Building a Better Process: ICC-ES Provides MiTek® USA with Streamlined Evaluation Reports

Building product manufacturers have long relied upon ICC Evaluation Service (ICC-ES) to provide comprehensive and widely accepted evaluation reports (ESRs), and in 2012, the organization has taken steps to streamline its evaluation process to quickly and efficiently provide manufacturers with confirmation of code compliance.

Structural connector manufacturer MiTek® recently required updates to pre-existing ICC-ES ESRs, to reflect changes in the 2012 codes, and ICC-ES provided evaluations of the structural properties of five of MiTek's existing evaluation reports (ESR-1311, ESR-1352, ESR-1988, ESR-2362 and ESR-3282). These products range from metal truss connector plates and hinge plate connectors to a U-shaped connector used as lateral bracing for nominally 2-inch-wide wood truss members.

An ICC-ES Evaluation Report provides third-party verification that products meet the rigorous requirements of the International Codes. The completed evaluation reports for MiTek confirm that the company's products comply with the requirements of the 2012, 2009, 2006 *International Building Code®* (IBC), 2012, 2009, 2006 *International Residential Code®* (IRC), the 2010 California Building Code (CBC), as well as the 2010 Florida Building Code (FBC).

"MiTek has used ICC-ES Evaluation Reports for a long time, going back to its predecessor organizations," said Steve Cabler, Sr. Vice President of Engineering and Technical Support for MiTek USA, Inc. "Having the three regional organizations formed into one national organization that evaluates building products as a subsidiary of the International Code Council (ICC), which produces the International Codes, has definitely simplified the approval and construction process."

MiTek, a global company that has long been at the forefront of the production of galvanized steel metal connector plates for wood trusses, is also a developer of software for truss manufacturers working within the structural component industry. MiTek, which operates on six continents and has been in business for more than 50 years, has its largest market in the United States, where they manufacture all of their U.S. products.

With their purchase, last year, of United Steel Products (USP), MiTek has greatly expanded its scope of structural solutions. Most of MiTek's products are engineering-based, but they are not directly specified in the building codes, and the company has, for many years, relied upon ICC-ES Evaluation Reports. With the USP product line, ICC-ES ESRs provide confirmation that their products meet all of the necessary code requirements and standards across the United States, allowing building inspectors to quickly and easily verify their compliance. In the latest version of its support software, *USP Specifier*, building inspectors, designers and suppliers can access those documents almost instantly –even at the jobsite – to confirm the compliance of any individual MiTek product. The code-compliant reports are also available on the ICC-ES website.

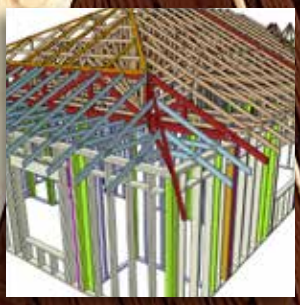
David Wert, Director of Technical Development at MiTek, stated, "As new building codes are published and adopted, building officials, Engineers of Record, and builders are looking for verification that the products being used meet the latest codes. Having ICC-ES Evaluation Reports coupled with specific truss designs on each project provides an easy reference to show that the correct products are being used, and that they meet those codes. With the introduction of the 2012 *International Building Code*® (IBC) and *International Residential Code*® (IRC), we, at MiTek, felt that we needed to get an early start on updating our evaluation reports."

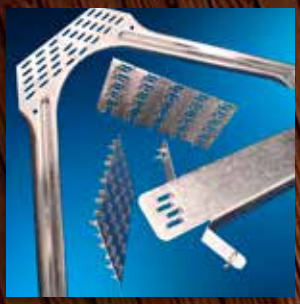
"It is hard to say when a jurisdiction will adopt a new building code. For products where the standards or ICC-ES acceptance criteria have not changed, the process of updating to the latest code is relatively easy. This has allowed us to update our evaluation reports rather quickly. For products where there have been changes to the code requirements and ICC-ES acceptance criteria, well, we have a little more work to do. We are, however, confident that all of our future ICC-ES evaluations will be issued in the same thorough and timely manner as those recently completed," Wert added.

Speaking about ICC-ES' efforts to streamline and simplify the review process, Will Utsey, PE, ICC-ES staff engineer stated, "Having several reports that are similar in nature always helps to speed up the evaluation, since this usually means that several other ICC-ES engineers have also reviewed similar products. With over 1,400 ICC-ES ESRs issued, this pool of experience is not only valuable to the applicant, but also valuable to us because of the speed and accuracy it provides when making revisions and updates to ICC-ES Evaluation Reports."

Utsey also emphasized, "It is important to update to the 2012 IBC and the 2012 IRC so that when jurisdictions start adopting these codes the applicant/ manufacturer will be prepared. Adding the FBC and CBC supplements helps aid in the use of their products in the jurisdictions of Florida and California, respectively. "

To learn more about these products, visit www.icc-es.org to view ESR-1311, ESR-1352, ESR-1988, ESR-2362 and ESR-3282. All ICC-ES Evaluation Reports can be accessed and downloaded free of charge at www.icc-es.org/evaluation_reports/index.shtml, and are readily searchable based on attributes such as product type, manufacturer or report number. For more information, please visit www.icc-es.org.





** This article is intended to provide information on a product for which ICC-ES Evaluation Reports have recently been issued. It should not be construed as a product endorsement or a recommendation for use.* ***recommendation for its use.***