

SOUND TESTING COMPLETED FOR iFORM™



Riverbank Acoustical Laboratories of Geneva, Illinois, recently completed sound tests on Reward's 9" and 11" iForm using a variety of wall finishes. iForm earned an excellent Sound Transmission Class (STC) range from 41 to 65, depending on the size of the form and the finish tested.

According to Kelvin Doerr, director of engineering and technical services, the tests were conducted in June. "Riverbank is an accredited acoustical lab and is recognized as the oldest and most respected acoustical laboratory in the country," said Doerr, "and laboratory testing is regarded as more reliable and accepted than field sound testing."

To determine the STC of a material, sound tests are conducted to measure the loss in sound or noise levels from one side of a wall to the other. The iForm tests were conducted in a 14' wide by 9' high testing frame. The iForms were stacked into the test frame, and steel reinforced concrete was placed into the forms. Transmission loss of

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Reward's Commercial Sales Manager Now a LEED-Accredited Professional

Donn Thompson, AIA, commercial sales manager for Reward Wall Systems, Inc. recently was accredited in the U.S. Green Building Council's (USGBC) Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System. "Having a LEED-Accredited Professional on staff allows the company to provide more accurate information to vendors and customers about sustainable design and construction with our insulating concrete forms," says Reward President Ed Storm.

Thompson also is a licensed architect in the state of Illinois, a member of the American Institute of Architects, and has more than seven years of experience in the ICF industry, including time served on the board of the Insulating Concrete Form Association.



The designers of the Boy Scouts of America's McGinnis Education Center in Pennsylvania, built with Reward walls are working to earn a silver LEED certification for the building.

More than ever, the construction industry is placing a high value on sustainable design and construction practices, and ICFs can play a large role in creating "green" buildings, says Thompson. "ICFs not only increase energy efficiency, but also minimize construction waste, make use of locally derived materials, and capitalize on the green benefits of concrete," he explains. "Reward has long recognized the energy efficiency benefits of building with ICFs, but by supporting me in the accreditation process, the company can now offer much more specific information and examples of how Reward ICFs help to build green."

Thompson says that in addition to expanding his understanding of the green building benefits of ICFs, the accreditation process opens more doors for the company in the realm of sustainable design and construction. "It gives me more credibility, it gives Reward more credibility, and allows us to better target the green building market," he explains.

"In the ICF industry, there is a tendency to exaggerate figures and make wild claims about the performance of some systems," says Thompson. "By going through the accreditation process, I now have a clear understanding of how Reward ICFs can help a project qualify for points toward LEED certification—and Reward can better communicate that to the construction community. We think it's very important to provide excellent, distinct information about the process to our customers."

To achieve LEED certification, projects earn points in six categories covering the different construction phases. Reward ICFs can contribute to a project qualifying for as many as 22 points in four of the six LEED categories. Under the Energy & Atmosphere category, the system helps to minimize energy use and optimize performance. Under Materials & Resources, ICFs incorporate recycled materials, use locally derived resources and minimize construction waste. Under Indoor Environmental Quality, the system improves thermal comfort. Finally, under Innovation & Design Process, ICFs help qualify a project to earn points for innovation in design. ■

REWARD'S UNIVERSAL NON-COMBUSTIBLE RATING CAPTURES A HAMPTON INN PROJECT

Once again, Reward's universal noncombustible rating was the deciding factor for a great project going Reward. "I had tried to get the owner of a proposed Hampton Inn in Oneonta, New York, interested in building with ICFs a few years ago, but the ICF we were distributing then did not have a noncombustible rating suitable for his five-story hotel building," said Jerry Picarazzi, of Picarazzi Building Products in Horseheads, New York. "This time I was ready, thanks to Reward Wall Systems, and persuaded him to build the Hampton Inn using ICFs.

A third ICF brand was bidding for the job, but it, too lacked the proper noncombustible rating, so the job went to Reward and Picarazzi. The noncombustible rating is required for multi-story commercial projects. Reward Wall Systems was the first ICF company to earn a universal noncombustible rating, and its rating remains the best in the industry.

