



Update is Going Electronic

In keeping with today's publication trends, NFRC's *Update* newsletter is going electronic. Beginning with the first issue in 2005, *NFRC Update* will no longer be distributed through the mail. Instead, recipients will find an electronic version of *Update* waiting for them in their e-mail boxes. If you notice that you are not receiving *Update*, make sure that your e-mail address is current with NFRC headquarters. You may also want to check with your IT department to make sure it's not getting lost in a spam filter. If you find that you still need to receive a hard copy of the publication, a smaller quantity will continue to be printed for mailing and distribution at conferences. Contact Kristine Martin at kmartin@pcgpr.com to sign up for the electronic version, request a printed copy, or if you have any questions.

Aloha! NFRC's Spring Member Meeting 2005

(NOTICE - VENUE CHANGE!)

The spring member meeting is still on the "Big Island" at Waikoloa Beach, but the hotel has changed. It will now be held at the Hilton Waikoloa Village. This is a change from its former Marriott location. Keep checking www.nfrc.org for meeting updates, registration information, and other important information. This meeting will also allow attendees to register online - a first! See the Web site story on this page for more information. ■

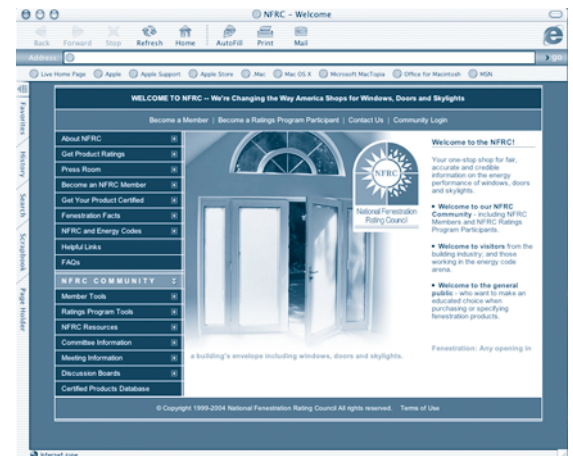
It's a New Web World

NFRC Unveils its New Home on the Internet

Along with the numerous changes occurring at NFRC every day, a big one is slated to go "live" by the end of October. NFRC's Web site is in the final stages of a complete overhaul. Members will find a totally new design, enhanced features, and easier navigation.

Aside from its new updated look, the site that will change how you do business with NFRC. A new navigation system, discussion groups and online meeting registration mark the three most notable improvements.

"Enhancing the Web site has been a goal of NFRC and should make doing business much easier. Hopefully it will become the first place people go whether they're active members, industry partners, or people researching a new windows purchase," said Jim Benney, NFRC Executive Director.



Gettin' Around Has Never Been So Easy

All of the information you look to the Web site for is still there. It's just easier to find. Instead of content located across the front page, the topics are now streamlined under left-hand navigational menus that follow a clear, logical order. The look itself is much slicker than its predecessor and incorporates the NFRC brand even further.

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In This Issue

Fall is upon us as the seasons go through another change. And there is plenty of change happening at NFRC too. Inside you'll find articles on the new NFRC Web site to be unveiled in Portland, a change in leadership as Tony Rygg pens his final Chairman's message, new non-residential procedures, and a change in venue for the spring 2005 meeting. You won't want to miss a thing.

Codes Update

Several states continue to explore the IECC or adopt it through legislature. Here are the latest highlights.

Arkansas updated its energy code effective October 1 to the 2003 IECC, with state-specific amendments including elimination of the .40 SHGC requirements for zones under 3500 HD.

Delaware's governor signed SB 306 adopting the 200 IECC for residential construction and ASHRAE Standard 90.1-1999 for commercial construction. It will be effective upon signature.

Illinois' governor signed House Bill 4099 into law on August 13. The bill creates the Energy Efficient Commercial Building act mandating statewide adoption of the commercial buildings requirement of the 2000 IECC. The implementation date is yet to be determined dependent upon the rulemaking.

Kentucky began the adoption process of the 2003 IECC for commercial buildings at the August 5 meeting of the Board of Housing. If adoption continues, it is expected that the new code will become effective in 2005.

Montana adopted the 2003 IECC effective September 3, 2004 and is applicable to both commercial and residential buildings.

