised for this purpose.

Plans that condition eligibility for in-service distributions from non-Roth accounts upon the participant making a direct rollover to the plan's Roth account may only impose this condition on new distribution events, and not on existing distribution options.<sup>5</sup>

An in-plan Roth rollover, if made as a direct rollover, is not treated as a distribution for specific certain purposes.

**Circumstances Under Which In-plan Rollovers to Roth Accounts Are Not Treated as Distributions**

Notice 2010-84 identifies the circumstances in which in-plan rollovers to Roth accounts are not treated as distributions, including:

A plan loan transferred in an in-plan Roth rollover without changing the repayment schedule is not a new loan under IRC §72(p).

A married participant is not required under IRC §401(a)(11) to obtain spousal consent

to elect an in-plan Roth rollover. However, governmental plans are not subject to spousal consent requirements under IRC §401(a)(11), and, therefore, should look to their own plan rules and any applicable state laws on spousal consent to determine whether consent is required to elect an in-plan Roth rollover.

## **Taxability and Withholding**

Notice 2010-84 answers many of the questions that arose from the SBJA regarding tax inclusion and withholding rules applicable to in-plan Roth rollovers. For example, the guidance clarifies that in-plan Roth rollovers are not subject to mandatory 20 percent withholding under IRC §3405(c), if made as a direct rollover. The IRS cautions, however, that individuals electing an in-plan Roth rollover may need to increase withholding from other income to avoid a penalty for underpayment of taxes, since the rollover amount will generally become taxable income in that same year. Also, the 10 percent additional tax on early distributions under IRC §72(t) does not apply to in-plan Roth rollovers,<sup>6</sup> unless the individual takes a distribution of a Roth rollover amount within the five-year period beginning January 1 of the year of the rollover. Furthermore, the guidance provides for a

special recapture rule that applies when distribution of a Roth rollover amount is made in that five-year period. Finally, the guidance describes the ordering rules for distributions of Roth accounts with amounts allocable to an in-plan Roth rollover, including a detailed example. Based on this guidance related to the taxability of distributions attributable to in-plan Roth rollovers, it appears that plans may have to maintain a separate account solely for holding in-plan Roth rollover amounts.

The Notice describes the specific tax rules that apply to in-plan Roth rollovers made in 2010. For example, the guidance confirms that 2010 rollovers to a Roth account are taxed over a two-year period, 50 percent in 2011 and 50 percent in 2012, unless the individual elects to report the entire taxable amount as income for 2010. Such election to report income for 2010 may not be revoked after the due date for the individual's 2010 tax return. In order for individuals to take advantage of the two-year income inclusion rule, distribution of an amount that is rolled over to a Roth account within the plan must take place by no later than December 31, 2010, and the plan must have a qualified Roth contribution program in place at that time. According to the Notice, a qualified Roth contribution program is in place as of the date employees are given the opportunity to elect to have Roth contributions made to the plan. In addition, the Notice describes a special income acceleration rule that applies to subsequent distribution of amounts allocable to an in-plan Roth rollover made in 2010. Since Roth accounts are not permitted in governmental §457(b) plans until 2011, the 2010 conversion rules only apply to §401(k) and §403(b) plans.

### Plan Amendments

The Notice provides an extended deadline for §401(k) and §403(b) plans to amend their plan documents to permit in-plan Roth rollovers. For §401(k) plans, the amendment deadline is the later of the last day of the plan year in which the amendment is effective or December 31, 2011. For §403(b) plans, the amendment deadline is the later of the last day of the plan year in which the amendment is effective or the end of the remedial amendment period set forth in IRS Announcement 2009-89.<sup>7</sup> Amendments for §401(k) and §403(b) plans may be retroactive to the date the plan first operated according to

the terms of the amendment. The extended deadline for plan amendments applies to changes permitting designated Roth contributions, acceptance of rollover contributions by the Roth account and allowing in-plan Roth rollovers. Governmental §457(b) plans may not accept in-plan Roth rollovers until an amendment to add a qualified Roth contribution program under the plan is adopted.

### Reporting Instructions

In addition to Notice 2010-84, the IRS published detailed instructions for reporting distributions from Roth accounts, including distribution of amounts allocable to in-plan Roth rollovers, on Form 1099-R.<sup>8</sup>

### Implications for Plan Sponsors

Notice 2010-84 may provide sufficient guidance for §401(k) and §403(b) plans to allow in-plan Roth rollovers before the end of 2010. However, it is unlikely that plans have sufficient time this year to complete the necessary planning and operational changes for both adding a

qualified Roth contribution program and offering in-plan Roth rollovers. Consequently, allowing in-plan Roth rollovers in 2010 may be practical only for §401(k) and §403(b) plans that already have a qualified Roth contribution program in place. Plan sponsors of §401(k), §403(b) and governmental §457(b) plans that are interested in adding qualified Roth contribution programs and/or offering in-plan Roth rollovers should consult with their service providers on the steps that must be taken to accomplish these plan changes, including a time frame for completion. •

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*As with all issues involving the interpretation or application of laws and regulations, plan sponsors should rely on their attorneys for authoritative advice on compliance with the Roth account provisions of the Small Business Jobs Act of 2010. The Segal Company can be retained to work with sponsors of DC plans that are interested in adding a qualified Roth contribution program and/or offering conversion to Roth accounts within the plan.*

1

*Notice 2010-84 is available on the IRS Web site.*

2

*Roth IRAs were introduced in 1997. In contrast to traditional IRAs, contribution to Roth IRAs are not deductible, but permit tax-free distributions (if certain requirements are met). The IRS Publication 590 provides details about Roth IRAs.*

3

*The SBJA (Public Law No: 111-240) is available on the Government Printing Office Web site. The SBJA's provisions on in-plan conversions to Roth accounts were discussed in Segal's October 27, 2010 Compliance Alert, "New Roth Features for §401(k), §403(b) and Governmental §457(b) Plans."*

4

*Notice 2009-68 is available on the IRS Web site.*

5

*Notice 2010-84 clarifies that imposing a condition requiring a participant to make a direct rollover to the plan's Roth account before an in-service distribution from non-Roth accounts can be made on existing distribution options under the plan violates anti-cutback rules under IRC §411(d)(6). Although governmental plans are not subject to anti-cutback rules under IRC §411(d)(6), sponsors should consider whether state law imposes similar restrictions on such a condition.*

6

*The 10 percent additional tax on early distributions under IRC §72(t) does not apply to any distribution from a governmental §457(b) plan.*