The exterior shell of the four-story, 42,634 square foot structure was completed in just four months, including a substantial parapet, with actual wall construction averaging just 12 days per floor. All interior walls and 50% of the exterior walls are load bearing ICF walls. The remaining exterior walls are non-load bearing ICFs.

The end result has been outstanding according to the hotel's Assistant General Manager Larry Roe. "I have been very impressed by the lack of external noise we get, even though we're located right beside a busy interstate highway," he said. Roe went on to say that the Reward walls provide significant insulating value, and they stand up well against the elements. "This building is very solid. We've had high wind storms, violent thunderstorms and hail since we've been open. We don't hear any of it, let alone feel it. This is definitely a better way to build."

Reward's universal non-combustible rating was essential for this Hampton Inn hotel project.



PROJECT PROFILE

- Oneonta, NY
- Four stories plus parapet
- 42,632 total square feet
- 70 units
- Reward load-bearing exterior walls
- Reward load-bearing interior sound walls
- EIFS exterior finish
- Single ply rubber roof membrane
- ICF pool area
- 11" iForm

ECO-FRIENDLY BEST WESTERN GOES REWARD



Reward ICF walls and several other innovations help make this Best Western hotel ecologically friendly.

PROJECT PROFILE

- Ft. Lauderdale, Florida
- Eleven stories over underground parking level
- 200,000 total square feet
- 125,000 air conditioned square feet
- Hardiboard fiber cement siding and stucco exterior finish
- Old Florida Victorian style Standing seam roof
- 300-ton HVAC
- 9" and 11" iForm

When Parlin Properties and Development, Inc. of Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, decided to build a hotel on 500 feet of ocean-front property, they took a long time to plan it.

"We wanted it to be eco-friendly," said Parlin's president, Steve Kruse, "and ICF walls were a big part of that effort." Parlin, a family-owned developing and holding company, has had experience with ICF construction in the past, and they knew they wanted to use ICFs for the planned Best Western Pelican Beach Resort.

Other eco-friendly features in the hotel in addition to the Reward walls are chilled water air conditioning, a gray water recycling system which yields a 50% reduction in water consumption, tunnel form concrete construction for interior floors and walls that stabilizes temperature fluctuations, and low-e glass.

Icon, Inc. of Ft. Myers, Florida, installed the Reward infill walls on the 12-story structure. "I liked Icon and I liked Reward," said Kruse. "There are always challenges on a project this big, but overall, the project went very well and we are impressed with the results." Kruse explained that by using a combination of Hardiboard fiber cement siding and stucco, the exterior of the building is covered with impervious material that is virtually maintenance free.

Reward and Icon got involved in the project after the underground parking garage, lobby level and part of the second floor were already complete. "Because of Icon's depth of experience with the two Waterside projects in Ft. Myers, this was pretty much a routine job for us," said Harry Pilkington, Icon's general construction manager. Icon, Inc. is the country's largest ICF subcontractor, and completed

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BEST WESTERN (cont. from pg 2)

two ground-breaking high-rise condominium buildings in Ft. Myers Beach, Florida, in 2002 and 2003. Pilkington went on to say that despite some problems in receiving some of the non-Reward building materials on time, the nine full stories of Reward walls were completed in approximately eight weeks.

Kruse expects the Best Western Pelican Beach Resort to be open for business by October 1.

REWARD'S EXTENDED CORNER

Reward's Omaha, Nebraska, manufacturing facility is now in full production with the extended iForm™ 90° corner form that we announced in a letter to our customers last June.

Reward developed the extended corner form in response to suggestions from those who use our products in the field. Extending the corner returns six inches on each end increases the strength of the corner and promotes better concrete placement.

