

FALL 2013

OFF THE WALL **WC&C**

An Industry Publication by the Wall Ceiling & Carpentry Industries of New York, Inc.

Time To Retire New York's 1885 Scaffold Law? — page 12

**AWCI Joins Advocates
For Better Silica Regulations
—see back page**

**Photos from the
WC&C Annual Barbecue
pages 15 thru 19**





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CALENDAR

Through December 2013

DATE	TIME & PLACE	TYPE OF MTG.
Nov 19 (Tues)	4:00 pm TBD	Board Meeting
Nov 19 (Tues)	6:00 pm TBD	Membership Meeting
Dec 10 (Tues)	4:00 pm No. Hemp CC	Board Meeting
Dec 10 (Tues)	6:00 pm No. Hemp CC	Christmas Party
2014		
Jan 21 (Tues)	4:00 pm TBD	Board Meeting
	6:00 pm TBD	Membership Meeting
Feb 12 (Wed)	8:00 am TBD	Board Meeting
18 (Tues)	6:00 pm TBD	Membership Meeting
Mar 18 (Tues)	4:00 pm TBD	Board Meeting
	6:00 pm TBD	Membership Meeting
Apr 5 (Sat)	7:00 pm Terrace in The Park	Annual Dinner Dance
16 (Wed)	7:00 pm Assoc. Office	Board Meeting
23-27	Naples, FL	Annual Convention

WC&C OFF THE WALL

Off The Wall is published through the Promotional Fund by the Association of Wall-Ceiling & Carpentry Industries of New York for the benefit of the membership. It is distributed to members, associate members, union affiliates, and legislators. Editorial contributions, including pictures and story ideas, are welcome and should be forwarded to the WC&C office, 125 Jericho Tpke., Suite 301, Jericho, NY, 11753.

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*From the
Executive Director
John DeLollis*

Looking Up?

YOU CAN FIND POSITIVE NEWS EVERYWHERE THESE DAYS PREDICTING AN UPTURN IN THE ECONOMY. Record highs for the stock market, increased corporate earnings, increased backlog, decreased unemployment and any number of indicators that make you feel good. Look hard enough and you can find an equal number of opposing views. If you want to believe the good news you have to ask does this apply to the New York metropolitan area? Does it apply to the construction industry? If so, are we, the union contractors, getting our fair share of the market? I find myself believing the good news and burying my head in the sand when it comes to the bad news. Really smart, right? Well here's the kind of news I can believe. The vast majority of our contractors claim that they are busier than they have been in a long time. Carpenter hours for WC&C members have increased steadily for the last four months with a twenty percent increase in the month of October alone. That's a fact I can vouch for. Let's hope it's a trend that lasts for awhile.

One group that evidently is confident in the future is the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America. I recently returned from a one day trip to the International Training Center in Las Vegas and toured their new facility. Not only is it an incredibly magnificent building but it is a truly state of the art training center that we all should take pride in. This center and its programs will be keeping carpenters at the top of their game for a long time to come. If any of our members are planning a trip to L.V., I'm sure we can arrange a tour. It will blow you away.

Lastly, we are planning some changes to our newsletter and a totally new website. I'm confident that communication amongst our membership will be greatly improved.

This being our last newsletter of 2013 I wish you the happiest of holidays and a really great 2014. Hope to see you all at our Holiday party, Tuesday, December 10, 2013 at the North Hempstead Country Club.

— *John DeLollis*

E-Verify Changes on the Horizon

by Laura D. Francis/Bloomberg

Ahead of a likely legislative requirement that the E-Verify electronic employment eligibility verification system be made mandatory for all U.S. employers, the National Immigration Law Center recently released a report warning that the way the system works now could mean that hundreds of thousands of work-authorized individuals might face problems from mismatches between their information and what's contained in government records, also known as tentative nonconfirmations (TNCs).

Right now 404,295 employers are enrolled in E-Verify, only about 7 percent of all U.S. employers. But both the comprehensive Senate-passed immigration bill (S. 744) and legislation (H.R. 1772) passed by the House Judiciary Committee would require all employers to use the system.

NILC's report said that while the most recently calculated error rate for TNCs is 0.3 percent, erroneous TNCs are much more common for lawful

permanent residents and other work-authorized foreign nationals than for citizens. Also, a 0.3 percent error rate among all employees in the U.S., as would be the case under either bill, might mean that somewhere between 150,000 and 500,000 people would have to correct a problem with either the Social Security Administration or the Department of Homeland Security.

And even though employers that use E-Verify are required to inform employees of TNCs and how to contest them, NILC said many employers don't, and in several cases take some kind of adverse job action against employees with a TNC even though E-Verify rules prohibit such action. The report added that some employers also violate E-Verify rules by using the system to pre-screen job applicants.

NILC attributed a portion of erroneous final nonconfirmations (FNCs)—a determination by E-Verify that an individual isn't authorized to work—to employers' failure to

inform employees of TNCs. But U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, which administers E-Verify, is taking some steps in an apparent attempt to alleviate that problem.

For example, in early July the agency announced that if employees voluntarily provide their email addresses on the new I-9 employment eligibility verification form, TNC notices can be sent directly to the employee's email, and the employee won't have to rely on his or her employer to provide that information.

USCIS more recently announced that, beginning Sept. 8, the TNC Notice and Referral Letter will be replaced with a Further Action Notice and a Referral Date Confirmation.

The new Further Action Notice will inform employees of a TNC, give them the option of contesting it with SSA or DHS, and tell them how to do so, the agency said. Once an employer refers a TNC case to SSA or DHS, E-Verify will produce a Referral Date Confirmation that the employer must give the employee. That confirmation will contain the deadline for the employee to contest the TNC. •

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From the PRESIDENT Michael Weber

Policies Gone Wild

WELL, THE GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN IS OVER. The debt ceiling has been renegotiated and is due to expire yet again in February, 2014 and the affordable health care act is now “available” to the general public. It looks like we are back to living the dream as a union contractor.

As supported by the recent failure of the affordable health care roll-out, implementing new policies and procedures to the common folk appears great in theory. However, the successful implementation of these new policies is a whole other story. Does the new Shop Steward time-recording policy come to mind? After numerous meetings and some success, we continue to work with the New York City District Council of Carpenters to improve and streamline this reporting process. Recognizing there is still work to be done. I’m sure you are all aware of the recent mailing by the NYCDCC regarding the implementation of dues check off and political action committee (PAC) provisions. The burden of this new policy falls on the contractor as per our Collective Bargaining Agreement. As always, the devil is in the details and we are currently working with the NYCDCC to address implementation with minimal impact and disruption to our members.

I would like to congratulate the following recipients for the Thomas Nastasi Scholarship: Lindsay Marie Pacheco, Brittany Francis Sirico, James White, Marianna Concetta Mangione and Natalie Loffreno. Good luck this upcoming semester.

I am pleased to announce that Brian Gordon, WCC board member and owner of Par Wall was nominated and unanimously approved by the AWCI board of directors as future AWCI president in 2018. My congratulations to Brian and Kathy for accepting the challenge and responsibility that comes with the position.

Be safe and enjoy the upcoming holiday season.

Very Truly Yours,

Michael Weber

SEWARD PARK - SITE OVERVIEW



Planned Essex and Delancey Streets

Plans Unveiled For Major Mixed-Use Development In Long-Vacant Seward Park Area On Lower East Side

\$1.1 Billion Plan will Create 1,600 Permanent Jobs and 4,400 Construction Jobs

New York City has unveiled plans that will transform the largest stretch of undeveloped City-owned land in Manhattan below 96th Street into vibrant, mixed-use space in one of New York’s most dynamic, diverse and historic neighborhoods. Nine sites located near the intersection

of Essex Street and Delancey Street will become a 1.65-million-square-foot development anchored by 1,000 units of housing. The project, to be called Essex Crossing, includes a 15,000-square-foot open space, a new and expanded Essex Street Market, a dual-generation school operated by the Educational Alliance, a

community center run by Grand Street Settlement, a rooftop urban farm, the Andy Warhol Museum, 250,000 square feet of office space and a diverse mix of retail space. Seward Park will also become a hub of small-business incubation, with micro-retail spaces and creative and tech co-working and incubator space. The project represents \$1.1 billion dollars of investment, and will create approximately 1,600 permanent jobs and 4,400 construction jobs.

“We’ve signed contracts,” said Mayor Michael Bloomberg. “This is a **Continued on following page**”

Seward Park Area Development Plan from preceding page

done deal.”

The mayor said it took five years to broker.

The Seward Park Mixed-Use Development Project grew out of a collaboration between community stakeholders, grassroots local leadership and elected officials, working together

Street Alliance will provide early childhood and senior services. The 64,000 square feet dedicated to these facilities is permanently deeded as community space. A site has also been reserved for a public school, which may be developed in the future by the School Construction Authority. The developers will also upgrade the existing DOT

dedicated to encouraging entrepreneurs to learn craft skills and produce and sell hand-made merchandise. In addition, approximately 40 micro-retail spaces will be developed in the Market Line. The project also includes a large grocery store, an amenity that was strongly urged by the community to fill a critical local need. Other than the grocery store, movie theater and fitness center, no retail space will be larger than 30,000 square feet - a key community priority.

The anticipated groundbreaking for the project is spring 2015. The first five buildings (all of the sites south of Delancey except the two adjacent sites between Norfolk and Clinton Streets) consisting of 580 units of housing, including 316 permanently affordable units, are anticipated to be completed by Summer 2018. The next two buildings (the remaining parcels south of Delancey,

and the parcel located just north of Rivington Street on Essex Street), including the majority of the remaining housing, are anticipated to be completed by summer 2021, and the final two buildings (the remaining parcels north of Delancey Street) are anticipated to be completed by 2022 and 2024.