7

*Announcement 2009-89 is available on the IRS Web site.*

8

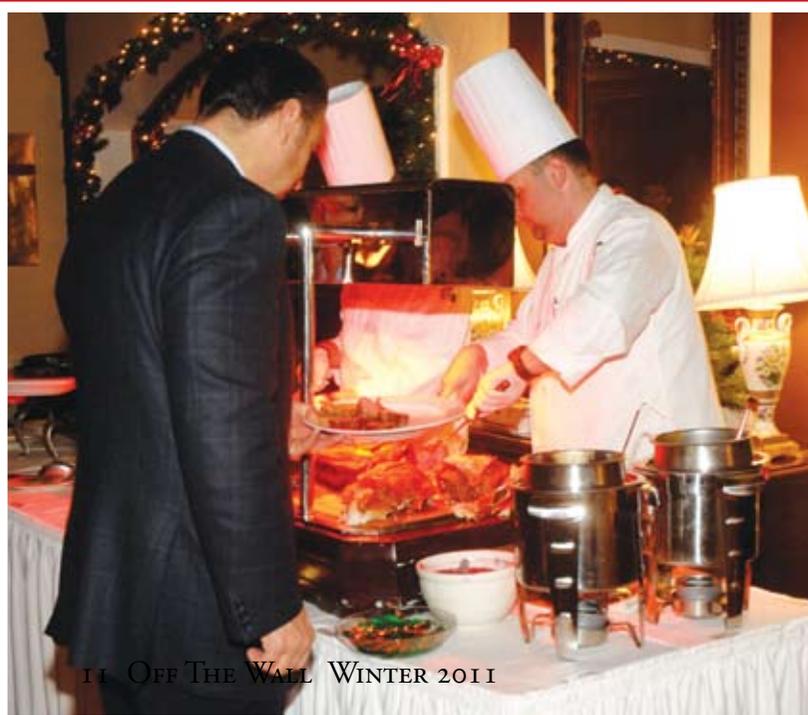
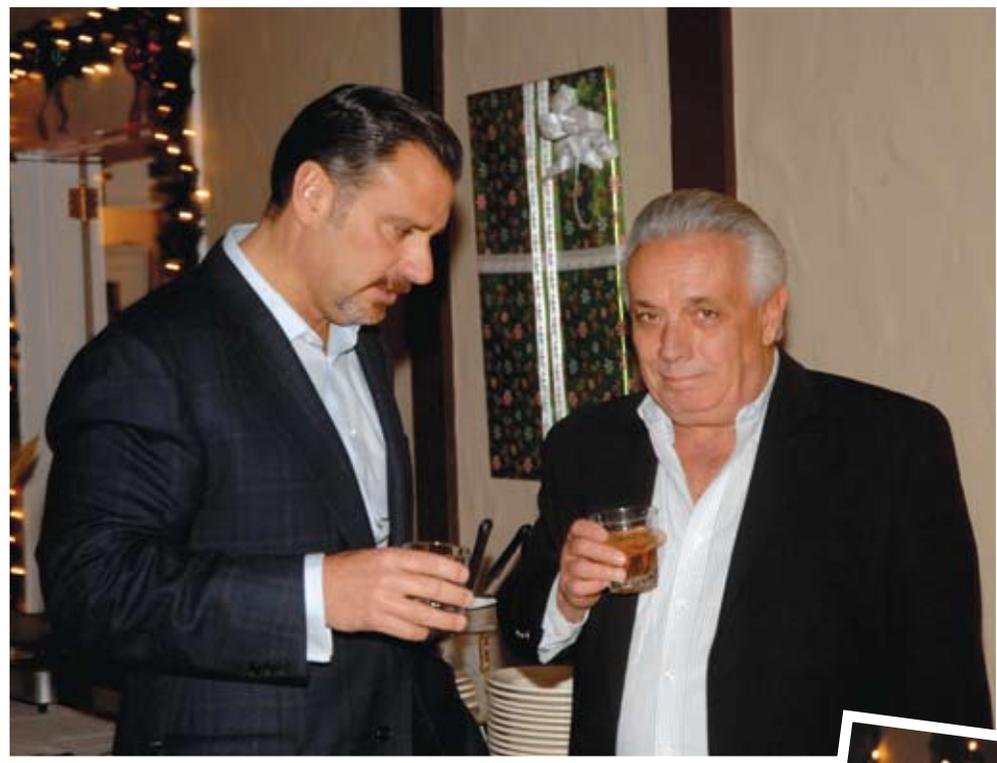
*A copy of Form 1099-R is available on the IRS Web site.*

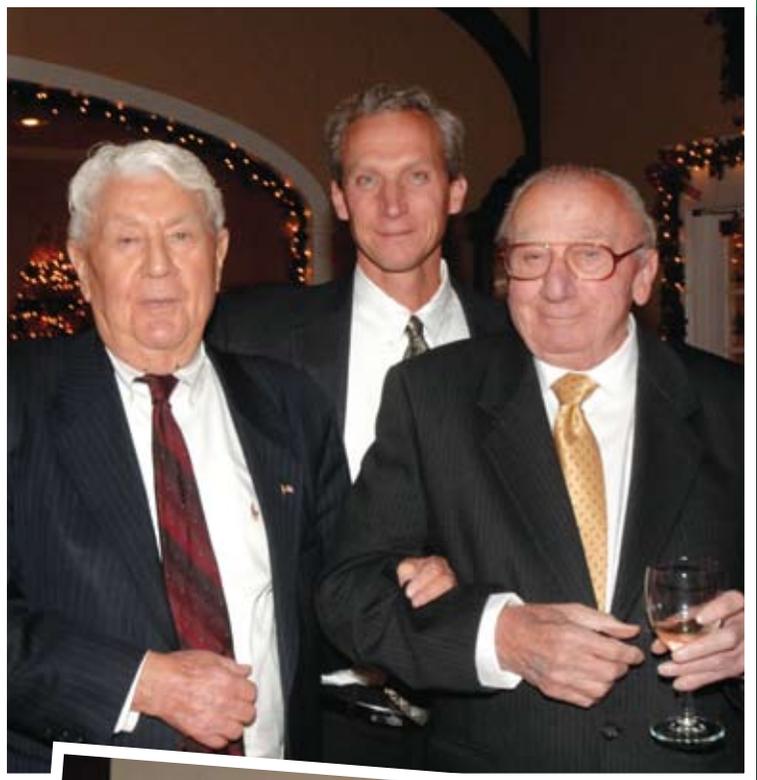
*Compliance Alert, The Segal Company's periodic electronic newsletter summarizing important developments affecting benefit plan compliance, is for informational purposes only. It is not intended to provide authoritative guidance. On all issues involving the interpretation or application of laws and regulations, plan sponsors should rely on their attorneys for legal advice.*

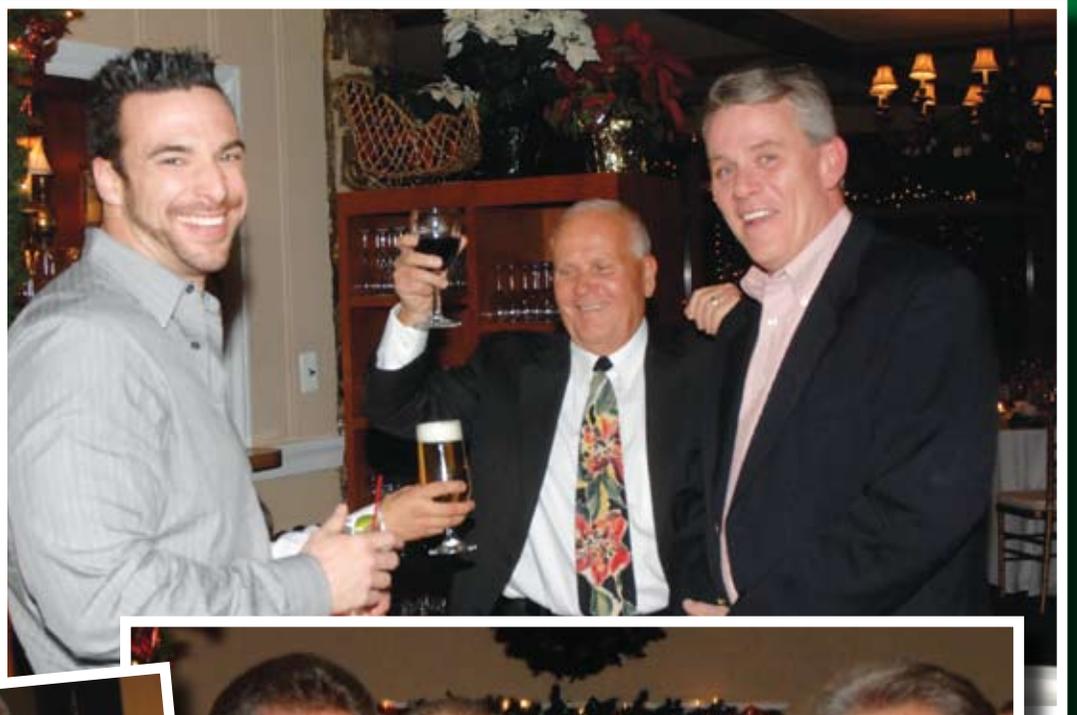


**WC&C  
Holiday  
Party  
2010  
at the Westbury Manor**













# 10 Ways to Stop Communication Overload

By Steve Tobak  
BNET/Corner Office Blog

We used to complain about all the useless *back-to-back* meetings and being copied on hundreds of unnecessary emails.

Who knew it could get so much worse. We used to say there's no such thing as over-communication. Now we'd do anything to make it stop.

Communication is out of control and it's taking all the fun - and productivity - out of work.

Don't get me wrong, communication is as important to business success and organizational effectiveness as it used to be. There's just too much of it. For whatever reason, the old problem of protecting domains by limiting the flow of information has morphed into a new problem of hyper-collaboration where everybody's included in everything.