The following table shows how the new extended corners compare with our standard iForm corners:

iForm	Form Size	Wall Area(sq. Feet)
9"-90 Standard	16" x 25" x 13"	4.22
9"-90 Extended	16" x 31" x 19"	5.55
11"-90 Standard	16" x 27" x 15"	4.67
11"-90 Extended	16" x 33" x 21"	6.00
13"-90 Standard	16" x 29" x 17"	5.11
13"-90 Extended	16" x 35" x 23"	6.44

Reward felt that the extended corner was an improvement that should be made, even though it wouldn't be cost effective to do so nationwide right away. Because of the tremendous cost of replacing our factory molds, Reward will continue to produce the standard corner in the other manufacturing facilities until the 90° corner molds in each of those facilities requires replacement. As the standard corner molds wear out, we will replace them with the extended corner molds. This process will take a number of years to complete; therefore, there will be a period of time when some customers will receive the extended corner and some will receive the standard corner.

The standard iForm 90° corner already is acknowledged to be the best on the market, so until the extended corner comes to your area, you still have a state-of-the-art product to use.

SOUND TESTING (cont. from pg 1)

sound at different frequencies was then measured from the source side to the receive side of the wall assembly. The transmission loss values were then used to arrive at a final sound rating, or STC, that is used for comparing the effectiveness of walls to resist airborne sound. The test was conducted in accordance to the ASTM E90 standard.

The 9" and 11" iForms were tested with different wall assembly configurations, such as a bare wall with no finishes, or drywall on one side and bare on the other side, for example. By testing all the different configurations, Reward has very comprehensive sound data for the iForm.

Recently, there has been greater awareness of the adverse effects of excess noise on personal health and comfort, work efficiency and privacy. Some applications where Reward's superior sound abatement are especially beneficial include sound walls in hotels, condos and multi-family buildings; theaters; and structures near airports, busy highways and railroad tracks.

A summary of all the sound test results showing the specific information, along with comparisons to traditional construction is available by calling the Reward corporate office, and it will soon be posted on the Reward Wall Systems web site.



What do The Dueling Pianos and HVAC sizing have in common?

**You can experience them both
at Destination Discovery!**

Join us **January 26 - 28** at the Grosvenor Resort in Orlando for a convention jam-packed with information and fun!

The fun part starts at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, January 26 with the opening reception and The Dueling Pianos.

The information part is two full days of presentations and breakout sessions including an exciting keynote speaker during lunch on Thursday.

Destination Discovery concludes on Friday evening at 7:00 with a closing dinner and awards ceremony.

And just what are The Dueling Pianos? You'll have to be there to find out.

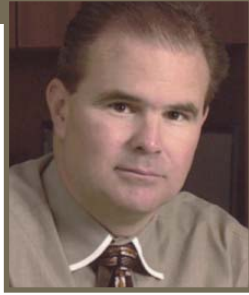
Call **800-551-1314, ext. 207** to make your reservation by October 15, 2004. By the time you read this, you will have less than a month to respond—so hurry!



(schedule of events on page 5)

From the President

by Ed Storm



By now you have received information about Destination Discovery, the 2005 Reward National Convention, and I hope you are making plans to attend.

It is difficult to overstate the value of the convention each year, both for you and for Reward Wall Systems. More than just a series of meetings, the annual Reward convention represents the largest gathering of purely ICF building professionals anywhere. You will never have a better opportunity to meet, trade stories with, and learn from contemporaries with different backgrounds and levels of expertise. In addition, our Reward staff members welcome the chance to meet and visit with you in person, establish or renew relationships, answer questions and talk about our future business together.

Destination Discovery is a great theme for the 2005 convention, because we have planned an excellent lineup of speakers, presentations and group discussions that will enhance your overall knowledge of the ICF industry and provide you with information that will help you to become more effective in your market. I am especially excited about listening to one of the Army Rangers who were involved in the famous Black Hawk Down mission. What he has to say about leadership, tenacity and teamwork should be especially relevant to the challenges small businesses face today.

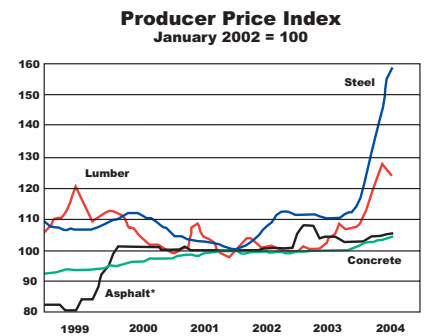
We are one of the few ICF companies who actually hold a convention for our customers, and we do it because we feel that our company is all about relationships. And there is no better way to connect with our customers than face to face at the convention each year.