Delancey Street Associates LLC (DSA) is comprised of affordable housing developers L+M Development Partners and BFC Partners, and Taconic Investment Partners. The Prusik Group will co-develop the retail portion of the project. Senior housing developers B&B Supportive Housing will co-develop the senior building. DSA will work closely with local community partners Grand Street Settlement and Educational Alliance on the community center and dual-generation school, respectively. SHoP and Beyer Blinder Belle will be the primary architects on the Seward Park Project. •



in partnership with the City for the past five years to develop the framework for this historic plan.

There will be a total of 1,000 new rental apartments and condominium units with 500 units being permanently affordable. 50 percent of the four of the largest sites will be permanently affordable to low-, moderate- and middle-income households. The Project will include 100 units of permanently affordable rental units for low- and moderate-income senior citizens that will be operated in partnership with Grand Street Settlement, a local multi-service agency dedicated to providing essential programs for community members of all ages.

Entertainment amenities at Seward Park include a bowling alley and movie theater. The dual-generation school run by local partner Educational Alliance will offer Head Start and Adult Education programs, and the community center operated by Grand

plazas on Delancey Street.

The Essex Street Market will relocate across Delancey Street, doubling in size to approximately 30,000 square feet on the ground floor, plus a mezzanine of roughly 7,000 square feet. The new market, anticipated to open in 2018, will accommodate all the existing market vendors at the time of the move and provide room for new vendors in a range of sizes. The project will include an extensive assortment of retail and commercial uses, including the unique space to be known as the Market Line, on a concourse created through vaulted archways from the second floor through the cellar of the three sites south of Delancey between Essex and Clinton Streets. The natural light-filled, continuous Market Line will include a variety of spaces, consisting of small- to medium-sized vendor stalls with tenants that include retail and food-oriented uses, a culinary incubator and a center

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It's The Law

By Mark A. Rosen

Mark A. Rosen is legal counsel to the Association of Wall-Ceiling & Carpentry Industries of New York, Inc. He is a partner in the firm of McElroy, Deutsch, Mulvaney & Carpenter, LLP. Mark practices in the areas of construction and contract law, public contract law, arbitration, surety, and general commercial litigation. He can be reached at mrosen@mdmc-law.com.

SENATE CONFIRMS FIVE NLRB NOMINEES

On July 30, the Senate confirmed a slate of three Democratic and two Republican nominees to the National Labor Relations Board (“NLRB”). This gives the Board a full complement of confirmed members for the first time in nearly ten years.

The three confirmed new Democratic Board members are Kent Hirozawa, Nancy Schiffer and the current Board Chairman, Mark Gaston Pearce. The two confirmed Republican nominees are Harry Johnson and Phillip Miscimarra.

President Obama withdrew the nominations of Democratic Board members Sharon Block and Richard Griffin, who had been serving as recess appointments. They were replaced by Hirozawa and Schiffer.

The recess appointments of Block and Griffin were challenged in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit which ruled they were invalid. The U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to review the decision during its next term.

WITHDRAWAL LIABILITY CAN BE DISCHARGED IN BANKRUPTCY

A Federal Appeals Court has held that a withdrawal liability assessment from a multi-employer pension fund can be discharged in bankruptcy.

The Pension Trust Fund asserting the claim had argued that Section 523(a) (4) of the Bankruptcy Code prevented the contractor from discharging the withdrawal liability assessment. That provision bars the discharge of debts arising from “defalcation” or the misappropriation of trust funds while acting in a fiduciary capacity. The Pension Fund argued that the withdrawal liability assessment was a Fund asset over which the contractor exercised control, making it a fiduciary for purposes of that exception.

The court reasoned that withdrawal liability, unlike unpaid contributions, is a statutory obligation imposed by ERISA. Unpaid contributions are contractual obligations that ERISA

enforces but does not create. The court continued that withdrawal liability is imposed by ERISA to account for the Pension Fund’s needs going forward. Accordingly, it held that the 523(a)(4) exception did not apply.

COURT REFUSES TO ISSUE INJUNCTION BARRING CARPENTERS UNION FROM STRIKING

A New York Federal Court declined to issue an injunction to stop members of the New York City District Council of Carpenters from continuing a strike during attempts to negotiate a new collective bargaining agreement with the Manufacturing Woodworkers Association of Greater New York (“MWA”).

After negotiations between the parties broke down, primarily over the amount of a wage increase, the union went on strike. The MWA applied for an injunction. The federal court denied the request.

The court relied upon the Norris-LaGuardia Act which bars federal courts from issuing restraining orders or injunctions that prohibit any party in a labor dispute from ceasing or refusing to perform any work or to remain in any relationship of employment, among other things. The MWA argued that an injunction was required under the *Boys Markets* exception to the Norris-LaGuardia Act which holds that an injunction may issue against a strike where a collective bargaining agreement includes a mandatory grievance adjustment or arbitration procedure and the strike is over a grievance which both parties are contractually bound to arbitrate.

In this case, the negotiations between the parties broke down and the union told the MWA its members had authorized a strike. The next day, the MWA requested arbitration of the issue

of whether the collective bargaining agreement prevented the union from engaging in a job action or any action which changed the *status quo* while the parties were engaged in negotiations.

In denying the injunction, the court found that the underlying dispute which triggered the strike was the failure of negotiations over a new collective bargaining agreement, primarily relating to a wage increase, which was not the subject of mandatory arbitration. The court noted that the collective bargaining agreement did not include a mandatory arbitration provision requiring arbitration of new contract terms when negotiations fail, a provision that is sometimes found in other collective bargaining agreements. •

New Construction Starts Predicted To Rise 6 Percent Across The U.S.

New construction starts in the U.S. are expected to rise 6 percent this year to \$506 billion, according to the 2013 Construction Outlook from McGraw Hill Construction.

“The recovery for construction continues to unfold in a selective manner, proceeding against the backdrop of the sluggish U.S. economy,” says Robert A. Murray, vice president of economic affairs for McGraw Hill Construction. “While the degree of uncertainty affecting the economy seems to have eased a bit from last year, tight government financing continues to exert a dampening effect on both the economy and the construction industry.”

However, the demand for housing remains strong, market fundamentals for commercial building are strengthening and lending standards for commercial real estate loans seems to be loosening.

“On balance, the recovery for construction is making progress, but at a single-digit pace given the mix of pluses and minuses by major sector,” Murray adds. •

The Empire State Building Gets A Huge Green Roof!

By Beth Buczynski
EarthTechling

The Empire State Building, an architectural icon in New York City and beyond, just took a giant step forward in its quest to reduce energy consumption. The ‘World’s Most Famous Office Building’ now boasts four green roof systems, totally nearly 10,000 square feet.



Image via Xero Flor America

For its green roof upgrade, the Empire State Building chose to install the Xero Flor Green Roof System for four rooftop areas: 21st floor east (3,450 square feet), 21st floor west (3,450 square feet), 25th floor northwest (1,000 square feet) and 30th floor west (1,200 square feet). The green roofs on the 21st floor feature rooftop patios with outdoor furniture for the enjoyment of office tenants.

As we’ve reported in the past, the Empire State Building is on a quest to become the most sustainable office building in America. In 2011, the building’s owners announced that they would purchase 100 percent of its power from renewable sources and then embarked on a massive retrofit plan that would earn the Empire State Building LEED Gold.

More recently, EarthTechling reported on the building’s new sustainability exhibit, a multi-media visitor’s center where guests could learn more about what building’s can do to reduce energy consumption and slow climate change.

Now, the Empire State Building is taking its big green journey to the exterior with a green roof system that will reduce water runoff, heating bills, and air pollution.

The Xero Flor system utilizes lightweight, pre-vegetated mats based on a patented, textile-based design. Although the system was engineered in Germany, all Xero Flor components for projects in the U.S. are 100 percent made in America.

“With the completion of the green roofs on the Empire State Building and Javits Center, 85 Xero Flor green roofs will cover approximately 530,000 square feet of rooftops across New York City,” said Clayton Rugh, Ph.D., general manager and technical director, Xero Flor America, in a press release. “The green roofs decrease stormwater run-off and improve water quality in New York’s waterways, moderate the urban heat island effect, filter dust and other air pollutants, and store carbon dioxide and other forms of carbon to reduce greenhouse gases.”

Years before skyscrapers, when New York City's tallest building was still the 281-foot spire of Wall Street's historic Trinity Church, state lawmakers passed the Scaffold Law, which made property owners and contractors liable for most "gravity-related" injuries to workers on construction sites.

As the years went by, and the buildings and dangers climbed ever higher, the 1885 law stayed on the books and allowed injured workers to collect big court verdicts for medical bills, pain and suffering. And it remained long after other states abandoned similar laws in favor of less costly federal workers' compensation insurance.

Today, New York's Scaffold Law, protected by the state's powerful labor unions and trial lawyers, is the only one of its kind in the nation. It requires another layer of general liability insurance for contractors and hits taxpayers by adding hundreds of thousands, even millions, of dollars to the cost of every public project.

Some New York government agencies and contractors say the cost of the insurance, which can often be double that of other states, is hitting a crisis point that could soon suspend work on bridges, schools and the recovery from Superstorm Sandy.

"It increases the cost of doing business and decreases what we are capable of doing in New York state," said Carley Hill, of Union Concrete and Construction Corp. in West Seneca. "You are losing potential millions of dollars in jobs that could go to people."

For example, building groups estimate that the law's required liability insurance premiums will add an extra \$200 million to \$400 million to the state's \$5 billion replacement of the Tappan Zee Bridge.

New York City's school system says the insurance cost it incurs from the law is enough to build two new schools every year, according to an internal document obtained by The Associated Press.

In western New York, the general liability insurance premium was \$380,000 to cover rehabilitation on just 23 miles of the state Thruway.

That liability insurance existed in other states but was long ago replaced by federal workers' compensation insurance, which requires workers to give up their right to sue for liability and provides standard payments for medical bills and lost wages as a quick way to settle claims without assessing blame.

What makes New York unique is that the Scaffold Law gives workers on all construction sites the ability to sue property owners and contractors directly for liability, which can include compensation for punitive damages or pain and suffering.

