



## **Choosing a Consulting Expert for Stucco Inspection or Review**

It seems that there has lately been a tremendous increase in the number of claims of defective design, workmanship or supervision regarding “stucco” on projects throughout Florida. As a result, there are now a myriad of so called “experts” offering their opinions on design and installation techniques. Unfortunately, many of these consulting “experts” really have little or no knowledge or experience with stucco.

Stucco, though made with Portland Cement, is not concrete and does not behave in the exact same manner. Therefore, having your concrete testing lab examine your project for stucco may or may not prove problematic. By the same token, holding a license as a Certified Engineer or Architect within the State of Florida, does not guarantee any working knowledge

or understanding of the design, installation methodology, Building Code or Reference Standards requirements or intent.

So, how should you choose a Consulting Expert for Stucco. Here are a few tips:

1) Is the potential candidate a member of and participant in any of the following primary organizations?

- American Standards for Testing & Materials (ASTM) – C11.02 & 03 committees.
- Florida Lath & Plaster Bureau

And secondarily, look for these organizations:

- ✓ Florida Walls & Ceilings Contractors Association (FWCCA)
- ✓ Association for Wall & Ceiling Industry (AWCI)
- ✓ Portland Cement Association (PCA)
- ✓ Expanded Metal Lath Association (EMLA)

Continuous participation in these organizations will indicate the level of understanding of the Codes and Standards including the history and intent of such.

2) Does the potential candidate have any actual construction experience (builder, plasterer, etc...)?

3) Is the candidates' experience really in stucco or is it in One-Coat or EIFS systems?

4) Does the potential candidate hold any of the four Certifications from CSI (Construction Specifications Institute)?

- ✓ CDT – Certified Construction Documents Technician
- ✓ CCS – Certified Construction Specifier
- ✓ CCA – Certified Construction Contracts Administrator
- ✓ CCPR – Certified construction Products Representative

5) Is the potential candidate a Florida-based and licensed entity?

Choosing the right consultant may save you valuable time and possibly thousands of dollars in professional and legal fees. Have your consultant give you all the information, “the good, the bad and the ugly.” Knowing where you stand at the outset is the key to successful conclusions.

For further information, contact In-Spex, LLC at [www.in-spexllc.com](http://www.in-spexllc.com) or (407) 588-2561.