Texas Bureau for Lathing and Plastering

1615 West Abram, Suite 101
Arlington, Texas 76013
Metro (817) 461-0676 - (800) 441-2507
Fax (817) 461-0686

EIFS Update #3 April 2004

Is EIFS durable?

This is a question that comes up occasionally, usually from someone not familiar with EIFS. There is a perception that because of the relatively thin lamina the EIFS system will not perform over the long term. In fact, the durability of EIFS is well documented through the many tests the system must pass before being approved and the more than 30 years of service under actual conditions. There are several performance categories for durability of EIFS. These are:

Fire Performance
EIFS must pass the UBC 26-4 full scale Multi-Story Fire Test, the ASTM E 108 Modified Flame Spread Test and the Radiant Heat Exposure Test, NFPA 268.

Structural Performance
EIFS must pass the Negative Wind Load Test, ASTM E 330. For impact resistance the system must pass ASTM E 695 and ASTM D 2794, the Gardner Impact Test. Under these impact tests the system must be able to resist impacts from 25 to 200 inch pounds depending on the weight of the reinforcing mesh used in the base lamina.

Environmental Durability
EIFS must pass the ASTM E 331 Test for water penetration and the ASTM D 2247 Test for water resistance.

These tests are just a few of the many tests EIFS wall claddings must pass. If you look at the various systems [standard PB, residential drainage and commercial drainage] there are upwards of 30 tests these systems must pass to obtain code approval. Without a doubt EIFS is the most tested wall cladding material used in building construction today.

The Texas Bureau for Lathing and Plastering can be of assistance to architects and specifiers on matters relating to EIFS and Portland Cement Plaster. More information on these materials can be found on our web site, www.tblp.org.

Bob Saindon
Technical Representative