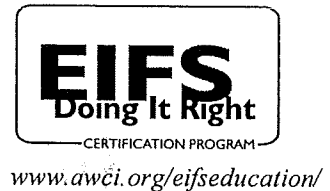


EIFS Programs from AWCI

In 1998 the Association of the Wall and Ceiling Industries launched the EIFS—Doing It Right Program. Recognizing a need for consistent generic instruction, the association invested financial and human resources to educate EIFS workers nationwide at a critical time for the industry.



The goal of the EIFS education and certification program is just that: to educate EIFS personnel in correct procedures and certify those who demonstrate comprehension of the material through testing. The educational content is based on industry accepted standards from ASTM and ANSI. The two-day seminar is not manufacturer or product specific; the content is consensus-based generic information. The instructor uses PowerPoint and video clips to deliver the information and the professionally developed certification exam is given at the conclusion. There are three certification categories; Mechanic, Industry Professional and EIFS Inspection and every participant must meet professional experience pre-qualifications before being accepted to the program.



To provide the good installation processes to experienced EIFS mechanics around the country on demand and at their workplace, a video-based format was developed. This allows mechanics to learn the material anytime, anyplace and to take the certification exam by appointment at a third party testing facility. Both the instruction and the exam are available in English and Spanish.

After the EIFS—Doing It Right programs were in place a few years and gaining acceptance by contractors, EIFS manufacturers and unions, it was clear the industry needed a method to identify EIFS companies that believed in a trained workforce and were committed to providing quality installations. AWCI created the EIFS*Smart* Contractor Distinction as a way of identifying those EIFS contractors. To earn this recognition, large and small contractors must employ a high percentage of the certified EIFS personnel schooled in correct, generic procedures. An annual reporting form requires EIFS*Smart* Contractors maintain 40% of their workforce holds a valid AWCI certification to include at least one management position. The 40% ratio is to be maintained on each project and with a certified foreman. The National Registry of EIFS*Smart* Contractors (www.awci.org/registry/) is a tool for general contractors, architects, building owners and other industry segments to locate EIFS contractors committed to quality and with credentials to back their knowledge.