That has spawned multimillion-dollar settlements against construction companies, which have, in turn, driven up the premiums to pay for the general liability insurance.

Former General Motors Co. worker Tim Swedenhjelm of East Concord credits the law with helping him walk again after a 1999 accident when scaffolding collapsed on him, breaking bones in his back, paralyzing his leg and stopping his heart for two minutes. A big court award he didn't want to divulge paid for more tests, four back surgeries and two knee surgeries.

"I would have been written off if it was just workers' compensation," he said.

But opponents of the law say taxpayers can no longer afford the cost of the required liability insurance, and public projects are reduced or lost at a time when New York's job growth is already trailing that of the nation. Some also complain that the general liability insurance required by the law has become difficult to obtain.

"It is now fast becoming a crisis of availability," said Mike Elmendorf, CEO of the Associated General Contractors. "If you can't insure it, you can't build it."

Those were among the argument of business this year in the 2013 legislative session. Through a series of closed-door, unannounced negotiations, the perennial issue came perhaps closer than ever to substantial changes, according to players from both sides.

"For the first time, some of the trade unions are willing to sit down and have discussion," said Senate Deputy Majority Leader Thomas Libous.

Meanwhile, powerful Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver has been accused of blocking repeal or changes because he works for a Manhattan law firm that handles such cases and paid him \$450,000 last year.

"We don't think it's the right policy to undo these important protections," said Silver spokesman Michael Whyland.

Brian Sampson of the business group Unshackle Upstate called the law "the symbol that continues to tie us to the dark old days of Albany where a few well-connected people and some behind closed doors 'negotiations' controlled nearly all legislative decisions."

The Trial Lawyers Association alone has spread more than \$2 million in campaign contributions since the 2010 elections to Democrats and Republicans in the Assembly and Senate as well as Gov. Andrew Cuomo, who would be a key to forcing changes in the law.

Mike McGuire of Construction and General Building Laborers Local 79 in New York City, who spent 16 years on high-rise construction sites, acknowledges the current system isn't perfect and there may be room for compromise.

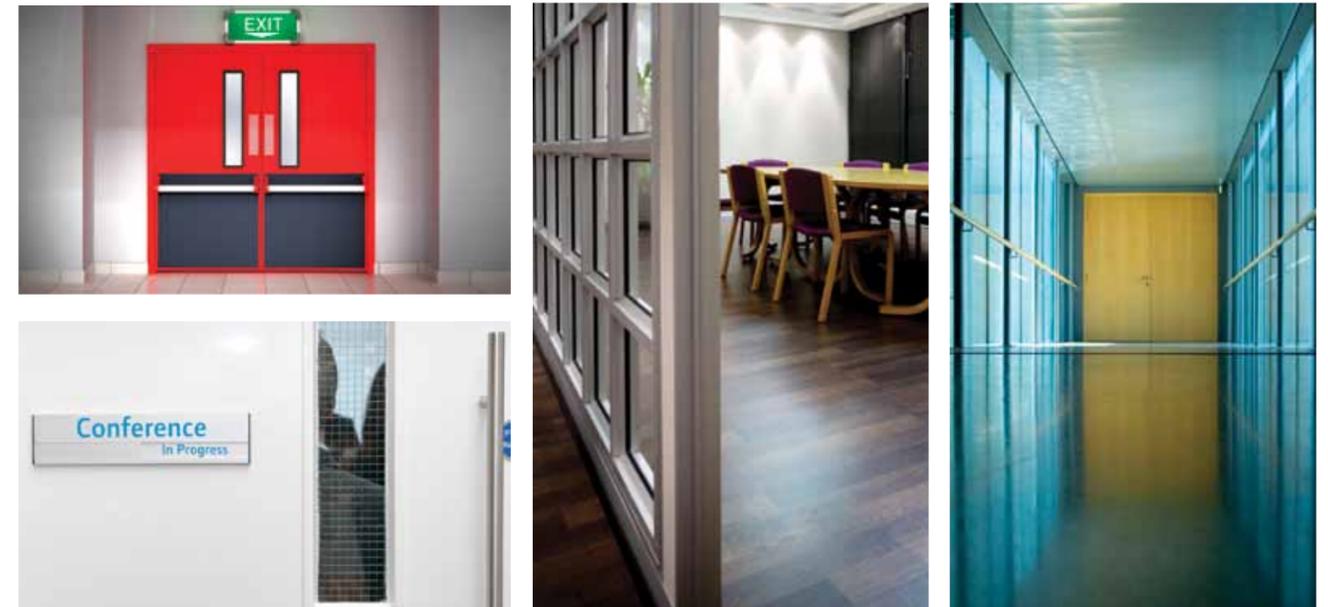
"The big guys are pretty good, they don't nickel and dime," McGuire said. But some smaller "bottom-of-the-barrel" operators cut corners with little regard for their, often temporary, employees, he said. •

Critics Say It's Time to Retire New York's 1885 Scaffold Law

By Michael Gormley/Associated Press/AP Online

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Seventy-Four Percent Of Construction Firms Report Having Trouble Finding Qualified Workers Amid Growing Labor Shortages

Nationwide Survey Finds Most Firms Worry There Are Not Enough Craft Workers Available to Meet Growing Demand for Construction as Officials Call for Immigration and Education Reform to Help

Nearly three-fourths of construction firms across the country report they are having trouble finding qualified craft workers to fill key spots amid concerns that labor shortages will only get worse, according to the results of an industry-wide survey released by the Associated General Contractors of America. Association officials called for immigration and education reform measures to help avoid worker shortages.

“Many construction firms are already having a hard time finding qualified workers and expect construction labor shortages will only get worse,” said Stephen E. Sandherr, chief executive officer of the Associated General Contractors of America. “We need to take short- and long-term steps to make sure there are enough workers to meet future demand

and avoid the costly construction delays that would come with labor shortages.”

Of the 74 percent of responding firms that are having a hard time finding qualified craft workers, the most frequently reported difficulties are in filling such onsite construction jobs as carpenters, equipment operators and laborers, Sandherr said. Fifty-three percent are having a hard time filling professional positions – especially project supervisors, estimators and engineers.

The association official added that most firms expect labor shortages will continue and get worse for the next year. Eighty-six percent of respondents said they expect it will remain difficult or get harder to find qualified craft workers while 72 percent say the market for professional positions will remain hard or get worse. Seventy-four percent of respondents report there are not enough qualified craft workers available to meet future demand while 49 percent said there weren’t enough construction professionals available, he added.

Sandherr said that many firms report they are taking steps to prepare future construction workers. He noted that 48 percent of responding firms are mentoring future craft workers, 38 percent are participating in career fairs and 33 percent are supporting high school-level construction skills academies. In addition, 47 percent of responding firms are offering internships for construction professionals.

Sandherr cautioned that more needs to be done to address labor shortages. He said Congress needs to jettison arbitrary caps on construction workers that were included in immigration reform the Senate passed earlier this year. “Lifting those restrictions will go a long way to ensuring construction jobs left vacant by domestic labor shortages go to workers who are in the country legally.”

He urged elected and appointed officials to do more to ensure public school students have an opportunity to participate in programs that teach skills like construction. He added that skills-based programs offer students a more hands-on way to learn vital 21st century skills such as math and science. Such programs also have been proven to reduce dropout rates and give students an opportunity to earn the higher pay and benefits that come with construction jobs.

Sandherr added that nearly 700 construction firms participated in the survey, which was conducted during July and August of this year. •