If you ask me, the communication pendulum has swung too far in the opposite direction, although I'm not really sure why:

Is it simply the umpteenth fad, an overemphasis on communication, collaboration, and teamwork because that's the way we're supposed to do things now?

Is it an overreaction to the virtualization of the workforce, an attempt to control and reel in all those remote teams, telecommuters and flextime users?

Is it just because we can, now that we've all got smartphones, a million ways to message and chat, social media, virtual meeting and collaboration tools?

Whatever the reason, communication overload has reached epidemic proportions and it's killing precious productivity and effectiveness at a time of economic strife and global competition, when our already overwhelmed and under-resourced management teams and workforces can least afford it.

Here are 10 Ways to Stop Communication Overload:

**1** Every meeting - **physical or virtual** - **must have an objective**, an agenda, a start time and an end time; everybody who attends every meeting must have a specific and definitive purpose for being there.

**2** Stop adding people to processes and groups. Every person you add to every process, group, communication, team, whatever, adds complexity and reduces productivity because people tend to say and do things, then others tend to respond, and so-forth. It's always easier to herd fewer cats.

**3** Question the broad use of predefined email distribution lists, reconsider every individual you cc on an email, and most importantly, don't automatically hit "Reply to All."

**4** Reconsider internal meetings to prepare for other internal meetings, layers and layers of review meetings, the wisdom of "all hands" meetings, and panicked, kneejerk reactions to involve the whole damn world in a crisis.

**5** Encourage and reward employee accountability, risk-taking, and initiative for resolving problems on their own.

**6** If anybody out there is still trying to make matrix management work, stop. It's a brilliant organizational concept that's nearly impossible to execute without creating mass confusion and, ultimately, way more problems than it solves.

**7** Be leery of noncritical management fads that are sure to create tons of meetings with amorphous results. Remember OD - Organization Development?

**8** Question the ubiquitous "I want to be involved" and "keep me in the loop" micromanaging / controlling mentality.

**9** Don't use collaboration or communication tools for the sake of using them. If the net ROI isn't clear, don't do it.

**10** Never forget that, now more than ever, time is everyone's most precious asset.

Look, I'm not suggesting we return to the old school of isolated silos that control the flow of information. It's just that we've gone too far the other way and need to take some of this communication and collaboration stuff off the table and create a little balance or, if nothing else, some time for people to actually get some work done. •

# Steel Framing Industry Association Formed

Cold-formed steel manufacturers, suppliers and contractors have formed the Steel Framing Industry Association (SFIA), headquartered in Northern Virginia and opened for business January 10, 2011.

“The SFIA will unify our industry and help make all our businesses more successful through a number of initiatives. The SFIA will advocate on behalf of companies in the Cold Formed Steel Framing Industry to expand the market through code compliance, promotion, education and innovation,” said SFIA interim President Bill Courtney (ClarkWestern Building Systems).

According to SFIA interim Vice President Kennon Whaley (Southeastern Stud & Components, Inc.), “SFIA will be an inclusive, industry-wide association because membership is open to CFS product manufacturers, steel mills, coil

coaters, steel coil suppliers, connector and accessory manufacturers, panel and truss manufacturers, equipment and tool manufacturers, supplier/distributor yards, design professionals and contractors.”

“SFIA will also provide peace of mind to all stakeholders in the CFS industry by implementing an independent third-party code compliance certification program for exterior and interior framing products in early 2011.

The program is open to the more than 70 CFS product manufacturers and will ensure that products produced by SFIA manufacturing members meet all applicable building codes. Also, SFIA is planning to develop an independent third-party code compliance certification program for framing accessories,” stated SFIA interim Secretary John Roberts (Dietrich Metal Framing).

According to SFIA interim Treasurer Ray Frobosilo (Super Stud Building Products, Inc.), “We feel that SFIA will be in the best position to promote innovation and improve competition with lumber and masonry products, and will be in an excellent position to fund important research.”

SFIA will be guided by a Board of Directors that will meet a minimum of two times each year, once in fall and once at AWCI’s Convention & INTEX Expo. The Board of Directors and Officers will be elected at the first membership meeting on April 5, 2011, in Las Vegas, Nev. The board consists of four officers, two small, two medium and two large CFS product manufacturers, one steel mill, one supplier/distributor and one contractor.

For more information, write to [info@steelindustryassociation.org](mailto:info@steelindustryassociation.org).

## urbancanvas Design Installed at CUNY in Harlem



Photo by Rachel Richards

CUNY Hunter College’s School of Social Work is the latest construction project to take advantage of public art from the Department’s urbancanvas Design Competition. CUNY chose “My Urban Sky” by artist Jen Magathan to wrap the safety equipment of the new, eight-story, 147,000-square foot School of Social Work, currently under construction on Third Ave. between East 118th and 119th Streets.

# Columbia's Expansion Allowed by U.S. Supreme Court in Eminent Domain Case

By Greg Stohr – Bloomberg

Columbia University can move ahead with plans for a \$6.3 billion expansion of its Manhattan campus after the U.S. Supreme Court rejected an appeal by neighboring businesses whose property may be taken over by eminent domain.

The justices refused to question findings by a state development agency, Empire State Development Corp., that the area is blighted and that the Columbia expansion has a legitimate public purpose. The New York Court of Appeals, the state's highest court, upheld the plan in June.

The property owners argued unsuccessfully in their Supreme Court appeal that the process was fraught with favoritism, violating their constitutional property rights. "ESDC worked backward, pre-ordaining Columbia as the beneficiary of its eminent domain power," the appeal said.

In rejecting the appeal, the justices declined to revisit aspects of their 2005 ruling that said local governments can constitutionally take property as part of an economic development plan.

The 17-acre site, in the Manhattanville section of West Harlem, is less than a mile from Columbia's main campus in New York City's Morningside Heights section. It will add more than 6.8 million square feet to the university, including a new business school and science facilities.

The plan was challenged by the owners of four self-storage facilities and two gas stations that would be razed.

## 'Extremely Disappointed'

The attorney for Tuck-It-Away storage, Norman Siegel, said he will study the Supreme Court rules and may ask the court to reconsider its position.

"We're extremely disappointed that the Supreme Court of the United States decided not to hear this important eminent domain case," Siegel said in a phone interview. "The court of appeals decision is a terrible precedent regarding eminent domain and the rights



of property owners in New York."

President Lee Bollinger of Columbia said in an email statement that the university project "will be a vibrant center for a new level of intellectual and civic engagement for both our university and our community."

The Empire State Development Corporation urged the Supreme Court not to hear the property owners' appeal. The agency has said the project will create 14,000 construction jobs over 25 years and 6,000 university positions.

## 'Significant Step'

"This victory represents a significant step toward achieving the many goals of the project, including strengthening New York as an international center for premier education and academic research programs," the development corporation said in an emailed statement.

The first phase of the project, scheduled to be completed in 2015, will include a science center and new homes for Columbia's business, arts and international and public affairs schools. Later phases are expected to be completed around 2030, according to the university's website.

The rebuff marks the second time in less than three years that the nation's highest court has refused to question a multibillion-dollar New York City project. The justices in 2008 rejected an appeal by property owners objecting to the Atlantic Yards project in Brooklyn that will include a new sports arena. •

### Advancing BIM

Are you planning to do construction work for the government in the year ahead? If so, make sure you sharpen the software in your technology toolbelt, as you may be required to do a BIM (building information modeling) approach when working on government projects.

BIM requirements at the government level are not new; however they have been developing more in the past few years. For example, the USACE (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers), [www.usace.army.mil](http://www.usace.army.mil), Washington, D.C., began requiring a BIM-based design approach for all vertical military construction projects in fiscal year 2010.

The BIM process has a huge advantage for the project owner—it allows the team to do clash detection and identify any potential problems before a project even begins. This will save a significant amount of time and money for the owner. With the government needing to be as efficient as possible, many levels are requiring BIM from contractors in new projects.

There are a number of software applications that can help enable the BIM process. The USACE recently selected Autodesk, [www.autodesk.com](http://www.autodesk.com), San Rafael, Calif., for internal use for personnel. This means the USACE management that deals with construction, operations, and maintenance will have the tools to take advantage of the BIM models sent by contractors.

Overall, this news means owners are moving toward a more BIM-based environment and may even be requiring the use of technology, as they are also becoming more tech-savvy themselves.

