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OVERWHELMING INDUSTRY PARTICIPATION IN ANSI AND HANDBOOK JUNE MEETINGS

The Tile Council of North America (TCA) hosted three days of industry meetings to review and discuss submissions for three publications – the 2005 Handbook for Ceramic Tile Installation, the American National Standards Institute’s (ANSI) *Specifications for the Installation of Ceramic Tile (A108/A118/A136.1)* and the *Specifications for Ceramic Tile (A137.1)*.

“The June meetings represent a culmination of hundreds of hours of discussions by industry representatives,” remarked Eric Astrachan, Executive Director of TCA. “There has never been more industry participation (nearly double the attendance of that in past reviews) in the standard and guideline process.”

The increase in industry participation is credited to the need to address new technology and better communication mechanisms. For example, five new Handbook subcommittees were created to review key industry topics - membranes, backer boards, inspection, underlayment, and glass. The goal of each subcommittee was to recommend to the Handbook Committee consensus submissions for consideration. In addition, an electronic bulletin board provided subcommittee members a mechanism to discuss submissions prior to the June meeting.

TCA is providing committee members a more efficient method to address concerns so submissions meet consensus prior to the voting session. The bulletin board system allows committee members to discuss each submission in an electronic forum on a 24/7 basis.

Summary of 2005 Handbook Meeting

More than 70 industry professionals, representing a cross section of the tile and construction industry, met June 24th and 25th to consider modifications and new guidelines submitted for the *2005 Handbook for Ceramic Tile Installation*.

Hundreds of edits and 26 new guidelines were reviewed, discussed, and voted on by the Handbook Committee. The Committee approved more than 200 edits and 20 new guidelines for the 2005 Handbook.

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TCA is currently compiling all the diagram and text changes, deletions and additions for publication. The 42nd edition of the Handbook will be available in January 2005.

ANSI A108 & A137.1 Meetings

The Accredited Standards Committee (ASC A108) met to review new submissions and revisions for tile installation and materials specifications.

Nearly 75 committee members and industry guests attended the June meeting at TCA's headquarters to discuss submissions for the new *ANSI Specifications for the Installation of Ceramic Tile* publication.

TCA serves as the secretariat for ASC A108 and oversees the maintenance of all the standards related to A108/A118/A136.1 and A137.1.

The June review will be followed by a meeting in conjunction with the National Tile Contractors Association's (NTCA) "Total Solutions 2004" conference, scheduled for September 13th in St. Louis.

A draft of a new A137.1 standard will be submitted to the ASC A108 at that meeting. A group of ceramic tile manufacturers are working on that draft now, thanks in large part to a significant effort and first draft from Dal Tile. Anyone interested in also participating in this draft should contact the Tile Council for further information.

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