

CSSA Membership

Thank you for your interest in joining CSSA, the metal framing industry's only third party code compliance certification program developed in partnership with ICC Evaluation Services. The sole purpose of CSSA is to enroll distributor-friendly manufacturer members into the certification program managed by ICC-ES; a subsidiary of the International Code Council (ICC), which develops the International Building Code (IBC). The CSSA takes a low-cost and simple approach to code compliance certification. Any manufacturer that produces basic framing products can join the CSSA. Membership comes at one low price for all producing locations of the company. We keep costs low by remaining true to our no frills commitment to certification.

The certification program is administered by the ICC-ES, who has full control and editing rights to change or update the program as it deems appropriate. There are some key requirements to qualify, so please read all of the materials contained herewith. One requirement is that designated stud and track produced by the applicant must be included in the program, and be included in an ICC Evaluation Report. The five steps to joining the CSSA include 1) pre-qualification, 2) document review, 3) board approval, 4) plant certification, and 5) membership activation.

Pre-Qualification

Step one is a thorough pre-qualification process. Receipt of a completed application with all supporting documentation will begin the process. A copy of the application is attached. Be sure to clearly identify who in your organization will be the point person for the process, and how best to reach them. During this phase, the applicant will need to produce documentation including but not limited to the following:

1. Quality control manual conforming to ICC-ES AC10, and covering designated stud and track products produced by the company
2. Current ICC ESR reports desired to cover designated stud and track products manufactured by the company.
3. Signed application by qualified representative
4. Payment of membership fee

The time required for the pre-qualification process will vary based upon the readiness of the applicant to fulfill the required documentation.

Document Review

The second step in the application process is document review. Provided the application has been completed fully and accurately, this should only take a few weeks. If additional information should be needed, an RFI will be issued as soon as possible. The purpose of document review is only to ensure that everything is in order for the CSSA board of directors.

Board Approval

Once ICC-ES has confirmed the qualifications, a ballot for membership will be submitted to the board of directors to review. The board will approve the documents and will approve membership in accordance with CSSA bylaws. Once the ballot is approved, the applicant will receive a copy of the bylaws.

Plant Certification(s)

Upon full payment for first year membership, the applicant will begin the plant certification process. Inspectors from ICC-ES will visit onsite to certify that products are meeting the published reports and code compliance program requirements for all stud and track products at each facility. These are announced inspections, and there is no penalty for a failed inspection. If the plant passes the audit, that facility will be approved for entry into the certification program, a requirement of CSSA membership. If a plant fails the inspection, a corrective action report will be issued, and a follow up inspection will be scheduled as soon as possible. No plant may begin labeling with the CSSA's certification label until membership has been activated.

Membership Activation

Once all facilities have completed successful audits, ICC-ES will notify the CSSA board that the application has been successfully completed. Then a membership certificate will be issued, which will officially activate membership to CSSA. The member location(s) will appear on the CSSA website, and the member may begin using the certification label on all products in accordance with the program.

Membership Benefits

CSSA is the only framing manufacturing association designed for the express purpose of achieving third party certification by ICC Evaluation Services. This keeps member costs very low, the lowest of its kind. Because of the no frills approach, the CSSA is apolitical and laser-focused.

- 1) **ONE PRICE FOR 3RD PARTY CERTIFICATION**
For one price for any company, members enjoy a distinguished certification for code compliance by ICC-ES.
- 2) **CERTIFICATION BY ICC-ES MEANS NO INTERPRETATIVE BIAS**
Other certification programs are developed and run by a board of directors *which includes manufacturers.*
- 3) **ACCESS TO THE CSSA ESR FOR STRUCTURAL FRAMING (IBC 2012)**
The ESR for structural is a shared report for all members.
- 4) **ACCESS TO ESR #2620 FOR VIPERSTUD (LICENSE REQUIRED)**
VIPERSTUD is a proprietary non-structural product which has had excellent acceptance since it was introduced in 2007.
- 5) **CERTIFICATION WILL ALWAYS BE CURRENT TO THE LATEST VERSION OF THE PUBLISHED IBC**
CSSA's program will constantly be updated to the latest improvements.
- 6) **NO PROJECTS OR MARKETING BUDGET MEANS NO ASSESSMENTS**
CSSA has only one thing to prove – that its members are held to the strictest standards for quality and code compliance in the industry.
- 7) **DISTRIBUTOR FRIENDLY**
CSSA proudly supports distributors and their role in the supply chain.