The GSA (General Services Admin.), [www.gsa.gov](http://www.gsa.gov), Washington, D.C., has been requiring BIM-based designs for years. It established the National 3D-4D-BIM Program in 2003, and beginning in the fiscal year 2007, the GSA required the AEC (architecture, engineering, and construction) industry to submit BIM prior to a final presentation.

BIM is becoming more widespread in the construction industry—especially as more owners are realizing the value this has on a construction project. What role is BIM currently playing on your construction projects? It might be time to consider how you can advance BIM in your organization in the year ahead.

—Constructech

# SIPs Provide Green Building Benefits in Traditional and Cutting-Edge Designs

by Joe Pasma, P.E.  
in Structure magazine

**I**N THE 1970S, GEODESIC DOMES WERE THE VISION OF EFFICIENT, FUTURISTIC BUILDINGS. It seems that every community had a least one of these Buckminster Fuller-inspired creations - whether a home, restaurant, office, church or motel.

Today, green buildings typically look no different than conventional buildings. The unseen systems and materials are often more important than the outward appearance. A case in point is structural insulated panels (SIPs). SIPs contribute to a range of environmentally responsible design goals, while meeting the structural and aesthetic needs of a host of building types and architectural styles.

## Structural Attributes

Structural insulated panels are high-performance, engineered wall, roof, and floor components for use in single- and multi-family homes, as well as schools, worship facilities, offices, retail, and other light commercial buildings. The panels are made of two outer sheathing layers (typically oriented strand board - OSB) laminated to a rigid insulating foam core (such as expanded polystyrene - EPS). The skins and foam core work together to achieve high strength in a manner comparable to other engineered

categories D, E and F.

In roof applications, SIPs perform well under gravity and snow loads. Designers can specify SIPs to create vaulted, open interior spaces. Since they have long clear span capability - typically up to 20 feet - SIPs can reduce the need for intermediate structural supports. They can also be employed in roof structures without an engineered truss system. The results are large, soaring rooflines, open and vaulted ceilings, and overall extra indoor space for applications otherwise very difficult to achieve with stick-built construction.

Most SIP manufacturers work with designers and specifiers to ensure their panels are accepted by local building code officials and are in compliance with the building codes, including the International Building Code (IBC) and International Residential Code (IRC). This process includes providing alternative material evaluation or listing reports for SIPs showing evidence of compliance with code requirements as an alternate method of construction.

## Green Building Advantages

In addition to their ability to meet a range of structural needs, SIPs support green building goals, including improved

### Structural insulated panels support green building goals

More builders are turning to structural insulated panels in order to meet their clients' environmental goals in the construction of small commercial and residential projects. The layered foam panels offer a high-strength alternative to traditional materials for wall, roof and floor construction, while providing superior insulating abilities that can add up to energy savings for building occupants.



*SIPs provide a strong and stiff base for a living roof at the Bend, Oregon, Metro Parks and Recreation District headquarters.*

structural components, such as I-joists.

In wall applications, SIPs provide exceptional strength in racking and diaphragm shear capacities, making them suitable as shear walls and structural diaphragms to resist high winds and earthquakes. They have been proven for use in seismic design

energy efficiency and indoor air quality.

The key environmental advantage of designing and building with SIPs is their ability to create a tight, high-performance building envelope. The rigid foam core offers continuous insulation across the panels' width and length, reducing the thermal

bridging created by lumber. Additionally, the large-size panels have significantly fewer joints that require sealing.

The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) evaluated the energy performance of SIPs versus stick-built framing. Their analysis of complete wall assemblies found that SIPs had an approximately 47 percent higher whole-wall R-value than a comparably sized stud wall (i.e., 3.5-inch-thick core SIP versus 2 by 4 studs at 16 inches on center).

Because of SIPs' capabilities, more design professionals are using them in net zero-energy buildings. The panels can help reduce annual heating and cooling demands by 50 to 60 percent compared to stick framing, going a long way toward reducing overall energy needs. This is particularly important in states such as California, where energy efficiency is mandated. California's Title 24 Energy Efficiency Standards for Residential and Non-residential Buildings require net-zero energy construction by 2020 for homes and 2030 for commercial buildings. All across



*Helping speed construction, SIPs arrive at the jobsite in large, ready-to-install sections.*



*For walls, SIPs provide exceptional strength in racking capacities.*



*SIPs meet a wide range of structural needs in roof, wall and floor systems.*

the country, the American Institute of Architects (AIA) has put forth its AIA 2030 Commitment, calling for all new buildings to be carbon neutral by 2030.

The tightness of the SIPs' envelope also makes buildings less prone to infiltration by common pollutants such as radon, molds, pollen, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), lead dust and asbestos. As such, SIPs can be an important part of creating a healthier indoor environment, which is especially important in homes, schools and healthcare facilities.

For these and other green building advantages, including reduced construction waste, SIPs can help design professionals earn up to 36 or more points in the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program for homes, and up to 23 points for commercial construction.

### **Design Flexibility**

Design teams are using SIPs in a range of architectural styles, from traditional to ultra-modern. SIP buildings look no different than other construction materials, and can also enable innovative designs.

For example, architects working for Brad Pitt's Make It Right Foundation to help rebuild New Orleans, developed a

"Float House" that uses SIP walls and roofs as part of a modular structure built on a chassis designed to float. In Bend, Oregon, the Bend Metro Parks and Recreation District opened a new headquarters with a green "living" roof placed on top of structural insulated panels. Pushing the design envelope even further, a commercial building in Seattle used six cargo shipping containers with a roof made of SIPs. Each of these projects incorporated a host of other green features; the design teams selected the SIPs as a key part of that, as well as for their ability to meet aesthetic and structural needs.

### **Conclusion**

SIP technology is not new, having been around for several decades. What has changed is a growing recognition of their contribution to green building and ability to work well with a range of building designs. For structural engineers and other design team members who have not yet designed a structure with SIPs, to get started, contact a panel manufacturer or dealer for detailed information on load capacities, panel sizes, code acceptance and other related factors.

*Joe Pasma, P.E., is the technical manager for Premier Building Systems, a firm that develops and manufactures high-performance, energy-efficient structural insulated panels. A licensed structural engineer, Pasma has worked with SIPs for almost two decades. Joe may be reached at [jpasma@insulfoam.com](mailto:jpasma@insulfoam.com).* •

# PRODUCT NEWS

## USG'S LIGHTWEIGHT WALLBOARD CATEGORY REACHES NEW YORK MARKET

Article submitted By: Bob Groeninger, Park Avenue Building and Roofing Supplies, LLC

USG Corporation's new lightweight category of gypsum wallboard is the most significant breakthrough in the building solutions industry, and is now available in New York area.

Sheetrock® Brand UltraLight Panels are lightweight gypsum panels that are up to 30 percent lighter than the competition, meeting contractor and dealer demands. The 1/2-inch panels help residential installers increase productivity by allowing easier and faster installation from delivery to finishing.

"We are known for our innovative products and systems that have led the industry for more than 100 years," said Jim Metcalf, chief executive officer and president, USG Corporation. "USG changed the building industry with the introduction of our Sheetrock gypsum panels in 1917 and we continued to innovate since then. Today, we are once again improving the way new homes will be built with our new Sheetrock UltraLight Panels."

Sheetrock UltraLight Panels were invented at USG's Corporate Innovation Center, located in Libertyville, Ill. Using proprietary formulations and processes with new patented technologies, USG's scientists created a panel that is 15 to 24 pounds lighter per panel than the competition depending on length, making them

easier to carry, score, snap and install.

In addition to being 30 percent lighter, Sheetrock UltraLight Panels feature a significantly higher strength-to-weight ratio, improved sag resistance and the high-quality that customers expect from

Sheetrock Brand wallboard products. The lightweight panels meet all applicable building codes, including ASTM C1396 Specification for Gypsum Board, for both 1/2-inch gypsum wallboard and 1/2-inch gypsum ceiling board.

Sheetrock UltraLight Panels are also ideal for use on ceilings with up to 24-inch, on-center framing and water-based texture, presenting potential cost-savings when used as a replacement for 5/8-inch type X board used on ceilings or 1/2-inch interior ceiling board.

