Progress Continues Towards a Revised NFRC Commercial Ratings Program

Throughout the past year, NFRC’s staff has assessed the pros and cons of the Component Modeling Approach Program (CMA) while looking for ways to increase usage and improve user experience. We have enhanced our market knowledge by engaging subject matter experts with one-on-one interviews, site visits, and focused work group sessions.

The work group sessions identified several critical attributes for a successful program: certification needs to remain outside the critical path of projects, the generation of ratings must be easy and fast, and ratings at specified sizes are necessary for building energy consumption calculations.

The complex and varied nature of the commercial market prevents a single program solution for both residential and commercial use. However, our current proposal looks to bridge-the-gap between programs with one unifying ratings methodology (such as the one being proposed through the Residential Component Based Calculation [RCBC] Task Group). Any method developed to bridge the commercial and residential programs would not change the current residential labeling process.

NFRC’s staff presented an outline for a commercial ratings program to the NFRC Board of Directors prior to the membership meeting in San Diego, on September 25, 2017. The basic premise being considered would provide separate paths to generate commercial ratings dependent upon the type of product being rated: one path for project or custom work and another path for more-standard products that may be reused and benefit from a listing in a certified products directory.

Additional work is necessary to determine the feasibility of using the proposed solution for a revised program. Participants should continue to use current NFRC documents as their guide for commercial ratings.

We will keep membership informed as the process evolves. For questions, please contact April Rawson, NFRC Commercial Program Manager, at 240-821-9508.

NFRC envisions a future where every window, door, and skylight purchase decision is made using the NFRC label to evaluate energy performance.

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