

MCM Certified Fabricator Requirements

The Metal Composite Material Council of the Metal Construction Association has developed the following certification requirements for the purpose of identifying select fabricators that have demonstrated their superior capabilities to deliver outstanding applications of Metal Composite Material panels for architectural applications. The certification requirements have been developed within the context of a quantifiable measurement system for each of the major considerations that make for an excellent application.

The system of measurement is flexible enough to be able to include fabricators that may have exhibited moderate performance in one of the areas, providing that they can compensate with superior performance in other areas.

Specifically each of the areas has a maximum “score” of 10 points. A total minimum “score” of 32 points would yield an acceptable level of performance for the fabricator to be determined to meet the Premium MCM Fabricator rating.

The four areas for consideration and rating system are:

Section 1: Experience

Experience will be defined as the number of consecutive years the MCM fabricator has produced a minimum of 150,000 square feet of architectural walls per year, that are used as the building weathering envelope, utilizing MCM of at least 4 MM.

Applications for residential, specialty applications (signage or containers), or corporate identity where the MCM is not the building weathering envelope are not to be included.

<u>Years</u>	<u>Points</u>
1	1
2	3
3	5
4	8
5	10

Required documentation: The applicant must provide a letter from the MCM manufacturer(s) documenting purchase history of architectural wall panels for the most recent, one to five-year period. Multiple manufacturers will be accepted, provided the total square footage of all architectural wall panels purchased per year is at least 150,000 square feet, in each consecutive year. The letter(s) must be on company letterhead and signed by the vice president of sales or equivalent.

Section 2: Services

Some fabricators do everything from project design, to fabrication, to installation. Other fabricators may subcontract some of these services or not participate in any manner. Therefore, a scale was developed to rate the fabricators, dependent upon their chosen level of involvement with all of the required services.

The scale listed below can yield a total of 10 points:

<u>Criteria</u>	<u>Points</u>
In-house fabrication	5
Installation subcontracts	2
Installation certification program	2
In-house engineering	1

Required documentation:

1. In-house fabrication: the applicant must provide a description of the fabrication process and location of the company-controlled facility.
2. Installation subcontracts: the applicant must provide a list of five subcontract projects within the last 5 years. The information must include a contact name and telephone number.
3. Installation certification program: the applicant must provide a copy of the company's installation certification program.
4. In-house engineering: the application must provide documentation of the number of engineers on staff (e.g., organizational chart, company directory).

Section 3: MCM Systems

Attachment systems, and their performance, are integral to what makes an excellent fabricator. Therefore, the rating system outlined below is an important part of the certification requirements. In order for a system to qualify for this section it must be owned by the applicant and meet each requirement listed below.

MCM System Requirements

1. ASTM E 283 – Static Air Infiltration – No more than 0.06 CFM per SF at 6.24 PSF Loading.
2. ASTM E 330 – Structural Design Load – Deflection of framing members shall not exceed L/60 of the clear span or shall anchor deflection exceed 1/16” at + or – 30 PSF.
3. ASTM E 331 – Static Water Infiltration – No uncontrolled water passing from the panel system onto the substrate at 12.0 PSF Loading.

The test reports for each system should be from a laboratory accredited by the International Accreditation Service, Inc. (IAS) or equivalent accreditation organization.

<u>Number of Systems Certified</u>	<u>Points</u>
One	5
Two	8
Three	10

Required documentation: The applicant must provide copies of test reports for each company owned system with corresponding accreditation from the testing laboratory. The test reports must be in the name of the applicant.

Section 4: Financial Strength

The construction industry has developed a very objective method for determining the financial strength of a company by the issuance of Surety Bonds. Insurance companies are willing to issue either payment and performance bonds (for installed subcontracts) or material bonds (for materials only purchase orders) to owners that guarantee that if the insured company does not complete the scope of work, then the insurance company will.

Obviously, the insurance companies will only issue these bonds on companies that they feel have financial strength. However, some fabricators are not accustomed to providing bonds so an additional method of determining financial strength was developed for the Premium MCM Fabricator Certification Program. The Construction Financial Management Association (CFMA) publishes guidelines that indicate a level of financial performance above which companies are considered “healthy.”

Financial Strength Considerations:

Bonding - Supply a letter of commitment from A+ or better surety (as rated by A. M. Best) for either a total aggregate of \$4,000,000 for payment and performance bond or \$2,000,000 material bond.

Financial Ratios – CFMA publishes a set of guideline ratios for “healthy” financial conditions for “Specialty Trade Contractors.” Three of the most important are (revenues less than \$10 million):

1. Total debt / Equity less than 3 times
2. Annual revenues / Adjusted working capital (current assets – current liabilities) less than 20 times
3. Annual revenues / equity less than 12.5 times

<u>Criteria</u>	<u>Points</u>
Meet either of the “bonding” requirements	10
Meet all three “healthy” ratios	8
Meet two of three “healthy” ratios	5

Required documentation:

The applicant must provide one of the following:

- A letter of commitment for A+ or better surety (as rated by A.M. Best) for either a total aggregate for \$4,000,000 for payment and performance bond or \$2,000,000 material bond; or
- A letter of assurance from an independent certified public accountant that the company meets each “health” standard.

Each letter must be dated within 30 days of the date of application.