### Industry Recognizes Innovation

USG recently received a Chicago Innovation Award for its Sheetrock UltraLight Panels. The Chicago Innovation Awards are awarded to products, services and processes that fill unmet needs, spark a competitive response in the marketplace and improve people's lives. In addition, This Old House magazine named Sheetrock UltraLight Panels a Best New

Product and Fast Company magazine deemed it one of the Coolest Products of 2010.



IF YOU'RE NOT LIFTING SHEETROCK® BRAND ULTRALIGHT PANELS, WHAT ARE YOU LIFTING?

COMPARED TO STANDARD 1/2" DRYWALL:

- UP TO 30% LIGHTER
- STRONGER POUND-FOR-POUND
- EASIER TO CARRY AND INSTALL
- CLEANER SCORE AND SNAP



Park Avenue Building & Roofing Supplies, LLC  
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Brooklyn, NY 11233  
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TheWeightHasBeenLifted.com



USG and Sheetrock are trademarks of United States Gypsum Company or a related company.

*Advertisement graphically demonstrates lightweight quality of the new wallboard*

# PRODUCT NEWS

“USG is investing in its future, even in challenging market conditions, to further our reputation for innovation leadership,” said Diane Earll, senior director, Product Management for Wallboard, USG Building Systems. “USG is creating a product that no one else has been able to produce, and won’t be able to for years to come.”

In-line with the company’s overall commitment to sustainable business practices, USG’s Sheetrock UltraLight Panels are the company’s first wallboard product to undergo Underwriters Laboratories Inc.’s UL Environment™ Validation and earn the Gold Level Certification. The lightweight panels were found to hold superior environmental and human health attributes based on several factors, including materials, energy, manufacturing and operations, health and environment, product performance and use, and stewardship. Sheetrock UltraLight Panels are made with up to 95 percent recycled content, offer up to a 20 percent reduction in transportation energy, conserve raw materials by up to 15 percent, and qualify as a low volatile organic compound (VOC) emitting material.

## Available in the New York Market

Sheetrock UltraLight Panels are available in the New York market in standard lengths, including 8-, 10-, 12-, 14- and 16-foot panels in 48- and 54-inch widths. The panels are currently available at retail and specialty dealer locations in the New York area.

For more information, contact Park Avenue Building & Roofing Supplies at (718) 403-0100 or visit [www.parkavebuilding.com](http://www.parkavebuilding.com).

## About Park Avenue Building and Roofing Supplies, LLC

*Park Avenue Building and Roofing Supplies, LLC (Park Avenue) is a Brooklyn-based, family-owned business that is certified by the city and state of New York as a Minority-Owned Business Enterprise (MBE). Serving the tri-state area for over 20 years, Park Avenue is the area’s only certified minority and union direct distributor of wide-range of building materials, and has grown from a small hardware store to two full-service facilities with a network of supply yards, offices and stores. Park Avenue supplies building materials to many major contractors in New York and New Jersey, as well as to local homeowners and construction firms, offering unsurpassed reliability to each customer, including a full range of environmentally friendly building construction materials. In short, Park Avenue is “not your typical MBE.” Park Avenue’s website can be found at [www.parkavebuilding.com](http://www.parkavebuilding.com).*

## Milwaukee® Introduces M12™ Cordless Multi-Tool with Universal Accessory Adaptor

Milwaukee Electric Tool Corporation continues to expand their M12™ LITHIUM-ION system with the introduction of the cordless multi-tool. This oscillating tool delivers the portability, versatility and compatibility professional users demand. Ideal for remodelers, flooring contractors, maintenance repair technicians and electricians, the M12™ Multi-Tool comes complete with a universal accessory adaptor to allow the tool to work with all major competitive accessories on the market.



“The M12™ Cordless Multi-Tool can tackle applications once performed by hand and/or larger tools, and can get into corners and other hard to reach areas quickly and easily,” says Mark Senske, Senior Product Manager, M12™ Cordless Tools for Milwaukee Electric Tool Corporation. “With a variable speed of 5,000 to 20,000 OPM and 12 speed settings, users can match the speed to the application to complete tasks such a flush or plunge cuts, removing grout, grinding thinset, sanding or scraping.”

Among the first products powered by RED-LITHIUM™ battery technology, the new multi-tool delivers up to 25% more run-time than the competition with unmatched performance and durability for the professional tradesman.

With constant innovation in Lithium-Ion and plans to grow the M12™ cordless platform in the future, MILWAUKEE® continues to expand its leadership position in the sub-compact category. The M12™ platform will continue to offer innovative solutions in power, productivity, and portability.

### Specifications (2426-22)

OPM: 5,000- 20,000

Speed Settings: 12

Includes M12™ Multi-Tool, Adapter, Wood Cutting Blade, Sanding Pad, (5) Assorted Sanding Sheets, (2) M12 REDLITHIUM® Batteries, 30-Minute Charger, Contractor Bag

### Specifications (2426-20)

OPM: 5,000- 20,000

Speed Settings: 12

Includes M12™ Multi-Tool, Adapter, Wood Cutting Blade, Sanding Pad, (5) Assorted Sanding Sheets

# PRODUCT NEWS

## LED Lighting And Chilled Beam Systems Now Compatible With Armstrong Techzone™ Ceilings

*New energy-saving technologies can be integrated into the ceiling plane as a result of two new partnerships*



Armstrong Ceilings has announced that both LED lighting and chilled beam technologies are now compatible with its TechZone™ Ceiling System as a

result of two new partnerships.

The TechZone Ceiling System is the industry's first acoustical ceiling system that organizes lighting fixtures, air diffusers, sprinkler heads and chilled beams in narrow technical "zones" to create a cleaner, more monolithic ceiling visual.

The first of the new partnerships is with Lunera® Lighting Inc. to produce solid state lighting fixtures that are pre-qualified for fit and finish in the TechZone Ceiling System. Based in Redwood City, CA, Lunera Lighting is one of the country's leading suppliers of energy efficient digital LED lighting.

LED lighting fixtures are twice as efficient as fluorescents at converting electricity to light. As a result, they greatly reduce energy consumption while also lasting much longer than their fluorescent counterparts. The fully recyclable fixtures contain no harmful chemicals and generate far less heat than other lighting technologies, which reduces air conditioning loads.

### Chilled Beams: Innovative New Technology

The second partnership is with TROX USA, Inc. of Cumming, GA to produce chilled beams for use in the

TechZone Ceiling System. Chilled beam technology is considered one of the most innovative and energy efficient cooling technologies introduced to North America in years. TROX, USA, among the first to bring the technology to the US, is considered the market leader. Chilled beam systems basically consist of a cooling coil made of copper tubing that is housed in an enclosure and placed at ceiling level. Chilled water is then pumped through the coil's tubing.

In an active chilled beam system, a low-pressure primary air supply is used to induce warm room air across the chilled water coil to remove heat from the space. The cooled room air is then mixed with the primary air supply and delivered back into the space through the beam's discharge slots, where the cycle starts over.

Energy savings are realized because it requires far less energy to produce and distribute chilled water than it does to produce and distribute cooled air in a traditional all-air system.

By partnering with leading manufacturers such as Lunera and TROX USA, Armstrong is able to provide a pre-engineered ceiling system that uses standard components but imparts a custom look to the space. The system eliminates the need for penetrations in the acoustical ceiling panels, making them more aesthetically pleasing as well as easier to install and maintain.

For more information on TechZone Ceiling Systems, call 1-877-ARM-STRONG (1-877-276-7876) or visit [armstrong.com/techzone](http://armstrong.com/techzone).

## American Gypsum Wallboard Passes Industry's Toughest Mold Resistance Test

American Gypsum announced that its complete line of M-Bloc® mold and moisture resistant gypsum panel products has passed the difficult ASTM G 21 mold resistant testing with the best possible score of 0 as verified by an independent laboratory, certified in accordance with ISO 17025-2005.



M-Bloc® is one of only a handful of mold resistant gypsum products to achieve the maximum mold resistance scores on ASTM D 3273 and G 21 as

well as to have earned the GREEN-GUARD Indoor Air Quality Certified® status and GREENGUARD Children & SchoolsSM Certification.