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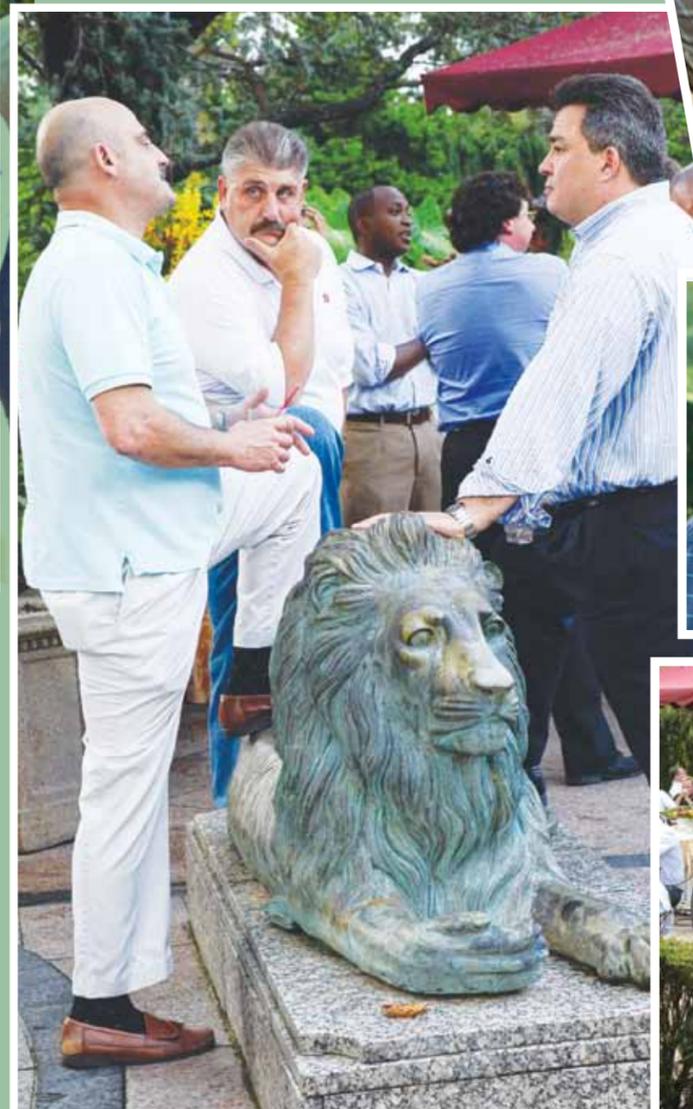
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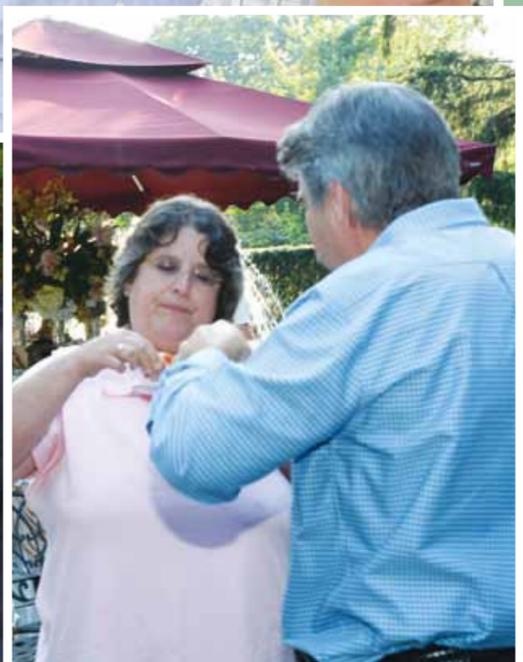
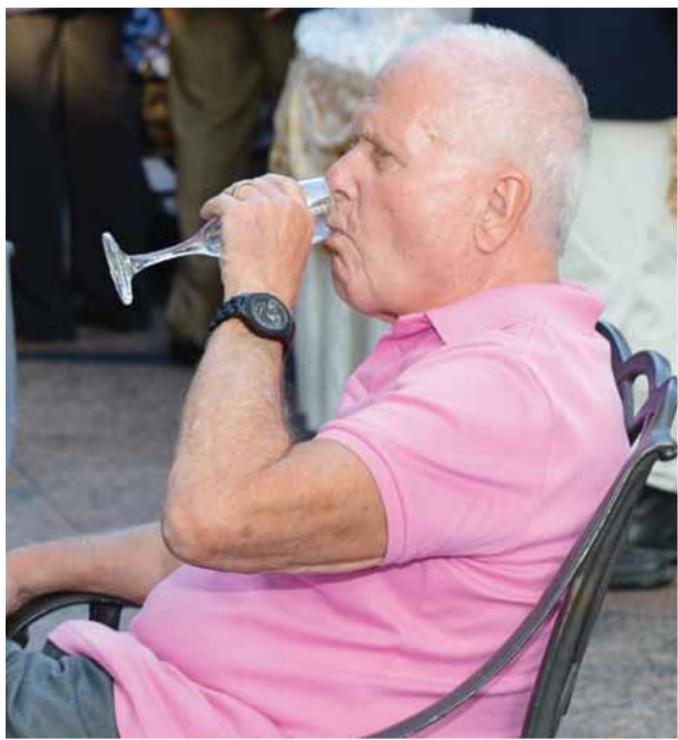
Westbury Manor — Tuesday, August 13, 2013



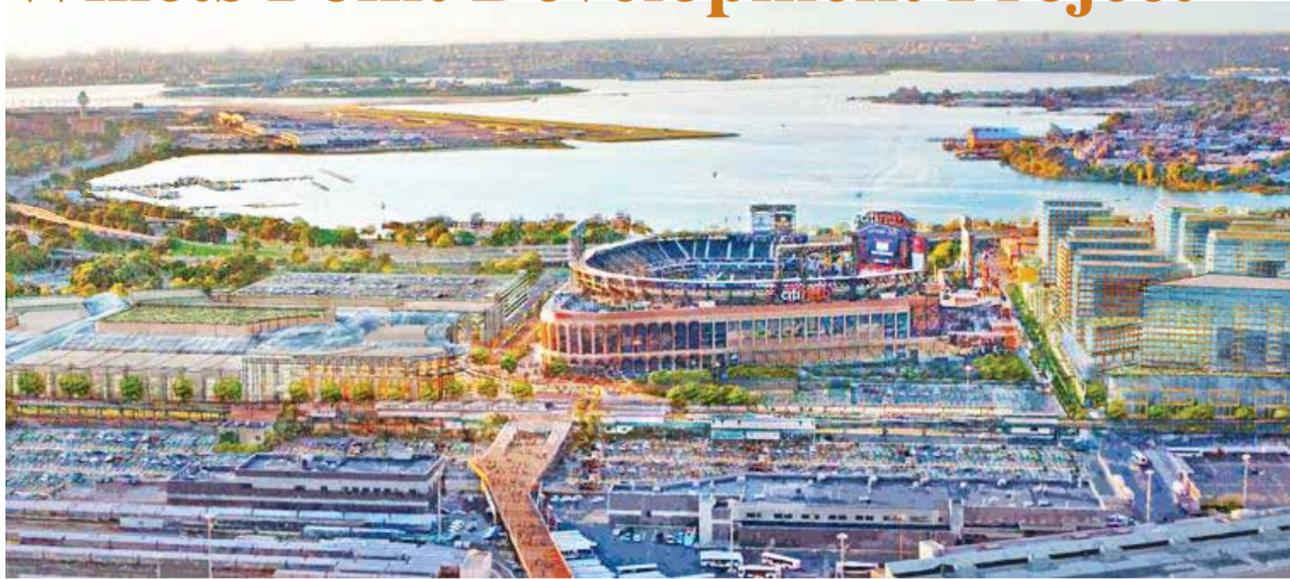
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Willets Point Development Project



Willets Point will become New York's next great neighborhood, with mixed-income housing, retail and entertainment amenities, public open space, community facilities, a hotel, and a convention center.

Baseball fans looking out from the upper levels of Citi Field Stadium have a view of an area of the city desperately in need of a makeover. The 4-year-old, 41,800 capacity baseball-only venue with state-of-the-art features stands in stark contrast to its surroundings. But change is on the way. The City recently approved the \$3 billion retail, hotel and residential complex to be built in stages at Willets Point, next to Citi Field.

According to Crain's New York, the deal came after a package of concessions for the community, where opposition had long been concentrated among small industrial business that occupy the stretch of dirt roads and tin shacks by the stadium. The city will spend \$15.5 million to help Willets Point businesses relocate while Related Cos. and Sterling Equities operating in a joint venture called the Queens Development Group will pay another \$15.5 million to improve and maintain Flushing Meadows Corona Park.

The New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC) describes the Willets Point Development Plan as a historic redevelopment effort that will transform an area previous generations have sought to change and improve. The plan will clean up the environment and help improve the quality of nearby waterways. It will link this district, in one of the most vibrant parts of Queens, to basic infrastructure and establish a major new mixed-income neighborhood and commercial destination that will create jobs and recapture billions in spending now lost to the suburbs.

The Phase 1 build-out will be anchored by a residential community of 2,500 housing units, of which 875 will be affordable. Phase 1 will also include community facilities, a public school, retail, a hotel, parking, and more than six acres of publicly accessible open space. The Phase 1 vision will infuse \$3 billion of private investment into the local economy and create 7,100 permanent jobs and 12,000 direct construction jobs with Minority and Women-owned Business Enterprise (MWBE) and local hiring goals of 25 percent. The full buildout of the entire 62 acre Willets Point Development Plan includes more than 3,000 additional

housing units, of which over 1,100 will be affordable, additional community facilities and public school, office space, a convention center, parking, and a minimum of 8 more acres of public open space.

The Willets Point Redevelopment will be a major engine for economic growth for New York City, generate local employment and business opportunities, and improve the overall quality of life for local residents.

The Willets Point redevelopment constitutes a unique opportunity for the City to incorporate sustainability goals from the ground up. Willets Point suffers from widespread petroleum contamination, with additional potential contamination from paint, cleaning solvents, and automotive fluids. Environmental hazards are exacerbated by a high water table that spreads pollution throughout the site, endangering adjacent water bodies. Most of Willets Point lies within the 100-year flood plain, necessitating a significant increase in grade. The district also has limited storm water infrastructure and no sanitary infrastructure. The redevelopment approach will encompass site cleanup, planning and design, infrastructure construction, and building construction.

In December 2011, the City broke ground on critical infrastructure work including the construction of a sanitary sewer main and reconstruction of a storm sewer and outfall. These improvements, which constitute a \$50 million investment, support the historic redevelopment of Willets Point, which has always lacked this basic infrastructure.

Another critical part of the redevelopment plan for Willets Point is assisting the current workers. NYCEDC, in conjunction with the

Project Highlights

Borough: Queens

More than 7,000 permanent jobs and 12,000 construction jobs

30 year total economic impact of \$25 billion

30 year benefit to the City of \$1.3 billion

62-acre site

LEED-certified green buildings and infrastructure

Department of Small Business Services, retained LaGuardia Community College to develop and manage the Worker Assistance Program for impacted employees of Willets Point.

Since its inception in 2008, this program has provided a variety of critical services at no cost to interested Willets Point Workers, including:

Educational classes such as Vocational English for Speakers of Other Languages (VESOL) and General Education Development (GED) test preparation, job training and placement, referrals to immigration services, and other job preparation services. Over 550 workers have already registered for the program. Workers in Phase 1 of the Willets Point redevelopment area are eligible for all services. Workers outside of Phase 1 may access all free program services based on availability. •

Why Modeling Is Essential For Skanska's Green Building Blueprint

By Heather Clancy/GreenBiz.com/blog

Global construction firm Skanska made headlines in July when it quit the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. But its decision wasn't all that surprising, given its long legacy of advocating sustainable building design and construction.



3D Building Information Modeling software. All images via Skanska

Skanska's move protested the trade association's open hostility toward the U.S. government's support of the LEED green building system and its attempt to support an entirely new rating scheme proposed by the American High-Performance Building Coalition (AHPBC).

"Because a few companies don't like the current LEED program, they want to involve the government and create an entire new system for government buildings," said Mike McNally, president and CEO of Skanska USA, in a company statement.

"This is exactly the kind of redundancy and bureaucracy that we pay the Chamber to fight. Rather than support its members, who continually innovate to create new products that straddle the line between responsible and profitable, the Chamber has chosen to support a group of businesses who care more about protecting the status quo."