Destination Discovery takes place in Orlando, Florida, January 26 through January 28, 2005. Don't let this opportunity pass you by. I hope to see you there.

ICF CONSTRUCTION GETS MORE PRICE COMPETITIVE

The 2004 building season has been a challenging one, and not just because of the weather. The prices of building materials throughout the construction industry have increased dramatically this year, making it a difficult operating environment for homebuilders and other construction professionals.

Just look at the figures quoted by Bill Lurtz, Senior Editor at HousingZone in his article of April 1, 2004. *"The prices that many home builders pay for oriented strand board (OSB) structural panels have tripled since fall. The cost of dimensional framing lumber is up more than 37% since April, according to Random Lengths, which tracks lumber prices at the mills. Many steel products doubled in price during that same time. And more costs might find their way into new homes from the increase in crude oil prices."*



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

And according to Jerry Howard, executive vice president and CEO of NAHB, "...rising wholesale prices of building materials have added \$5,000 to \$7,000 to the cost of building an average new home, and construction delays caused by supply shortages could translate into further cost increases."

While ICF building professionals are experiencing the same pricing stresses for non-ICF materials as other builders, the prices for ICFs themselves have remained more stable than other building materials prices. "So far in 2004, ICFs are continuing to make progress in closing the price gap," said Hank Pfeiffer, who in his capacity as chief operating officer at Reward keeps close track of the direction and changes in the ICF industry. "Raw materials for ICFs have increased at a slower rate, making ICF construction more competitive," he added.

Reward Wall Systems continues to do as much as possible to minimize the effects of price increases by absorbing many of the increases for raw materials we receive ourselves before raising prices to our customers.

Increased prices for raw materials affect the bottom line of everyone in the construction industry, from manufacturer to homeowner. But because of these increases, homeowners and builders are looking for alternatives to standard construction, and ICF building professionals have an opportunity for, rather than an obstacle to, new business. ■

Constructing and Installing Wood Door and Window Bucks

Because building codes do not allow dimensional lumber to be in contact with concrete, ICF wall installers must give special consideration to the construction and installation of wood door and window bucks.

Methods of Wood Buck Construction

There are three main methods of constructing wood door and window bucks:

1. Run the wood buck all the way across the width of the Reward insulating concrete form
2. Inset or recess the buck into the cavity of the form
3. Use plywood in combination with 2x cleats

Method 1

Probably the most common method used by contractors, the 2x buck is placed so that the ends are flush with the inside and outside face of the ICF wall. Depending upon the form width, the 2x will vary in size. Some form sizes require taking a large width 2x and ripping it to the form dimension.



Method 2

This method may be utilized for projects that will have a stucco exterior finish or when thermal breaks is a concern. The 2x material is placed flush into the cavity of the form.



Method 3

This method may be used to save on the cost of the buck, which is an advantage because of the higher costs of lumber recently. It also provides a wider flange for fastening around the opening. A 2x6 ripped in half is fastened to 3/4" pressure-treated plywood.

A slot in the bottom or sill of the buck must be built to allow for proper placement and consolidation of the concrete below the opening. Reward recommends that you pre-build the bucks to the rough opening dimensions off-site to increase on-site productivity.

Anchoring the Bucks to the Concrete

Regardless of the wood buck method you use, the buck must be anchored to the concrete wall using nails, screws or anchors.

Wood in Contact with Concrete - Choosing the Buck Material and Fasteners

Regular dimensional wood should never be in direct

contact with the concrete. If regular dimensional lumber is used as bucks or sill plates, a moisture resistant barrier must be placed between the buck and the concrete in accordance with the 2003 International Residential Code (IRC), Section R319.1.