"Design professionals, contractors and consumers can be confident in selecting American Gypsum's M-Bloc® panel products with the knowledge that they have attained the best results possible when tested to the industry's most rigorous standards for mold resistance and indoor air quality," said Keith Metcalf, Senior Vice President of Sales and Marketing.

## Armstrong Expands Infusions® Line With Addition Of New Translucent Partition Panels, Colors And Patterns

*Manufactured with a minimum of 40% recycled resin, new PETG partitions help define a space while adding visual excitement*

# PRODUCT NEWS

Armstrong Ceilings has expanded its Infusions line of accent products with the addition of Infusions® Partitions, 2'x 6' partition panels that help define a space while adding a translucent element that plays off lighting and other interior finishes.

Manufactured with a minimum of 40% recycled resin and recyclable at the end of their service life, the translucent PETG partition panels can create a custom look even though they are standard products.

Infusions Partitions are available in six new goldtone patterns and seven new solid colors that have also been added to the Infusions line of Accent Canopies and Lay-In panels to allow easy coordination of translucent ceiling and wall elements. The solids also coordinate with Armstrong SoundScapes® Acoustical Canopies and Shapes.

The new goldtone patterns include Honey Canvas, Mica Weave, Spun Copper, Crushed Copper, Linen Gold and Orange Arbor. The new solids include Refined Kiwi, Refined Reef, Refined Lagoon, Refined Plum, Refined Tangerine, Refined Cranberry and Refined Black.

Infusions Partitions are ideal for use in high visibility and focus areas in many retail, hospitality, education, office and healthcare applications.

The quarter-inch-thick panels are easy to install and can be hung individually or linked together in multiple panel applications. The panels and all hardware required for installation are packaged in one complete kit.

For more information on Infusions Partitions, visit: [armstrong.com/infusions](http://armstrong.com/infusions).

## Steel Stud Manufacturers Association Passes Code Compliance Program for Non-Structural

The Steel Stud Manufacturers Association (SSMA) passed a comprehensive code compliance certification and quality assurance program for non-structural

products at their recent Membership Meeting. The program clarifies the 2009 International Building Code intentions for standard and proprietary products. Key issues are addressed in the program including structural property requirements for non-composite design, gypsum strength and definitions of non-standard coatings. After several reviews of the program SSMA membership approved the program by a substantial margin.

“Anyone who manufactures distributes or installs these products will benefit from the completion and implementation of this program, because it removes any confusion about the intent of the various components of the International Building Code 2009. Architects and owners can expect top performance from the products included in the SSMA program, whether standard or proprietary,” said newly appointed SSMA Chair Chip Gardner.

Program details will be posted to the SSMA web site as they become available. Registrations for the program will begin in early 2011.

“SSMA’s structural code compliance program has led the industry since its inception, and has set the benchmark

for the non-structural program,” said Don Allen, SSMA Technical Director. “SSMA is dedicated to delivering quality products that are safe for construction and meet or exceed the current product standards and specifications – the addition of the non-structural program is a major achievement toward that mission.”

## Parex USA Announces Dry-Tex, The First Dry Acrylic Finish In The

### *A New Revolutionary Technology In EIFS And Stucco Finishes*

Parex USA, Inc. the parent company of leading building material brands; Parex, LaHabra, El Rey Stucco, Teifs, and Merkrete announced the launch of Dry-Tex, the first dry acrylic finish in the United States.

Dry-Tex is the culmination of over 5 years of coordinated research and development by ParexGroup teams around the world. This exclusive product is a revolutionary

*Continued on following page*

**PAREX®**

## UL Publishes Green Standard For Gypsum Board Products

### *USG first to earn Gold certification under new standard*

Illinois-based Underwriters’ Laboratories Environment has published



one of its first green building product standards, ULE ISR 100, for gypsum wall board and panels. USG was the first company to earn Gold level certification under the new standard for its Sheetrock Ultra Light panels. The panels are produced in the compa-

ny’s East Chicago, Ind., plant.

The ULE ISR 100 standard evaluates products based on materials management, energy use, water use, manufacturing and operations, health and environment, product performance, product stewardship and innovative processes. The company hopes to publish standards for mobile phones and drop ceiling tiles in 2011.

—Todd Loesch, HousingZone Contributing Editor, [Housingzone.com](http://Housingzone.com)

# PRODUCT NEWS

*From preceding page*

development within the acrylic finish industry and is an example of Parex USA's focus and commitment to innovation.

Dry-TEX, using proprietary dry polymer technology, is the most unique acrylic finish in the market. It is packaged in

a 40 lb. bag and is designed to be environmentally conscious as well as bring new benefits to distributors and

applicators. The Dry-TEX conveniently mixes in a 5 gallon pail and yields the same coverage as a 65 lb. pail of finish. A traditional 65 lb. pail weighs over 60% more than Dry-TEX. Therefore, 60% more units can be shipped producing significant savings in transportation and fuel consumption. Thus, providing a reduced carbon footprint overall. Eliminating water and weight from Dry-TEX provides more than shipping and environmental benefits. Unlike traditional acrylic finishes, Dry-TEX is freeze thaw stable in transportation, storage and on the job site, thus reducing waste and saving energy.

In addition to the benefits from reduced weight, Dry-TEX has many other advantages. Although traditional acrylic finishes are low VOC, Dry TEX is VOC free and will not contribute to the release of harmful volatile compounds. Since the Dry-TEX is packaged in bags versus pails it significantly reduces the impact on landfills. Today, acrylic finishes are packaged in plastic pails that eventually end up in landfills. Plastics can take up to 400 years to decompose placing a significant burden on the environment. Bags can be recycled or they will breakdown at a rapid rate if thrown



away.

“Dry-TEX is the most exciting product that Parex USA has launched in its history,” said Quenton Roehricht, Brand Manager. “We provided a sneak peek of this product at recent Parex USA Innovations events and the positive feedback was overwhelming. Dry-TEX is the perfect balance between enhanced applicator utility and environmental consciousness. We fully expect this to change the industry.”

## National Gypsum Introduces New Online Tool To Create Customized Sustainable Materials Data Reports

*Green Product Score Lists Regional and Recycled Materials and Third-Party Certifications*

National Gypsum introduced its Green Product Score (GPS), an easy-to-use online resource designed to create customized sustainable materials data sheets.

“We’re excited to introduce a tool that architects, contractors, distributors and others can use with LEED and any other green building rating system,” said Mundise Mortimer, manager of technical marketing for National Gypsum. “It’s a simple, readily accessible way to verify the sustainable attributes of our products that may contribute to green building rating systems and help meet a construction project’s sustainability goals.”

Available at [gps.nationalgypsum.com](http://gps.nationalgypsum.com), GPS provides the following data for the National Gypsum products selected for a project:

**Recycled Materials.** Reports include the percentage of both pre-and post-consumer recycled content.

**Regional Materials.** Data sheets note the distance from the manufacturing point and extraction point to the job site, and offer actual mileage and illustration of the 500-mile radius for the project generated by Google Maps.

**Product Certifications & Test Results.**

Reports also detail third-party certifications and test results that could contribute to green rating system points or help meet project specifications. This includes certifications from the GREENGUARD Environmental Institute, inclusion in the Collaborative for High Performing Schools® (CHPS™) database, and performance on the ASTM D 3273-10 and G21-0 tests for mold resistance.

GPS users need only to enter basic information about a construction project and its specified products to generate a customized sustainable materials data sheet. This can be done as a guest, or users can register to create an account and save reports for multiple jobs.

“National Gypsum is committed to providing the building and design communities with everything they need for innovative, sustainable design in gypsum board systems,” said Mortimer. “GPS is the latest example of that commitment, and we look forward to feedback from our customers as they begin to use it in the field.”

For more information, go to [gps.nationalgypsum.com](http://gps.nationalgypsum.com).

## StoGuard ASTM E 2357 Is The Bellwether Of Air Barrier Testing

StoGuard, the waterproof air barrier, has recently passed the ASTM E 2357 testing that proves the performance of this fluid-applied air barrier that some are referring to as “spray-on energy efficiency.”

“This test method is intended to simulate the performance of various air barrier materials/accessories when combined into an assembly, said Lisa Petsko, StoGuard product manager. “Based upon the results of the measurements, this procedure then assigns an air leakage rating for the air barrier assembly.”