Nebraska legislature adopted the 2003 IECC as its energy code for both commercial and residential buildings in the final days of the 2004 session. The new codes replace the 1983 Model Energy Code, used for the past 20 years. The effective date is July 1, 2005.

Another implementation! **New Mexico** implemented the 2003 IECC effective July 1, 2004 with amendments. ■

It's a New Web World, *continued from page 1*



Also included on the left-hand side is product rating information, information on how to get products certified, fenestration facts, NFRC and its role in the energy code arena, as well as helpful links and the always popular FAQs.

Collaboration is a Just Click Away

A new feature of the Web site is its virtual NFRC Community. This section includes member tools, ratings program tools, NFRC resources, committee information, meeting information, the certified products database and everything you need to conduct NFRC business or find out the latest information.

A unique capability within the NFRC Community are the Discussion Boards. Each task group now has its own place to post questions, comments, and other thoughts. This should hopefully make collaboration between group members easier in between face to face meetings. They are public discussion boards and will be moderated by an NFRC staff member.

Online Meeting Registration

Finally! Online meeting registration has come to NFRC. Once the site goes live at the end of October, registrants will no longer need to fax in a form, or call ahead of an event. Both registration and payment can be done simply online in one action. This also cuts down on the processing and collection time currently needed by NFRC staff. "This is a huge process improvement over the old way of doing business," said Cheryl Rynn, Membership and Meetings Manager.

So be on the lookout. When October goes, the new site will be up and running and looking for new visitors. Be sure to take advantage of the new Web offerings. And as always, give us some feedback. We look forward to hearing from you. ■

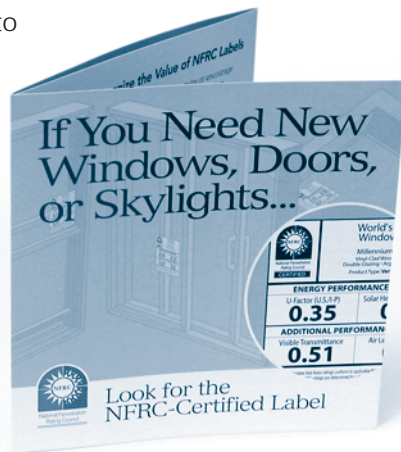
Congratulations to **Bipin Shaw** on his promotion to NFRC Programs Director! This year also marks his ninth year working for NFRC, making him the most senior of all staff members.

Jani Hardik joined NFRC as a contractor last October. He did such a good job that NFRC brought him on board and made him an official employee this February. As a data analyst, his primary role is application support and development of the NFRC Certified Products Database. His duties also include working on the Web site, as well as assisting the NFRC staff with various network and computer support issues. Jani was born in Vadodara, India and lives with his wife, Ami, and son, Deyen, who just recently turned one. He received his bachelors degree in computer science in Bangalore, India and has nearly 10 years of information technology experience. Jani can be reached at 301-589-1776 ext 206 or hjani@nfr.org.

Bolla Brown, NFRC's accountant and office manager, first considered going to law school before discovering her passion for numbers. She has spent the past eight to ten years in public accounting with a variety of clients including other non-profit organizations. Her goal at NFRC is to implement and maintain a solid accounting structure. In addition to her accounting work, she is also a certified tax prepared/advocate. Bolla is a graduate of D.C.'s Southeastern University with her bachelors in accounting and a minor in legal studies. She lives in the Lanham-Greenbelt area and enjoys preparing taxes and cooking. Bolla can be reached at 301-589-1776 ext 203 or bbrown@nfr.org.

Need to Stock Up on NFRC Tear-Sheets and Label Brochures?

An additional benefit of NFRC membership is access to clear, easy to understand educational materials that manufacturers can share with their customers or potential customers. Tear sheets and label brochures that explain how to use and understand the NFRC label are available for purchase at a very nominal fee. To order copies for your organization, contact NFRC at 301-589-1776, ext. 208. These items will soon be available on the Web as well.



