



Friday, June 26, 2009

Webinar Invitation & Pilot Program Announcement:
National Fenestration Rating Council's
Component Modeling Approach Program and
Compliance with California's Title 24 Energy Code

The *National Fenestration Rating Council, Inc.* (NFRC) is conducting a webinar for its upcoming pilot of the *Component Modeling Approach* (CMA) Product Certification Program whose scheduled start date is August 1, 2009. The webinar will be held at **1:00 PM Eastern Time on Wednesday, July 15, 2009**, and will last approximately 2 hours. The webinar session will cover an overview of the CMA program and software functions, basis for piloting the program, timelines, costs, component submissions, and software registration. The agenda for this session is posted on the NFRC website, on [this page](#).¹

Background

The new California *Title 24 Energy Code* requirements, effective this year, will have a significant impact on the design and placement of windows in commercial buildings. Compliance to energy code certification requirements in the state of California will be verified before building occupancy is granted. The responsible party (contractor, engineer, installer, or architect) can show compliance by either acquiring an NFRC Label Certificate or using the California Energy Commission's (CEC) Default Table values for *U-factor* and *Solar Heat Gain Coefficient* (SHGC).

Given that the NFRC Label Certificate is the preferred method to demonstrate code compliance², the NFRC recommends the use of their new CMA energy performance rating program for nonresidential (i.e., commercial and architectural) fenestration systems to readily assist parties in meeting the California Title 24 requirements.

¹ If this link does not open the page, paste this into your web browser: <http://www.nfrc.org/CMA-Training-Page.aspx>; **check back often as the agenda is under development.**

² Default tables, being generic in nature, are typically structured so that all possible fenestration performance—even poor performance—is covered in the default values. As a result, for all but the poorest performing fenestration, the default table results will be 'punitive', and fenestration manufacturers typically receive more favorable performance ratings when using the NFRC rating methodology versus the default table ratings.



Later this summer NFRC will be piloting its new CMA Product Certification Program along with its new supporting software application, CMAST (Component Modeling Approach Software Tool), designed specifically for this new rating system.

In component modeling, performance values from the three main components that make up a fenestration product (i.e., glazing, frame, and insulating glass unit spacer system) are pulled from an electronic database and assembled to obtain an overall product rating for U-Factor, SHGC, and *Visible Transmittance* (VT).

To provide this functionality, CMAST stores component data that is NFRC-approved, maintained, and updated in web-based electronic libraries. These components can be pulled and assembled using CMAST to obtain whole-product ratings for systems in a specified building project. An authorized user can then generate an NFRC Label Certificate using CMAST and provide the certificate to the parties responsible for verifying code compliance. The pilot / demonstration program is scheduled to run through the fall and conclude in December 2009.

Anticipated benefits of using CMA and CMAST

- Simplifies the NFRC's current rating process of commercial fenestration
- Reduces the time it takes for participants to rate and label products
- Provides a uniform, standardized rating, certification and labeling program that meets existing ASHRAE 90.1, California Title 24, and IECC code requirements
- Enables the design community to generate simulated ratings for different products quickly and easily
- Facilitates and expedites fenestration bidding to show architects and specifiers that products meet bid specifications and/or code requirements

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If your firm is a manufacturer of commercial fenestration products and interested in participating in NFRC's pilot project, or if you would like more information on this project, you are encouraged to join the webinar on July 15<sup>th</sup>. You may also visit the NFRC website at [www.nfrc.org](http://www.nfrc.org); specific information and documentation regarding the CMA Program is accessible by clicking the following link: [http://nfrc.org/sb\\_aboutprogram.aspx](http://nfrc.org/sb_aboutprogram.aspx). Of course if you still have questions after visiting the website, you may contact Jessica Ferris at (301) 589-1776, extension 204, [jferris@nfrc.org](mailto:jferris@nfrc.org) or John Lewis at ext. 217, [jlewis@nfrc.org](mailto:jlewis@nfrc.org).



Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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