After completion of the loading protocol, a final air leakage rate is measured and reported. The maximum allowable air leakage rate required by most codes for air barrier assemblies is 10 times more than for an air barrier material, or 0.2 L/s•m<sup>2</sup>.

For more information visit [www.stocorp.com](http://www.stocorp.com).

# PRODUCT NEWS

## ***Island Companies Offers Unitized Load Bearing Wall Systems To Speed Construction And Reduce Congestion***

Island Companies (Island) offers load bearing unitized wall systems that provide quicker enclosure rates and compressed construction schedules. Unitized load bearing wall systems designed by Island are fully engineered to meet the requirements of any building where their use is specified. Each panel is individually engineered for material compatibility, longevity, and quality.

### **Unitized Load Bearing Wall Systems Designed by Island**

The unitized assembly begins with a preassembled frame consisting of both structural and cold form structural gauge framing that includes exterior sheathing, air/moisture barriers, insulation, a drainage and vented cavity with any number of cladding materials including brick veneer, natural stone, terracotta, metal panels, and more. In addition, the panels are engineered to integrate the glazing modules within each compartmentalized panel. The load bearing assembly may also be used with panelized floor framing, metal deck, joist and deck, and poured floors or precast hollow core plank systems. These systems are engineered for each individual project and are fully tested in accordance with the appropriate ASTM standards.

### **Unitized Wall Systems: A Fast-Growing Wall Solution**

Island has installed more than a half million square feet of load bearing walls and has the ability to design, engineer, and install a million square feet annually. The company has seen significant growth in this type of building construction for multi-family, affordable, mid-market residential, and dormitory buildings in the greater New York area due to its cost effectiveness



and speed of construction. The greater New York area has an anticipated population growth of nearly one million over the next decade.

Island's systems have been utilized on a number of student housing projects as both a Load Bearing and Non-Load Bearing assembly. These projects include the City College of New York, Manhattan College, Queens College, and Boston University.

### **Unitized Wall System Benefits**

Unitized building envelopes consisting of the complete vertical wall assembly including windows accelerate the building enclosure rates, eliminate scaffolding, and significantly reduce job site congestion, trade disputes, coordination and performance issues, and Requests for Information (RFIs). Island's unitized building envelopes systems are designed to accommodate building movements and all structural performance criterion on each project and reduce on-site construction costs.

### **About International Exterior Fabricators, a Division of Island Construction Companies**

*International Exterior Fabricators, a member of the Island Construction Companies, is a privately owned firm established in 2000 to exclusively perform building envelope and cladding technology work. The Island International Exterior Fabricators headquarters featuring fabrication and assembly facilities are based in Calverton, New York with satellite offices located in Pawtucket, Rhode Island and Boston, Massachusetts. The organization boasts in-house skilled design and engineering professionals, state-of-the-art equipment and facilities, as well as the production capacity, installation work force and the financial capacity to complete large scale, complex projects in a timely and efficient manner. For more information, visit <http://www.islandcompanies.com/ief> or contact Dan Calderon at [dcalderon@islandcompanies.com](mailto:dcalderon@islandcompanies.com)*

*More Product News on following page*

# PRODUCT NEWS

From preceding page

## New HYDROTRIM Bullnose Water-Activated Corners From Graber

Graber Construction Products announced the release of HYDROTRIM



Bullnose, the latest addition to its HYDROTRIM

water-activated corner line.

HYDROTRIM water-activated

corners offer hangers and finishers a fast, easy to apply corner that is an



alternative to metal and plastic bead. To install, simply spray

the corner with water, press it on, and then roll it in place. HYDROTRIM

3/4" Bullnose corners are available in lengths of 8, 9, and 10 feet.

For technical installation videos and additional information, visit [www.hydrotrimcorner.com](http://www.hydrotrimcorner.com). HYDROTRIM is exclusively distributed by Grabber Construction Products ([www.grabberman.com](http://www.grabberman.com)).

## Introducing Swap™ By Gateway Safety: The New Spectacle-To-Goggle Eyewear That Does The Work Of Both In A “Snap”

Gateway Safety introduces Swap™, a unique protective eyewear solution that features two products in one: a safety spectacle and a safety goggle.

Swap comes with temples for use as safety glasses as



well as a head strap to make it a safety goggle. Ideal for workers who perform a variety of tasks throughout the

day, Swap is a cost-effective option that can be easily turned from

spectacle to goggle by swapping the temples and head strap with a simple snap.

Sleek and lightweight, Swap eyewear combines all-day comfort with the all-around impact protection of a one-piece polycarbonate lens. The two-color temples are rubberized for all day comfort, and the head strap is fully adjustable to fit any size head. The Swap frame itself is fully lined with soft, smooth foam that blocks dust and debris. Venting channels minimize fogging and help maintain a clear field of vision. These features help increase compliance, reducing the likelihood of injuries that can



## Dryvit Systems' New Online Presentation Educates Architects on the Value of Exterior Insulation

*Architects now have unique opportunity to expand EIFS knowledge and earn CE credits via AEC Daily*

Dryvit Systems, Inc., the leading North American manufacturer of Exterior Insulation and Finish Systems (EIFS), recently debuted its online architectural presentation “The Value of Exterior Insulation Through the Use of EIFS.” The one-hour program available on AEC Daily’s site at [www.aecdaily.com/en/1655945](http://www.aecdaily.com/en/1655945)



provides an overview of how EIFS are engineered to provide an air barrier, exterior Continuous Insulation (CI) and durable aesthetics. It also discusses how EIFS fit into today’s sustainable design practices, including LEED, as well as current and future code changes related to envelope performance.

This course qualifies for continuing education hours from US-GBC, AIA/SD, HSW/SD, GBCI CE, AIBD, CPD, BOMI, FBPE and InterNACHI.

“I’m always interested in learning and getting new information. For me, because I’m already familiar with Dryvit and have used their products in the past, I found this to be an excellent refresher course,” commented architect Adolphus Chester. “Dryvit has a great product. Anybody considering using this product or who wants to better understand it should definitely take this course.”

Robert W. Dazel, AIA, LEED, GA, and Marketing Manager for Strategic Initiatives for Dryvit developed the presentation and is an authority and expert on exterior wall claddings such as EIFS as well as on building envelope design, detailing, specification and performance.

# PRODUCT NEWS

happen if safety eyewear is removed, even briefly.

The lens meets ANSI Z87.1+ and CSA Z94.3 standards and offers 99.9% UVA, UVB and UVC protection. Swap is available in Clear and Clear Anti-Fog for most indoor applications; Gray Anti-Fog and Blue Mirror Anti-Fog to minimize strong sunlight and glare in outdoor applications; and Clear In/Out Mirror Anti-Fog for varying light conditions.

For more information, contact: Gateway Safety, Inc., 11111 Memphis Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44144. Phone: 800-822-5347. Fax: 216- 889-1200. Web: [www.GatewaySafety.com/](http://www.GatewaySafety.com/) PR. Email: [service@GatewaySafety.com](mailto:service@GatewaySafety.com).

## CRACO's SmartFrame Drywall Framing System Receives US Patent

The CRACO SmartFrame Drywall Framing System is the first engineered interior non-structural framing system



to receive and publish US Patent for

its unique design and attributes.

The SmartFrame Drywall Framing System for interior wall framing is comprised of 16mil thru 25mil steel thickness designed to achieve greater limiting height by its unique engineered design.

Complete composite spans, UL Listing and fastener penetration data can be down loaded from CRACO's web site at [www.cracometals.com](http://www.cracometals.com).

For additional information contact us at [info@cracometals.com](mailto:info@cracometals.com) or call the company at 803-684-5544. •



## Chicago Metallic Introduces EZ-Flex™ Ceiling Panels

Elevating the notion of seamless design and installation efficiency, Chicago Metallic introduces EZ-Flex panels with patent pending integral tabs for its popular CurvGrid ceiling systems.



CurvGrid with EZ-Flex panels offer a range of possibilities for creating dramatic curved islands, vaults and transitions. EZ-Flex are installation friendly as the integral tabs require no clips, no cutting and no tools as they install with a simple bend and twist. In addition, the patented primary carrier reduces labor-intensive hanger drops by more than 50 percent versus competitive systems.

