

Building material suppliers must provide assurances that the products they offer will meet safety and performance requirement details in the applicable building code. Typically, these requirements are defined by the performance of the product when tested against a series of established standards. Then, how can a consumer be assured that the products that will be used in the construction of their project do in fact meet all of the requirements? Three common approaches are test reports, specific test listing/labeling reports, and model building code listing/labeling reports.

Approach to Approval	Product Assurance	Code Assurance
Building Code Listing	X	X
Third-Party Listing	X	
Test Results		

In the first approach, supplying test reports, assures the consumer that a sample of the product was submitted to a test laboratory, tested, and provided a specific result. Using test reports as proof of compliance to code requirements presents two challenges. First, the consumer must be familiar with all of the applicable code requirements and know what tests are needed and the performance level required for each test. Second, the test report does not guarantee the delivered product was produced at the same location and used the same process and raw materials as the tested product. If the manufacturing site or process has been changed, the test report may not truly define the performance of the products being used.

The second approach, specific test listing/labeling reports from a third-party quality assurance group, removes the second concern noted above regarding the potential discrepancy between the tested and actual products. To obtain a specific test report to a series of specific test standards, the manufacturer retains an independent certified quality assurance group to visit the manufacturing site, document the process and raw materials being used to produce the product, witness the production

of the product, and mark the product for testing. This witnessed product is then tested and a listing/labeling report is issued. The report provides the manufacturer the right to apply a label from the third-party quality assurance group to the product showing the performance of the product to the specific standards. The third-party quality assurance group then performs periodic audits at the manufacturing site to ensure the process and raw materials have not been changed. This assures the customer that the product being delivered for their project is the same as the product that was tested and meets the specific performance criteria. The customer still needs to be familiar with the code requirements for the product application.

The third approach, model building code listing/labeling reports certifying the product compliance with a specific model code, assures the customer that the product being delivered is the same as the product that was tested, all the required tests were run, and the results meet all of the code requirements. To obtain a model building code report, the manufacturer must do everything required for the specific test listing/labeling report and then submit the report to an agency certified by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) for code compliance reports. This agency reviews the specific test report and the code requirements that would apply to the product and makes the determination if the product meets code. If the product is found to be code complaint, a detailed report is issued documenting this determination. This third approach provides the customer with complete assurance that the product tested meets all code requirements and that the product being delivered is the same as the product that was tested.

Requiring a model building code listing/labeling report verifying code compliance is the most effective way for the specifier or customer to confirm that the actual products intended for installation in their project will meet all of the safety and performance requirements called out in the applicable model building code.