



International Masonry Institute

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To BAC Signatory Contractors:

On June 1, MasterSpec updated its tile installer qualifications to include Advanced Certifications for Tile Installers (ACT). As the master guide specification service to the American Institute of Architects, MasterSpec provides resource material to their subscribers that help architects design and specify high-performing installations. Architects and spec writers incorporate MasterSpec's "Installer Qualifications" paragraphs when they want to be sure they have installers who really understand the complexities of qualified installation

The introduction of the ACT Certification language in MasterSpec signifies the design industry's focus on qualified labor. The requirement for qualified labor, and specifically for ACT-certified installers, will effectively eliminate unqualified contractors from bidding tile projects that carry this requirement, and will direct more work to union tile contractors.

Although IMTEF has already certified more installers than any other organization, we must increase our numbers in the coming months if we are going to seize our competitive advantage. If we cannot meet the industry demand for ACT installers, the qualification language will quickly fall out of use. This would be a loss for signatory contractors and their employees.

Here's how you can help ensure that together we take advantage of this new opportunity:

Be Supportive of Efforts to get JATC Instructors Qualified as ACT Evaluators

In order to meet the anticipated demand from the new specifications, we are working with the JATC(s) to qualify more tile instructors as evaluators. Please be supportive of these efforts, and please let us and the JATC know your certification needs so we can ensure they are fully addressed.

Encourage Employees to Become Certified

The new specification requires 1 certified installer for each certification component involved in a project, not that **all** installers be certified. You may, therefore, want to plan strategically for how to man specific projects. The certification components include: Grouts; Large Format Tile & Substrate Preparation; Membranes; Mortar (Mud) Floors; Mortar (Mud) Walls, Shower Receptors; and Gauged Porcelain Tile and Gauged Porcelain Tile Panels/Slabs

The ACT certifications are distinct from training, but our training does support the ACT certifications. Each certification takes between 4 and 8 hours, and requires several days of study time. So encouraging employees to start early is critically important.

Thank you for your assistance in preparing for this important new specification. If you need any additional information, please don't hesitate to contact IMI.