Tony Rygg

Big Change, Same Commitment

When I look back on my three years as Chairman of this fine organization, I'm struck by how much we've changed ... and how much we've accomplished. Here are just a handful of examples:

- We made the shift from 1997 documents to 2001 documents.
- The NFRC Product Certification Program has experienced tremendous growth since 2001. To be sure, that's caused some headaches. But our new SQL database is up and running smoothly now, and we see nothing but better things on the horizon.
- We broke away from our roots with D&R International and established NFRC as an independent organization. Not long after, we welcomed Jim Benney as our new Executive Director. And let me tell you, there's no way the Board, myself included, could have made it through the transition without his tireless effort and support.
- In a big step toward our goal of becoming a more Web-based organization, we conducted our first electronic ballot for the Board of Directors.
- We've sought to make the Board more accessible and responsive. I saved this one for last, because it's perhaps the most important initiative of my chairmanship. Others will judge the legacy I leave behind. I only hope that this drive toward openness and enhanced interaction with the membership will be recognized as a big part of it.

I'm proud of our success, and I'm honored to have had the opportunity to lead NFRC through these exciting times. Still, even with all that we've done, I'm most proud of what hasn't changed around here over the last three years. And that's the overriding dedication and commitment to the fairness, accuracy and credibility of our rating system.

We Remain True to Our Primary Mission

We've seen phenomenal growth in this organization and managed a tremendous amount of change. During these heady days, it would have been very easy to lose sight of our fundamental purpose: to administer an independent, uniform system of the highest technical integrity for rating

NFRC Approves New Technical Standards for Energy Performance of Non-Residential Fenestration Products

MIKE MANTEGHI, TRACO

CHARLIE CURCIJA, Umass

BIPIN SHAH, NFRC

Currently, non-residential products are included in the NFRC rating system within the framework of residential windows (NFRC 2001 procedures), with one notable exception, the site-built products. Recognizing that site-built products are manufactured by several parties (i.e., frame components are manufactured separately from IGU) and often put together by an independent party (i.e., “glazing contractor” or “glazer”), NFRC has established separate procedures for these products and has developed a separate certification process for buildings having more than 10,000 sq. feet of fenestration.

However, this process is still very similar to residential windows in that it requires a single responsible party, often fulfilled by the framing system manufacturer. This places undue burden on one side, as their role in reality is limited to selling and delivering frame lineal that are then put together at the site and IGU manufactured by another party is put into the framing system.

The Need for a Major Change

In 2001, a non-residential group at NFRC started to overhaul the procedures and standards for non-residential products. One of the first initiatives was that the Non-Residential Task Group was converted to the Non-Residential Subcommittee with Mike Manteghi from TRACO appointed as chair. Since then, a radically different methodology has been developed in order to address several issues that are important for non-residential products, like a simple and workable rating system, effects of non-residential fenestration products on building energy performance, and size specific performance – no small task. But in the end, the new methodology provided solutions to all of the issues. Dr. Charlie Curcija of the University of Massachusetts led the development of the new technical procedures and helped prepare the new set of NFRC standards (Section 5.6 of NFRC 100 and 200). These standards were approved and finalized at a the NFRC’s spring meeting in Miami and are awaiting issuance of appropriate certification language and revision of the NFRC database structure before it can become a fully implemented standard and procedure.

The Component Modeling Procedure

The new procedure is called the Component Modeling Procedure because the basic building blocks of this procedure are basic fenestration components; glazing, spacer, frame

cross-sections, etc. Ratings of each of these components allows for a more flexible system where each manufacturer of a component can supply their own ratings. The IGU manufacturer will provide the “center of glass” performance, the spacer manufacturer will provide spacer performance and the frame manufacturer will provide frame assembly performance indices [Note, a manufacturer and/or fabricator can also provide all of the component information from one place, if desired]. Instead of fixed size ratings, the new system provides both fixed size comparison type ratings (i.e., apples to apples type of comparisons) and they also provide component



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performance indices, which can be used for calculating size specific performance as well as for calculating energy performance of the whole building. This is especially important for code compliance and accurate HVAC system sizing and balancing. Instead of applying same fixed size ratings for all products, it is now possible to calculate the performance of a specific system installed in a specific building. The new procedure provides a natural solution for site-built products as well.

One problem in the past for site built products was that each component was manufactured by a different entity and then put together by yet another party. The Component Procedure

400 Responses in Survey Second Round

Surveys Go to 3,000 Western Homeowners

At press time, NFRC had received close to 400 responses to a second round mailing as part of its nationwide survey of homeowners.