EZ-Flex panels are available in standard 2 x 4, 2 x 6, and 2 x 8 and custom sizes. They can be ordered in wide range of painted colors, MetalWood® woodgrain finishes, and with Chicago Metallic's new WoodScenes™ Painted Finishes that include Lazy Maple, Aged Teak, Vintage Burlwood, Burnished Cherry, Sleek Cherry and Weathered Oak.

### Curves Conform to Design

"A curved ceiling should conform to the design — not require the design to conform to the available materials," says Brooks Williams, Chicago Metallic Market Manager, Specialty Ceilings. "With CurvGrid and EZ-Flex, the shape is smooth, the aesthetics are uncompromising, and the curve is entirely up to the architect."

Engineered to project specifications, CurvGrid offers three-dimensional design capability — with a wide range of panel options. In addition to EZ-Flex panels, designers can choose from one- and two-directional panels in beautiful painted, metallic, reflective and woodgrain finishes.

CurvGrid is used to create dramatic curved ceilings for interior spaces in hospitals, transportation centers, galleries, retail spaces, auditoriums, and offices.

For more information go to [www.chicago-metallic.com](http://www.chicago-metallic.com).

## OSHA Aims To Improve Outreach Training Programs

OSHA recently revised its policy for all Outreach Training Programs to address the number of hours each day a student may spend in OSHA 10- and 30-hour classes. The revision to the length of daily classroom instruction was implemented to prevent attendees from being saturated with so much information, in one sitting, that they might miss content that could prevent injuries, illnesses and death.

Revised program policy now requires that OSHA trainers limit attendee training classes to a maximum of 7 1/2 hours per day. Prior to this change, there was no limit on how long these classes could last each day. Frequently, with 10 hours of training, along with necessary breaks and lunch, students could sit in classes for up to 13 hours a day. OSHA became concerned that long days might lead to mental fatigue, causing attendees to miss essential safety and health training.

Another agency concern was that, in some cases, one- and three-day training classes were not meeting the 10- and 30-hour program time requirements. This concern became evident after OSHA conducted random records audits and unannounced monitoring visits.

To address these issues, the agency now requires OSHA outreach trainers conduct the 10-hour courses over a minimum of two days and the 30-hour courses over at least four days. The agency has also set up an outreach fraud hotline, at 847-725-7810, which the public can call to file complaints about program fraud and abuse.

“Limiting daily class hours will help ensure that workers receive and retain quality safety training,” said Assistant Secretary of Labor for OSHA David Michaels.

This OSHA policy change is effective immediately and will be reflected in the next revision of the Outreach Training Program Guidelines. OSHA will not recognize training classes that exceed 7 1/2 hours per day or do not meet all program content requirements. In such cases, trainers will not receive training completion cards to distribute to students. Trainers may, however, submit written requests for exceptions to limiting training days to 7 1/2 hours, based on extenuating circumstances.

The Outreach Training Program, a voluntary participation information resource, is part of OSHA’s Directorate of Training and Education, comprises a national network of more than 17,000 independent trainers who teach workers and employers about OSHA, workers’ rights and how to identify, avoid, and prevent workplace hazards. There are 10- and 30-hour outreach classes for construction, general industry, and maritime and 16-hour classes for disaster site workers.

— CCH Aspen Publishers

## US Department Of Labor Determines It Will Not Adopt An SDoC System

*EU had requested adoption of its system*

The U.S. Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration announced that it will not abandon its system for ensuring that electrical products used in the workplace are safe. The European Union requested that OSHA explore the possibility of adopting its system, known as Supplier’s Declaration of Conformity (“SDoC”). Under the EU system, manufacturers declare that their products meet safety requirements before placing these products on the market, thus requiring EU governments to operate a post-market surveillance system to verify whether products are safety compliant after they already are on the market.

Currently, OSHA requires employers to use electrical devices tested and certified by independent testing companies recognized by OSHA. These companies, known as nationally recognized testing laboratories, conduct tests to determine whether products are safe before manufacturers or distributors place them on the market and employers use them in the workplace.

“OSHA’s current system is a reliable and cost-effective approach to ensuring the safety of American workers,” said Assistant Secretary of Labor for OSHA Dr. David Michaels. “A request for information did not reveal compelling evidence to abandon this system.”

In 2008, in response to the EU’s request for the U.S. to adopt an SDoC system, OSHA issued a request for information (“RFI”). It was the second RFI on this issue published by OSHA in the last five years. By statute, OSHA must demonstrate, based on substantial evidence, that its safety regulations and standards will provide or maintain a high degree of protection for U.S. workers. After reviewing comments submitted in response to the RFI, OSHA determined that the burden required for OSHA to revise its standards was not met.

OSHA also is not convinced that the cost of administering such a system is compatible with its current budget. Based on limited information obtained from post-market surveillance costs of two EU countries, OSHA estimated that implementing an SDoC system throughout the U.S. would cost hundreds of millions of dollars. OSHA also currently lacks explicit legislative authority to implement the enforcement powers required for an effective SDoC system, including issuing product recalls and bans, assessing fines, and imposing criminal penalties. •

## New Head Of OSHA's Construction Directorate

Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health David Michaels, Ph.D., MPH, has appointed Jim Maddux as the new director of the agency's Directorate of Construction. Maddux most recently served in OSHA's Directorate of Standards and Guidance as the Director of the Office of Physical Hazards and Acting Director of the Office of Engineering Safety. Maddux has held several leadership positions at OSHA, including Director of the Office of Maritime and Acting Deputy Director for the Directorate of Standards and Guidance.

He began his career with OSHA in 1990 as a statistician and joined the Directorate of Standards and Guidance in 1998. Maddux has been a project director, author and contributor to numerous OSHA standards and guidance projects, including the payment for personal protective equipment standard, injury and illness recordkeeping regulations, ergonomics guidelines, and several maritime standards and guidance products.

## OSHA Announces Stakeholder Meeting On Noise Control Interpretation, Extends Comment Period To March 21, 2011

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration announced that it is extending by 90 days the official comment period on the proposed interpretation titled "Interpretation of OSHA's Provisions for Feasible Administrative or Engineering Controls of Occupational Noise," which was published in the Federal Register on Oct. 19. Interested parties are encouraged to submit comments by March 21, 2011.

The agency also announced that it will hold a stakeholder meeting before the end of the comment period to listen to the concerns of businesses and workers about the proposed noise interpretation.

"We're very eager to get input from those parties who would be affected by this proposed interpretation," said Dr. David Michaels, assistant secretary of labor for occupational safety and health. "We have by no means completed our review of the issue and seek to make an informed decision that is in the best interest of protecting workers, yet sensitive to the operating changes businesses would need to make."

Thousands of workers every year continue to suffer from preventable hearing loss due to high workplace noise levels. Since 2004, the Bureau of Labor Statistics has reported that more than 125,000 workers have suffered significant, permanent hearing loss. In 2008 alone, BLS reported 22,000 hearing loss cases.

Responding to continuing high levels

of hearing loss among employees in the nation's workplaces, the notice proposed to make enforcement of the hearing conservation standard consistent with enforcement of other OSHA standards by clarifying the term "feasible administrative or engineering controls" as used in OSHA's general industry and construction occupational noise exposure standards.

OSHA's current enforcement policy for noise exposures less than 100 decibels has not accurately reflected the noise standard's requirements that feasible engineering and administrative controls be used as the primary means of reducing noise exposure. Instead, OSHA has allowed many employers to rely upon a hearing conservation program, including the use of hearing protectors such as ear plugs.

"There is sufficient evidence that hearing protection alone cannot prevent workers from suffering preventable hearing loss," said Michaels. "Easily applied administrative or engineering controls can and must be used to protect workers. There are plenty of employers out there who play by the rules and want to do the right thing, and we're hopeful we can work with them to craft a policy that's good for all."

Comments may be submitted online at <http://www.regulations.gov>. Alternatively, individuals may mail or deliver comments (three copies) to the OSHA Docket Office, Docket No. OSHA-2010-0032, U.S. Department of Labor, Room N-2625, 200 Constitution Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20210. Or, submissions not longer than 10 pages may be faxed to 202-693-1648. •

## 4,340 Workers Died On The Job In 2009

"With every one of these fatalities, the lives of a worker's family members were shattered and forever changed. We can't forget that fact."

**-Hilda Solis, Secretary of Labor**



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