Otherwise pressure-treated lumber is used for the bucks and sill plates. Since CCA treated lumber is no longer available and has been replaced by ACQ treated lumber, extra care must be taken in fastening the ACQ lumber to the concrete. You can't really tell the difference between the CCA lumber and the ACQ lumber by sight. To be sure what kind of treated lumber you own, look at the inspection mark or tag on the end of the lumber.

Section R319.3 of the IRC requires that fasteners used with pressure-preservative treated wood be hot-dipped galvanized, stainless steel, silicon bronze or copper. You can't use the same metal fasteners with ACQ lumber as you did with CCA lumber, because ACQ lumber will corrode ordinary galvanized fasteners. Consult with the manufacturer or supplier of fasteners to be sure that you are using the properly coated fastener.

Bracing the Bucks

The buck must be braced every 2' both horizontally and vertically to resist concrete pressures from bowing the buck. The buck must also be kept square by bracing the corners or running a diagonal across the buck. Typical wall bracing is used along each side of the jamb to laterally brace the wall. ■

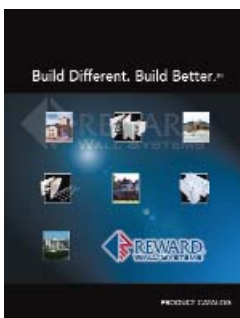
SCHEDULE FOR DESTINATION DISCOVERY

Wednesday, January 26th	
6:30-10:30p.m.	Reception with The Dueling Pianos
Thursday, January 27th	
8:00-8:45a.m.	Breakfast
8:45a.m.	Opening Remarks
9:00-10:00a.m.	Moisture Issues -The Performance of Reward ICFs
10:00-10:30a.m.	Break
10:30-11:00a.m.	Get The Most Out Of Your Local Media
11:00-11:30a.m.	HVAC Sizing Made Easy
11:30-1:30p.m.	Keynote Speaker Lunch
1:30-4:00p.m.	Break Out Sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HVAC Sizing/Moisture • Concrete Pumping Safety Guidelines • 3in1 Financing Program
Friday, January 28th	
8:00-8:45a.m.	Breakfast
8:45-9:15a.m.	Customer Projects
9:15-9:45a.m.	Vendor Presentations
9:45-10:15a.m.	Break
10:30-11:30a.m.	Industry Update
11:30-1:00p.m.	Lunch
1:00-2:00p.m.	LEED—Another Feather In The ICF Cap
2:00-2:30p.m.	Break
2:30-4:00p.m.	Reward: Destination Success
7:00-10p.m.	Closing Dinner

UPDATED MARKETING MATERIALS HELP YOU PUT YOUR BEST FOOT FORWARD

One aspect of Reward's trademark Solid Support is providing you with professional marketing materials that help you communicate the benefits of Reward Wall Systems. We now have three great marketing pieces that will help you put your best foot forward as a Reward builder, dealer or distributor—now, and during the upcoming home show season.

Product Catalog—Featuring a whole new look that will become standard for Reward marketing materials and advertisements, the updated product catalog shows the wide variety of products and services that Reward provides. All the information is complete and up to date from iForm™, eForm™ and ancillary materials to Solid Support™, the product catalog gives a complete picture of why Reward Wall Systems leads the ICF industry in our quality of products and customer service. It's available at a reduced price, too!



Installation Overview—The updated installation overview booklet features graphics and installation information in a nutshell designed for quick understanding of how a Reward wall goes together. We added new graphics showing the iForm ledge form and xLerator™ in addition to updating all product and company information.

Pre-designed Ads—Possibly the most exciting for you is a series of pre-designed ads formatted for your local newspapers, yellow pages, home show programs and Street of Dreams guides. With subjects ranging from storm and fire safety to clean air, energy efficiency and noise abatement, you will find the perfect ad for your situation. They are worded to advertise your company first and Reward Wall Systems second and follow the Reward guidelines for collecting your advertising co-op funds.

Reward will provide the ads free of charge on a CD that also includes iForm and eForm graphics and studio photos as well as all the Reward product logos. To order a CD, simply call Reward customer service at 800-468-6344. ■

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Omaha, Nebraska 68127-1601