The survey is designed to learn more about how homeowners shop for new windows; identify ways in which NFRC can provide information that will aid homeowners in the decision-making; and determine what percentage of homeowners are aware of NFRC.

The second mailing was sent to 3,000 homeowners in western states. The initial mailing, sent in early 2004, went to 1,200 homeowners in states east of the Rockies. At the Spring

Meeting in Miami, Potomac Communications Group (PCG) reported the following preliminary results based on the initial mailing alone:

- The number one reason why homeowners buy new windows is to improve energy efficiency.
- More than 9 in 10 homeowners want a “durability” rating that will tell them how long their windows will last.
- Awareness of NFRC among homeowners has risen dramatically over the last six years.

PCG will provide final results from the survey at the Marketing & Education Committee meeting during NFRC’s Fall Meeting in Portland. ■

NFRC Approves New Technical Standards, *continued from page 4*

allows each manufacturer to provide their own component ratings, while the final integrator (i.e., glazer or glazing contractor) can obtain whole product ratings by using component information and an approved integration tool, available from NFRC.

Computer Simulations

NFRC ratings are normally provided on labels whose numbers are produced exclusively by computer simulations. Physical testing is used only for validation purposes or for products for which there is no approved simulation procedure -- or for products that don’t validate (validation is defined as an agreement between testing and baseline simulation results within specified tolerances). The vast majority of products are well within these validation limits, so for all practical purposes, the numbers on a label are coming from computer simulations.

The new non-residential procedure does not differ in that regard and it goes one step further. Instead of modeling every single option (options within product lines are defined mainly as individual products with different glazing, gas fill, coatings, and spacer configurations), the non-residential procedure uses only four base simulations, called best-worst options. Namely, two generic glazing systems and two generic spacer configurations, representing the opposite ends of the performance spectrum (hence the name best and

worst options), are used for every product line.

Instead of modeling hundreds of different options, only four options are modeled. The Best-best option represents the best glazing with the best spacer, the best-worst option represents the best glazing with the worst spacer, the worst-best option represents the worst glazing with the best spacer, and finally the worst-worst option represents the worst glazing with the worst spacer. From these four base simulations, linear and logarithmic interpolations are used to generate any glazing and/or spacer configurations without further modeling, eliminating the need that for every option a certified simulator needs to be used, as is the present case. This greatly simplifies a manufacturer’s options while saving money. The tool that will facilitate these interpolations and advanced database access and interaction is under development and will be finalized by the time that all the NFRC certification procedures and language are ready.

For more information about these approved procedures contact NFRC at info@nfr.org or visit NFRC web site www.nfr.org. ■

Mike Manteghi is the Research and Innovation Manager for TRACO and on the NFRC Board of Directors; Dr. Charlie Curcija is a Senior Research Fellow at the University of Massachusetts; Bipin Shah is the Program Manager at NFRC.

and labeling the energy and energy-related performance of fenestration products. Thanks to the wisdom and guidance of the membership and of my fellow Board members, we stayed true to ourselves and to our mission.

As I step down from the chairmanship and mosey off ... at least partway ... into the sunset, I'd like to leave you with just a couple of parting thoughts.

First, we've done a lot, but we still have a lot to do. On everything from the database to how we reach out to our customer groups, we can do better. The Board is just now beginning a new strategic planning process.

And second, don't lose sight of our mission. A broad array of products that now reside beneath the NFRC umbrella. Non-residential products, fenestration attachments, dynamic glazings, and door and access systems ... or what I used to naively call "garage doors" before I took this position.

We hope more will follow and find a home here. I urge you to keep our mission always in your thoughts and to educate our new colleagues about its importance as they join and integrate with NFRC.

It's Been an Honor to Serve

I'll close with a simple 'thank you.' It's been an honor and a privilege to serve as Chairman of this fine organization ... to serve with so many dedicated members of our Board of Directors ... and to serve with my fellow members, so many of whom I now call friend. ■

How To Reach Us

NFRC Update is published five times a year by the National Fenestration Rating Council, Inc., a non-profit organization that administers a rating and labeling system that provides accurate and reliable energy performance information about windows, doors, and skylights. Any editorial comments, suggestions, or media inquiries should be addressed to Kristine Martin, 8484 Georgia Avenue, Suite 320, Silver Spring, MD, 20910, 301-589-1776. E-mail address: info@nfdc.org.



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