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ICC-ES Accepts Finite Element Analysis through SKGA as Alternative to Testing

*Building manufacturers benefit from time and cost savings compared to
traditional testing methods*

Brea, CA – ICC Evaluation Service (ICC-ES) has announced that it is now accepting Finite Element Analysis (FEA), a computer simulation based on the finite element method, in lieu of physical testing for certain Acceptance Criteria (AC). ICC S. K. Ghosh Associates LLC (ICC-SKGA) can offer FEA to be used alongside traditional testing to analyze the strength of complex structures and systems, determine component behavior, and accurately predict how products will perform under structural loads.

FEA is now more commonly used, with highly capable software and faster computer hardware to calculate the strength and behavioral characteristics of a product in a virtual environment. Compared to conventional testing in a laboratory environment with testing equipment and schedule constraints, FEA can be a great alternative with accurate data for product evaluation.

The expanding list of ACs for which FEA is accepted currently includes:

- AC46 [Cold-formed Steel Framing Members](#)
- AC86 [Cold-formed Steel Framing Members-Interior Nonload-bearing Wall Assemblies](#)
- AC90 [Fiber Cement Siding Used as Exterior Wall Siding](#)

"Finite Element Analysis is a technology-forward innovation that we are proud to use as part of our product evaluation," said ICC-ES Regional Engineering Director Vincent Chui, P.E. "Working closely with ICC-SKGA, we anticipate offering even more testing-alternative options for our customers."

"Today's FEA software, like Abaqus, not only enables us to simulate laboratory tests, but it also allows us to perform parametric studies for optimization of component configurations if needed," remarked Pro Dasgupta, Director of Engineering of ICC-SKGA. "This opens up a lot of possibilities."

[ICC-SKGA](#) provides seismic and code-related consulting services, including FEA, to agencies involved in the design and construction of buildings and other structures that are impacted by the provisions of building codes.

If you have any questions or are **interested in obtaining FEA for your building product** as part of the ICC-ES evaluation process, please contact Kunal Bhaumik at kbhaumik@skghoshassociates.com or call the S. K. Ghosh Associates office at (847) 991-2700.