For Skanska, building green is systemic

Over the past decade, Skanska has constructed hundreds of green projects as part of its Deep Green commitment. These include the world's first LEED-certified airline terminal at Boston's Logan airport; the first Gold-certified hospital, the Providence Newberg Medical Center; and

the first green-rated building in Poland. Skanska also acted on a series of retrofits that have transformed New York's iconic Empire State Building; its office there is LEED Platinum-certified.

Thinking green when it comes to design and construction isn't just the job of some elite Skanska practice. This discipline is built into virtually every project where the firm owns broad end-to-end design, construction and operational responsibilities, said Tiina Koppinen, business development director at Skanska. At the center of that discipline is building information modeling (BIM), which allows project teams to create 3D representations of components and operational processes to test how they might fit together or run before construction begins.

"If we are able to fix the design in a virtual environment -- eliminating errors, checking schedules, materials -- then we are better able to complete the production without errors," Koppinen said.

Skanska actually started embracing BIM more than 10 years ago in Finland. It uses the technology as part of all residential and commercial development projects in which the firm is responsible for both design and construction, as well as for projects where the client has agreed to use this approach, she said. In short, it uses BIM wherever possible, not just when green design is the end goal.

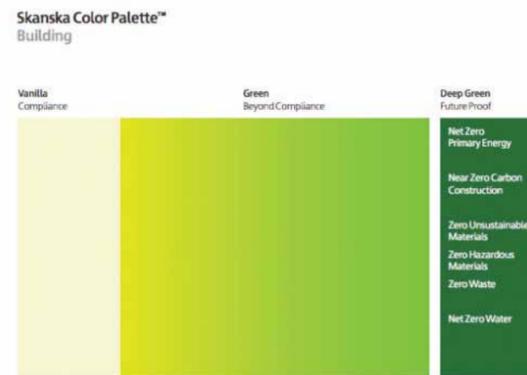
Things get trickier if Skanska isn't part of the design phase. But if a project is particularly complicated, Skanska might apply BIM anyway, converting conventional designs into models so that it can better manage its suppliers and subcontractors. "It makes our life easier," Koppinen said.

Enumerating BIM's benefits

It shouldn't come as a surprise that BIM factored in the design of the company's own headquarters, Skanska House, to help optimize energy usage and design rainwater harvesting. "We are able to analyze more alternatives, which certainly results in being able to make more informed decisions," Koppinen said.

There are myriad benefits that BIM can bring to a construction project, but here are the three biggest ways in which it has had a positive impact for Skanska:

Better waste management – BIM enables companies to develop a more accurate estimate of the materials needed for projects. For specific evidence, consider



Skanska's Deep Green palette

the retrofit of the St. Bartholomew's and Royal London Hospitals in London being developed by a public-private consortium including Skanska. Using BIM, the group was able to reduce waste plasterboard by more than 44 tons, saving about \$6,800 in disposal costs and reducing the number of deliveries to and from the site. Generally speaking, BIM projects send less waste to landfill than their counterparts, Koppinen said.

Improved energy efficiency – Skanska uses BIM to analyze the energy consumption

scenarios associated with different design approaches. For example, it used BIM to determine that ground source heat pumps had the lowest lifecycle costs for its Harmalanrant a residential development, one that was 25 percent lower than for district heating. BIM was also central to the design of Powerhouse, a collaboration involving Skanska, real estate company Entra Eiendom, architects Snohetta, environmental organization ZERO and aluminum company Hydro. The group is focused on creating energy-positive buildings in colder climates such as Norway. Using BIM, the group is focusing on low-energy consumption, hybrid ventilation approaches, solar power generation scenarios and the use of seawater heat pumps.

Informed facilities management – The Nya Karolinska Solna hospital in Sweden is Skanska's first project using BIM to optimize all aspects of facilities management. Aside from keeping costs down during the construction phase, the models will be used for the next 28 years by the hospital facilities to ensure that materials and fittings perform up to environmental expectations and as a guide for fine-tuning building operational processes.

BIM adoption reach 71 percent in North America in 2012, rising dramatically from 17 percent in 2007, according to data released in January by McGraw-Hill Construction. Factors for the increase include better profits, more accurate documentation, less rework and shorter project timelines.

"Over the next 10 years, building owners will demand every-increasing usage of BIM as a precondition, ushering in a new era of accuracy, quality and sophistication for the building industry," said Patrick MacLeamy, CEO of design firm HOK and chairman of buildingSMART International, about the McGraw-Hill research.

Heather Clancy, GreenBiz senior writer, is an award-winning business journalist specializing in coverage of transformative technology and in translating tech-speak into business benefits. Her articles have appeared in Entrepreneur, Fortune Small Business, the International Herald Tribune and The New York Times.

Are Green Rating Systems Still Going Strong?



For years, the talk of construction has centered on how to make buildings more efficient. Technology can help by improving processes throughout construction, while also providing a bit of automation in facilities and homes to enable the building to operate as efficiently as possible. Now, the industry could be taking a slight step back, as some green standards could soon be phased out.

Recently, the U.K. Green Building Council, www.ukgbc.org, London, England, announced the Dept. for Communities and Local Government published its consultation on Housing Standards, which has a number of planned changes including phasing out the Code for Sustainable Homes.

The U.K. Green Building Council warns the omission of materials and ecology could risk losing momentum that has transformed the way homes have been built throughout the last seven years. The final consultation was scheduled to close on October 22.

This isn't the first green standard to come into question, as of late. Earlier this year, there was some speculation in the construction industry whether the GSA (General Services Admin.), www.gsa.org, Washington, D.C., would continue to require the use of LEED on public facilities when the administration announced in February it was seeking additional input from the public regarding the federal government's use of third-party green building certification systems.

A letter sent to the GSA last July stated 1,260 companies from the green building industry oppose deviating from LEED in federal facilities because a change would add cost to the building and leasing process across the industry.

While the fate of government mandated green-building standards seems to hang in the balance for now, construction companies and corporate owners are still interested in obtaining greater efficiencies in facilities. In July, Skanska USA, www.usa.skanska.com, New York, N.Y., resigned as a member of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, protesting the Chamber's backing of an initiative that could reduce the future use of LEED for government buildings.

The Chamber is supporting the American High-Performance Building Coalition, which opposes the implementation of a new LEED certification program that encourages transparency in reporting the chemical composition of building materials. Skanska says this could undermine the LEED program and cripple the progress of green construction.

While interest in green building within the construction community remains strong, it will be interesting to watch the government's objectives for green building going forward. One thing remains, even as standards come into question, technology can help builders and contractors build structures as efficiently as possible.

—Constructech

PRODUCT NEWS

New ZipRunner™ Ultimate Floor Protection from ZipWall

Protects any surface from spills, dust and minor impacts. And it's reusable

ZipRunner™ product is better than drop cloths, runners and carpet films because it's absorbent and leak proof. Spills won't soak through because it's backed with an impermeable plastic barrier. The non-woven



material also traps dust tracked into the job site and it helps resist minor impacts.

In addition, it can be used with ZipWall double sided tape. The tape holds the ZipRunner Ultimate Floor Protection material in position on smooth flooring, carpet, and other surfaces.

ZipRunner rolls are available in 2 lengths: 1 meter wide x 10 meter long (33') and 1 meter wide x 30 meter long (98').

For more information go to www.zipwall.com.

Bosch Expands Innovative Click & Go System with New L-Rack

Customizable expansion system provides instant organization capability for increased versatility

As the newest addition to Bosch Power Tools' customizable Click & Go™ system, the L-Rack allows professionals to expand their current storage system for increased organizational capability and versatility. Launching this month, the L-Rack features convenient single-click stacking and can be used to add additional storage to L-Boxes or to create a custom organization system. The Click & Go storage system continues to help users stay organized and get tools on and off



the jobsite faster, so they can spend less time setting up and more time being productive.

The L-Rack is available as a standalone system or as individual pieces. The standalone system comes complete with one i-boxx53 thin tray, two LST72-OD drawers, three L-Rack shelves, and one L-Rack-T top carry handle. While this system can be expanded by adding additional shelves, it is not meant to be taken apart. Alternatively, users can purchase the L-Rack-S and L-Rack-T, which are compatible with L-Boxes and L-Boxx trays. Contractors, plumbers, electricians and HVAC professionals can mix and match any of the above items to create their own personalized storage solution to meet individual, company, trade or job-specific needs to work easily and effectively.

To maximize the L-Rack's organization capabilities, Bosch also launched the ST72-OD, a thinner drawer that offers users quick-access storage, as well as four new organization sets. The newest generation of modular organizers makes it easy to sort and store large quantities of smaller consumables, creating the ultimate portable tool box. The new ORG53-Red and ORG72-Red 26-piece organizers are compatible with the i-boxx53 and i-boxx72, respectively, while the ORG1A-Red and ORG1A-Yellow 32-piece organizations systems fit the L-Boxx-1A.

The Click & Go storage system featuring the L-Boxx is available in five sizes and fully customizable with foam, plastic inserts, drawers and Exact-Fit™ insert trays sold separately. Every L-Boxx quickly fits together with one-click stacking for easy handling and transport with the L-Cart and L-Dolly. The Click & Go system organizes more than 90,000 nuts and bolts and houses more than 100 types of power tools, making it the ultimate in customized organization and efficiency.

The complete L-Rack system is available now at authorized dealers nationwide for a suggested retail price of \$129.00. Individual pieces are also currently available. The L-Rack-S retails for a suggested price of \$29.00 and the L-Rack-T has a suggested

retail price of \$19.00. The LST72-OD retails for \$14.00. ORG53-Red and ORG72-Red are available for a suggested retail price of \$24.00, while ORG1A-Red and ORG1A-Yellow retail for a suggested price of \$29.00.

To find out more or to locate a dealer, visit www.boschtools.com or call 877-BOSCH-99.

Armstrong Ceiling & Wall Systems Honored With Six Construction Excellence Awards

Armstrong Ceiling & Wall Systems was recognized this year in six Construction Excellence Awards by the Ceilings and Interior Systems Construction Association (CISCA).

The awards, which were presented at CISCA's annual convention held earlier this year in San Antonio, TX, recognize the contribution Armstrong ceiling and wall products made to six different award-winning projects, including three Gold awards, two Silver awards, and one Bronze award.

The Gold award projects included the offices of a leading hedge fund company in New York City; the Nashville Music City Center in Tennessee, and the Gateway Community College Integrated Education building in Phoenix, AZ.

The two Silver award projects included the Miami International Airport North Terminal and the Phoenix Health Sciences Education Building. The Bronze award project was the Bayer Interventional Corporate Offices in Coon Rapids, MN.

Judged by Panel of Industry Experts

The awards competition is judged by a panel of industry representatives on the basis of the quality of the job, job conditions, complexity of the job, and the overall finished project.

For additional information on Armstrong ceiling and wall systems, visit armstrong.com/commceilingsna.

Armstrong World Industries, Inc. is a global leader in the design and manufacture of floors and ceilings. In 2012, Armstrong consolidated net sales from continuing operations totaled approximately \$2.6 billion. Based in Lancaster, Pa., Armstrong operates 34 plants in eight countries and has approximately 8,700 employees worldwide.

PRODUCT NEWS

All Steel Stud Association Members Achieve Code Compliance

The Certified Steel Stud Association (CSSA) announced today that ALL members have achieved CSSA Code Compliance Certification. The CSSA worked closely with the ICC Evaluation Service (ICC-ES) to develop an industry leading code compliance program, and ICC-ES is the administrator of the CSSA Code Compliance Program.



Starting immediately all certified facilities will be placing the CSSA/ICC-ES Certification label on all ViperStud and Structural Stud and Track.

A public list of certified facilities is maintained on www.certifiedsteelstud.com. A list of certified facilities is also maintained in ICC-ES ESR-2620 and ESR-3016. Please refer to the CSSA Code Compliance Certification Supplement in ESR-2620 (p.8-9) and ESR-3016 (p. 24-25) for more information.

The sole purpose of CSSA is to enroll distributor-friendly manufacturer members into the certification program managed by ICC-ES; a subsidiary of the International Code Council (ICC), which develops the International Building Code (IBC). ICC-ES is an ANSI accredited listing agency fully complying with section 1703 of the IBC.

CSSA Chairman Chip Gardner says "By partnering with ICC-ES and giving ICC-ES complete control over code compliance certification, the CSSA is leading the way with the most widely recognized and industry leading code evaluation agency. The CSSA looks forward to continuing to promote 3rd party code compliance verification for the industry."

The Certified Steel Stud Association (CSSA) founded by CEMCO, Marino\WARE and Telling is an organization dedicated to code compliance certification for steel stud manufacturers. Our approach ensures that building owners, contractors and distributors receive metal framing products that meet the most recent building codes. CSSA is proud to partner with ICC-ES for a 3rd party certification program. For more information please visit www.certifiedsteelstud.com.

Wind-lock is Now Carrying HydroGap Drainable Housewrap

Wind-lock is now stocking HydroGap Drainable Housewrap by Benjamin Obdyke.

To accompany their current offering of moisture management products from Benjamin Obdyke, Wind-lock is now carrying HydroGap Drainable Housewrap. This innovative product allows construction professionals to effectively eliminate excess moisture from an exterior wall and prevent the damaging effects of mold and rot.



"HydroGap is a fantastic new water management product that provides a true drainage space between the sheathing and cladding material," states Carter Benjamin, Executive Vice President at Wind-lock. "We feel that this system is a great fit for many of our weatherization customers."

In addition to the housewrap itself, Wind-lock is also carrying HydroFlash Self-Adhered Flashing and HydroTape Housewrap Seam Tape to ensure that you have everything you need while on the job.

For additional information and product literature, call Wind-lock's toll free number at 800-872- 5625 or visit their Facebook and Twitter pages.

The New Stanley® Fatmax® Ratcheting Adjustable Wrenches

Stanley® announced the introduction of two new FatMax® ratcheting adjustable wrenches – models FMHT72184 and FMHT72185 – 8 and 10 inch, respectively.



Global Product Manager Tom Chang said, "The FatMax® Ratcheting Adjustable Wrenches provide users with an experience

that is worlds apart from traditional adjustable wrenches. Users no longer need to reposition the wrench after every rotation, they only need to select the unlocked position and the wrench will ratchet back to allow for another rotation." The ratcheting function helps users complete jobs quickly, especially in confined areas where wrench travel is restricted.

Both wrenches feature the ability to lock, allowing users to switch between ratcheting and non-ratcheting functionality. Laser-etched jaw scales, in both SAE and metric, offer easy to read markings for fastener size adjustment. The adjustment mechanism is knurled to prevent slipping, allowing for quick and precise adjustment. The wide jaw capacity accommodates a variety of fasteners.

The Stanley® FatMax® Ratcheting Adjustable Wrenches will be in September 2013 at mass retailers and in the independent channel. The FMHT72184 and FMHT72185 will retail for approximately \$19.99 and \$24.99, respectively.

Hunter Panels Xci Division Announces Their Latest New Product: Xci 286 For Exposed Interior Wall Applications

Portland, Maine-based Hunter Panels has announced the immediate availability of their new wall insulation product: Hunter Xci 286.



This versatile new product has been designed for exposed interior wall or ceiling use across a wide range of commercial, residential, industrial, agricultural and metal building applications.

Continued on following page

PRODUCT NEWS

Continued from preceding page

Hunter Xci 286 is an energy-efficient rigid foam insulation made with a Polyisocyanurate (Polyiso) foam core in between glass fiber reinforced foil facers, one side being reflective and the other non-reflective. New Hunter Xci 286 is ideal for exposed interior wall or ceiling use in new construction or in retrofitting existing buildings. This new product features all the benefits of Polyiso insulation including: the highest R-value per inch with the thinnest profile, ease of installation, light weight and it is available in standard 25 PSI – making it a more durable product than the competition.

The versatile design of Hunter's Xci 286 means distributors can stock fewer SKUs due to the new product's multiple uses and applications. Hunter Xci 286 panels have passed NFPA 286 specifications and may be left exposed on the interior of buildings with no additional thermal barrier necessary.

Hunter Xci 286 is available in standard 4'X8' panels or custom sizes from 1-inch to 3.1-inch thickness with R-values from 6.3 to 19.5.

See more at: <http://www.gypsumtoday.com/news/viewnews.pl?id=2185#sthash.qwiRcdVM.dpuf>

Field-Trimable Strong-Wall® SB Shearwall From Simpson Strong-Tie

The new Strong-Wall® SB is a prefabricated wood shearwall designed to provide enhanced design flexibility and greater lateral-force-resistance performance for a broad range of custom applications. In areas susceptible to seismic activity or high winds, the Strong-Wall SB shearwall provides structural support



comparable to steel shearwalls in narrow panel widths. The design flexibility of the Strong-Wall SB enables installers to easily place them to support two-story structures, garage portals and large openings.

Features include:

- Field trimmable for custom applications and rake walls

- Available in 12", 18" and 24" widths for design flexibility

- Available in heights from 7'-13' and 20' for tall wall framing and multi-story structures
- Provides easy-to-use fastening surfaces and drill zones

See the Strong-Wall SB Shearwall catalog, for installation details, technical and load data, anchorage solutions, and more at www.strongtie.com.

MQ Powerbalance™ Provides Enhanced Reliability For Tier 4 Generators In Any Situation

Multiquip, a diverse manufacturer and supplier of world class quality products and solutions, is pleased to announce MQ PowerBalance, a patent pending system to ensure reliable operation of Tier 4 diesel generators through all weather conditions and loads.



"Consistent, reliable and clean power generation is what our customers demand from our MQ Power Tier 4 generators," said Torsten Erbel, the vice president for product management, engineering and support, for Multiquip. "The addition of PowerBalance technology will assist Tier 4 generators deliver the performance and reliability that customers expect from Multiquip."

Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) mandates have placed very

restrictive engine emission requirements on all diesel engine manufacturers doing business in the United States. Latest generation diesel engines, supporting interim Tier 4 and Tier 4 Final emission directives, are designed to continually clean the engine exhaust to ensure EPA emissions compliance.

The Tier 4 engine and emission system can experience problems when running at low temperature and/or low loads. During these conditions, excess soot build up can result in poor performance and untimely shutdowns.



MQ Power's PowerBalance is an integrally-mounted load bank system designed to apply a supplemental resistive load to the generator when operated under low temperature and/or low load conditions. It constantly monitors, senses, and manages the exhaust temperature and/or load. No additional monitoring is required to keep the generator continually running and providing the reliable power needed.

For more information on the MQPowerBalance technology, please contact the sales team directly at sales@multiquip.com.

USG Introduces Easy-to-Install Waterproofing System for Tiled Showers

USG Corporation has introduced its new DUROCK Shower System, a fully-bonded waterproofing system for tiled shower installations designed to control moisture independently of the tile covering, while creating a solid base for a long-lasting shower. The system reduces installation time by featuring pre-sloped foam shower trays that

PRODUCT NEWS

install more quickly than conventional shower bases constructed of dry pack mortar; a thin, pliable, and extremely durable waterproofing membrane; and an easy-to-install drain assembly that accepts all DUROCK Shower System four-inch or five-inch grates.

USG offers more than 50 different grate options (sold separately) in up to 10 finishes including: Oil Rubbed Bronze, Brushed Stainless, Polished Stainless, Pewter, Satin Gold, Black Chrome, Antique Copper, Brushed Nickel, Polished Nickel and Chrome.

For information about USG's DUROCK Shower System or any other USG tile and flooring solutions, please visit www.DurockShowerSystem.com or www.USG.com.

Hilti Presents Its PR 2-HS Rotating Laser

The Robust Jobsite Solution

The new Hilti PR 2-HS Rotating Laser was built to withstand harsh jobsite conditions while providing best in class leveling time.

With this new tool, transferring heights, setting slopes or simple leveling are made easy with clearly defined function buttons.

With integrated Hilti Pulse Power



technology users will see highly reliable readings (an accuracy of +/- 0.02 inch at 32.8 ft) even under bright light conditions. The operating range for the new PR 2-HS is 6 ft-2,000 ft diameter with the included laser receiver.

This ruggedly built tool with shock absorbing improvements means it is designed to resist a drop from a tripod at standard working heights. And with the added IP 66

rating making the PR 2-HS dust tight and water resistant, it is sure to withstand some of the harshest jobsite conditions.

Hilti lasers are highly accurate measuring tools-- even with Hilti's built-in protection features, such instruments can be affected over time by everyday use. The PR 2-HS Rotating Laser is backed by Hilti Calibration Service to provide reliability and accuracy. When sent to Hilti for repair, the PR 2-HS

will be calibrated and adjusted as needed, with the calibration confirmed in writing for professional assurance. The PR 2-HS is also covered by Hilti's Lifetime Service, a unique service agreement that includes two years of no-cost coverage. *

For more information about the Hilti PR 2-HS Rotating Laser, please contact Hilti Customer Service, at 1-800-879-8000 or visit www.us.hilti.com.

Gypsum Association Releases New Document on Ceiling Cracking

The Gypsum Association has released GA-227-13, "Recommendations for the Prevention of Ceiling Cracking." The publication outlines methodologies for mitigating cracking in large span gypsum board ceilings due to fluctuations in temperature and humidity.

GA-227-13 explains that ceiling cracks can appear at gypsum board joints when the span between framing members approaches or exceeds 15 feet. The centerline cracks can occur because materials such as gypsum board and wood framing shrink and expand at different rates due to periodical changes in moisture content (i.e. hygrometric coefficient of expansion) and temperature (i.e. thermal coefficient of expansion). To address the issue, the document details how resilient channels can reduce the occurrence of cracking.

"The methods for the use of resilient channels described in this document have been shown to be very effective in preventing ceiling cracks due to swings in temperature and moisture content of wood framing—particularly in long spans," said Robert Wessel, Ph.D., FASTM, senior director of technical services for the Gypsum Association. "The swings usually occur during a change in season from summer to winter or in dry areas such as desert environments."

Electronic copies of GA-227-13 are available free of charge and can be downloaded from the publications section of the Gypsum Association web site at www.gypsum.org. The document will soon be available in French to serve French speaking areas of Canada.

The Gypsum Association is in its 83rd year of service as the technical, promotion, and information center of the gypsum industry. The Association,

See more at: <http://www.gypsumtoday.com/news/viewnews.pl?id=2188#sthash.iWbQcSkn.dpuf>

PRODUCT NEWS

Milwaukee® Cordless M18 Fuel™ Sawzall® Recip Saw Delivers Corded Performance

Milwaukee Tool continues to deliver industry leading cordless innovation with the introduction of the first cordless reciprocating saw to deliver true corded performance without the cord. Delivering up to 2X more



run time, 30% faster cutting and 5X longer tool life, the M18 FUEL™ SAWZALL® reciprocating saw is the most powerful 18V cordless reciprocating saw on the market.

“Milwaukee invented the recip saw in 1951, and the SAWZALL® has led the industry in both durability and performance for over 60 years,” says Christian Coulis, Director of Marketing for Milwaukee Tool Corporation. “With the renowned reputation and history of the SAWZALL®, coupled with Milwaukee’s expertise and leadership in cordless technology, we are very proud to deliver a new SAWZALL that will truly be a game changer for the industry.”

As with all M18 FUEL™ products, the new SAWZALL® was engineered for the most demanding tradesmen in the world. Delivering unrivaled performance in a compact structure, M18 FUEL™ products feature three Milwaukee®-exclusive innovations — the POWERSTATE™ Brushless Motor, REDLITHIUM™ XC4.0 Battery Pack and REDLINK PLUS™ Intelligence Hardware and Software — that deliver unmatched power, run-time and durability.

The POWERSTATE™ Brushless Motor works harder, lives longer, and converts energy into power more efficiently, giving the M18 FUEL™ SAWZALL® the ability to deliver 30% faster cutting at the same level of power as some corded saws. It is completely designed, engineered and built by Milwaukee Tool to deliver years of maintenance-free performance with no wearable components, no losses due to vibration and less heat build-up.

REDLINK PLUS™ Intelligence hardware

and software is the most advanced electronic system on the market. It integrates full-circle communication between tool, battery and charger to protect them from overloading, overheating, and over-discharging. These protections help maintain ideal conditions for maximum application performance.

Milwaukee REDLITHIUM™ XC4.0 batteries provide up to 2X more run-time and recharges than standard Lithium-Ion batteries and deliver best-in-class performance in extreme job-site conditions. With Milwaukee® durability built into each pack, the REDLITHIUM™ XC4.0 battery operates cooler and performs in climates below 0°F/-18°C with fade free power. A battery fuel gauge also displays remaining charge for less down time on the job.

The M18 FUEL™ SAWZALL recip saw also features Milwaukee’s patented gear protecting clutch and mechanism design which is responsible for delivering the legendary performance and durability found only in the corded SAWZALL® until now. With the combination of this mechanism, the POWERSTATE brushless motor and REDLINK PLUS, the new tool provides up to 5X longer life than competitive units.

In addition, the new cordless tool features an adjustable shoe, an integrated LED light, and a hang hook for easy storage on the job. All M18 FUEL™ products include the new multi-voltage charger to allow users to charge all M12™ and M18™ batteries with one charger.

Available now, the new M18 FUEL™ SAWZALL® Recip Saw is a true testament to Milwaukee’s focus on the user and investment in game changing technology.

For more information on M18 FUEL™, please visit <http://www.milwaukeetool.com/system/m18-fuel>.

Parex Introduces Cooler And Stronger EIFS Basecoats & Adhesives

New 121 Cool Base and 121 Dry HI Now Available

Parex USA, Inc., the parent company of leading building material brands; Parex, Teifs, LaHabra, El Rey, and Merkrete, unveils two new Parex EIFS basecoats & adhesives - 121 Cool Base and 121 Dry HI (High Impact). Designed with the contractor in mind, the two new products boast extreme coolness and

unsurpassed strength.

121 Cool Base is a premium, white EIFS basecoat & adhesive that is incomparable in the industry. It produces a 30 percent cooler basecoat temperature than typical basecoats & adhesives, which results in less suction and hydration when a final finish is applied. This technology allows for improved finish coverage as well as a faster and easier finish application.

“With the potential of improved finish coverage and ease of finish application, Parex’s new 121 Cool Base is set to make a big impact in the market,” said Heidi Larsen, Parex USA Product Manager. “When we presented a sneak peak of this product to contractors during our annual meeting, it was received with enthusiasm and overwhelming interest. Everyone was amazed at the drastic temperature differences between 121 Cool Base and standard EIFS basecoats & adhesives.”

Parex also introduces 121 Dry HI - a high performance EIFS basecoat & adhesive that is fortified with a unique blend of raw materials for increased impact and puncture resistance. It yields up to 30 percent better impact resistance (compared to standard EIFS basecoats & adhesives). 121 Dry HI is formulated for enhanced workability and provides easier application. This product is ideal for ground floors and other areas where greater impact resistance is required.

“In addition to providing 30 percent more impact resistance, 121 Dry HI also helps achieve higher ASTM/EIMA impact classifications,” said Larsen. “Typically, to achieve a “High” impact classification, a High Impact mesh (15 oz.) plus an additional layer of Standard Mesh (4.5 oz.) is required. Now, you can achieve a “High” impact classification utilizing a single layer of Intermediate Mesh (12 oz.) embedded in 121 Dry HI.” This system greatly reduces material and labor costs.

121 Cool Base and 121 Dry HI are one-component, polymer-modified, cement based dry products that are used as an adhesive to adhere EPS boards to existing substrates, a basecoat to embed reinforcing mesh and a leveler in Parex EIF Systems. Both 121 Cool Base and 121 Dry HI are shipped in 50 pound bags. Coverage, mixing instructions and limitations can be found in the Product Data Sheet at www.parex.com.

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PAREX



PRODUCT NEWS



Goodwill Partnership Recycles More Than 400,000 Pounds from CertainTeed Gypsum Manufacturing Facility

As part of a recycling partnership between CertainTeed’s Moundsville, W.Va., gypsum manufacturing facility and Zanesville Welfare Organization and Goodwill Industries Inc. of Zanesville, Ohio, employees at the plant diverted more than 400,000 pounds of waste from landfills last year. While recycling began shortly after the plant opened in 2008, the relationship with Goodwill began in mid-2011. The partnership with Goodwill was the seed that has steadily grown as part of CertainTeed’s broader commitment to continuously improving the sustainability of its products and operations.

Through the program, Goodwill Industries collects, sorts and processes recycled materials received from CertainTeed while providing jobs to help individuals in the community improve their quality of life. In the first quarter of 2013, the program collected more than 145,000 pounds of materials from the Moundsville plant, including plastic, shrink wrap, electronics, batteries, brown paper rolls, semi-bulk bags, wood pallets and corrugated cardboard—putting these necessary byproducts of the

plant’s operations to good use.

“As part of our plant’s ongoing environmental programs, our team discovered that there were waste materials that weren’t being recycled because they were too large or too inconvenient to transport, and we did not have room to hold a full truckload of recyclable material,” said Charles Johnson, Moundsville plant manager. “Goodwill Industries was able to accommodate us at a moment’s notice if we need to make room with scheduled and non-scheduled pickups, and it’s great knowing we’re contributing to a program that’s helping create jobs in the community.”

The recycling program has also inspired the employees at the plant to keep waste reduction and environmental stewardship top-of-mind in every aspect of their jobs.

“Seeing the amount of waste recycled through this partnership also helps us explore new ways to reduce waste,” Johnson added. “The recycling bins are a constant visual reminder to continually improve how we do things.” •

OSHA Signs Alliance for Safety of Female Construction Workers

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration has signed an alliance with the National Association of Women in Construction to develop training resources to protect women in the construction industry. The alliance will focus on musculoskeletal and sanitation hazards and issues related to poorly-fitting personal protective equipment.

“Safety and health problems in construction create barriers to women entering and remaining in this field,” said Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health Dr. David Michaels. “Through this alliance, we will work together to forge innovative solutions to improve the safety, health and working conditions for women in the construction trades and retain female workers during a critical time of job shortages in this industry.”

During the two-year agreement, the alliance intends to develop training programs, fact sheets and other outreach resources on musculoskeletal hazards, sanitation and PPE selection. The alliance will focus on these and other safety and health issues specific to female construction workers.

Based on a recommendation from the Advisory Committee on Construction Safety and Health, OSHA this week also unveiled its new Women in Construction Web page, a site that outlines and addresses safety and health issues specific to female construction workers, including PPE, sanitary facilities and other resources.

For more information on the alliance, visit the OSHA-NAWIC Web page. The agreement will remain in effect for two years. Visit OSHA’s Women in Construction Web page for more information about OSHA regulations and resources for women in construction.

NAWIC, founded in 1955 as a support network for women working in the construction industry, has more than 150 chapters and represents 4,500 members nationwide. As of 2010, there were about 800,000 women working in the construction industry, roughly nine percent of the industry workforce.

Through its Alliance Program, OSHA works with unions, consulates, trade and professional organizations, faith- and community-based organizations, businesses and educational institutions to prevent workplace fatalities, injuries and illnesses. The purpose of each alliance is to develop compliance assistance tools and resources and to educate workers and employers about their rights and responsibilities. Alliance Program participants do not receive exemptions from OSHA inspections or any other enforcement benefits. For more information, visit <http://www.osha.gov/dcsp/alliances/index.html>.

Under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, employers are responsible for providing safe and healthful workplaces for their employees. OSHA’s role is to ensure these conditions for America’s working men and women by setting and enforcing standards, and providing training, education and assistance. For more information, visit <http://www.osha.gov>.

Source: U.S. Labor Department

- See more at: <http://www.woodworkingnetwork.com/wood-market-trends/woodworking-industry-trends-press-releases/OSHA-Signs-Alliance-for-Safety-of-Female-Construction-Workers-220965031.html?ref=031#sthash.aEbu15J.dpuf> •

DOL Chief Comments On Fatal Occupational Injuries In 2012

Preliminary results from the Bureau of Labor Statistics’ National Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries released the end of August show a reduction in the number of fatal work injuries in 2012 compared with 2011. Last year, 4,383 workers died from work-related injuries, down from a final count of 4,693 fatal work injuries in 2011. Based on preliminary counts, the rate of fatal workplace injuries in 2012 was 3.2 per 100,000 full-time equivalent workers, down from a rate of 3.5 per 100,000 in 2011.

In response, Secretary of Labor Thomas E. Perez issued the following statement:

“Workers in this country have the right to return home safe and healthy at the end of a work day. Despite that right, poor safety conditions cause thousands of people each year to lose their lives at work.

“I am greatly encouraged by the reduction in workplace fatalities, even in a growing economy. It is a testament to the hard work of employers, unions, health and safety professionals and the Labor Department’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration and Mine Safety and Health Administration.

Through collaborative education and outreach efforts, and effective law enforcement, these numbers indicate that we are absolutely moving in the right direction.

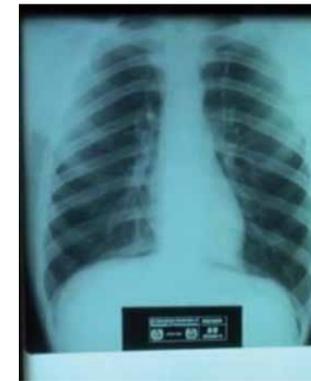
“But to me these aren’t just numbers and data – they are fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters, who will never come home again.

“We can and must do better. Job gains in oil and gas and construction have come with more fatalities, and that is unacceptable. That’s why OSHA has undertaken a number of outreach and educational initiatives, including a campaign to prevent falls in construction and the National Voluntary Stand Down of U.S. Onshore Oil and Gas Exploration and Production, co-sponsored by oil and gas industry employers and planned for November 14. Employers must take job hazards seriously and live up to their legal and moral obligation to send their workers home safe every single day. The Labor Department is committed to preventing these needless deaths, and we will continue to engage with employers to make sure that these fatality numbers go down further.

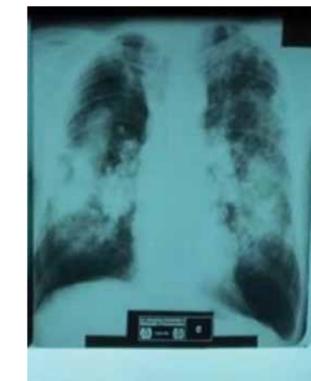
“No worker should lose their life for a paycheck.” •

OSHA Announces Proposed Rule To Protect Workers Exposed To Crystalline Silica

OSHA has announced a proposed rule aimed at curbing lung cancer, silicosis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease



X-ray of healthy lungs.



X-ray of silicosis lungs.

and kidney disease in America’s workers. The agency currently enforces 40-year-old permissible exposure limits (PELs) for crystalline silica in general industry, construction and shipyards that are outdated, inconsistent between industries and do not adequately protect worker health. The proposed rule brings protections into the 21st century.

“This is a proposed rule and not a final rule,” said Dr. David Michaels, assistant secretary of labor for occupational safety and health. “We are inviting and strongly encouraging the public to participate in the process of developing a final rule through submitting written comments and participating in public hearings. Our process of obtaining public input will take many months, and we encourage and welcome the

public to participate.”

Once the full effects of the rule are realized, OSHA estimates

that the proposed rule would result in saving nearly 700 lives per year and prevent 1,600 new cases of silicosis annually. For more information on the proposed rule and how to participate in the rulemaking process, visit OSHA’s silica rulemaking page at www.osha.gov/silica and read Dr. Michaels’ new post on the [DOL blog](http://www.dol.gov).

Public asked to participate in final rulemaking for respirable silica

Notice of proposed rulemaking for respirable crystalline silica has been published in the Federal Register. OSHA invites and strongly encourages the public to participate in the process of developing a final rule through written comments and participation in public hearings. The public will have until Dec. 11, 2013, to submit written comments on the proposed rule.

Hearings on the proposed silica rule are scheduled to begin on March 4, 2014 at the Department of Labor’s Frances Perkins Building in Washington, DC. Members of the public who wish to participate in public hearings must submit a notice of intention to appear by Nov. 12, 2013.

To read the notice of proposed rulemaking, visit <https://federalregister.gov/a/2013-20997>.

Read “AWCI Joins Advocates for Better Silica Regulations” on back page.

New study finds link between occupational safety and health and improved financial performance

In a study published by the Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, researchers have found that superior management of worker safety and health is linked to improved stock market value and returns. The study compared the performances of companies who had won an award for effective injury and illness prevention with those of the 500 leading companies publicly traded in the U.S. stock market over a 15-year period. The safety award winning businesses outperformed the other firms, proving that preventative safety and health management correlates directly with a company’s bottom line.

AWCI Joins Advocates for Better Silica Regulations

The Association of the Wall and Ceiling Industry has joined the concerned voices of the Construction Industry Safety Coalition, a new coalition of national construction industry trade associations that want a practical and cost-effective crystalline silica regulation that will improve the safety and health protection of workers.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration unveiled its proposal for a rule Aug. 23, and it was later published in the Federal Register. The National Association of Home Builders says the “one-size-fits-all measures ... contradict existing safety and quality assurance practices for different types of contractors.”

Under OSHA’s proposed rule, a construction employer would have to measure and keep records of the amount of respirable crystalline silica that its workers are exposed to if it may be at or above 25 micrograms of silica per cubic meter of air, averaged over an eight-hour day. An employer would have to protect its workers if the exposure is above a permissive exposure level of 50 micrograms of silica per cubic meter of air, averaged over an eight-hour day.

Work-related exposures to silica in construction operations are different from those of other industries, because construction tasks and activities are highly variable and change constantly as projects progress. With a complex rule such as the one that OSHA is proposing, the agency will need to consider factors specific to construction.

OSHA’s proposed silica rule may have the largest impact of any rulemaking undertaken by the agency regarding the construction industry, which estimates compliance costs of \$1 billion to \$2 billion per year, at a time when most segments of

the industry have not yet recovered from the economic downturn. In addition, there has already been a 93 percent drop in the rate of silica-related deaths between 1968 and 2007, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

Silica is ubiquitous and occurs in many commonly used building products including concrete, stucco, plaster, bricks/blocks and rocks/stones. Workers can be exposed during certain construction activities such as cutting brick or block, tuck pointing, sawing, grinding or drilling concrete.

The construction industry will likely be saddled with onerous new requirements, and the proposed silica standard may substantially alter its competitive structure. OSHA’s regulatory approach should use the most cost-effective means while still ensuring compliance and worker safety.

The coalition represents thousands of employers working to protect hundreds of thousands of workers in all facets of construction from home building to road repair, and from heavy industrial production



to specialty trade contractors and material suppliers. It was formed to advocate that OSHA develop technologically feasible alternatives for compliance with a silica rule that also address costs and consistency with existing federal regulations and do not overly burden small businesses.

The Construction Industry Safety Coalition members are as follows: Associated Builder and Contractors, Associated General Contractors, Association of the Wall and Ceiling Industry, American Road and Transportation Builders Association, American Subcontractors Association, International Council of Employers of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers, Mason Contractors Association of America, Mechanical Contractors Association of America, National Association of Home Builders, National Electrical Contractors Association, National Roofing Contractors Association. •

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