

For Immediate Release

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Report Confirms Durability of Steel in Variety of Climates

Washington, D.C., March 17, 2004—Life expectancy of more than a millennium and minimal loss of coating after years of exposure were two indicators cited in a report available through Steel Framing Alliance that confirms steel viability under a number of climatic conditions.

The five-year research initiative, titled Galvanized Steel Framing for Residential Buildings, was sponsored by the International Lead and Zinc Research Organization and completed by the National Association Home Builders Research Center. Its chief objective was investigating the corrosion performance of metallic-coated steel-framing components in steel-framed homes.

Four sites were chosen so that field results would be applicable to a large selection of homes and climates. They were Miami; Leonardtown, Md.; Long Beach Island, N.J.; and Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.

Among the findings: steel with industry-standard galvanizing had a life expectancy as high as 1,260 years, and that the fastest coating corrosion rate observed was a loss of only 0.04 grams on Galfan plate samples.

The 55-page Galvanized Steel Framing for Residential Buildings details the methods and measures used at all four sites to rate life expectancy and corrosion rates. Steel Framing Alliance will continue to issue reports as the study continues.

The complete report is available on the SFA Website, www.steel framingalliance.com. Members may download it at no charge from the Members Only page.

The Steel Framing Alliance is an association of more than 350 companies and organizations with the mission of enabling the widespread use of steel framing in residential and commercial construction. Headquartered in Washington, D.C., SFA provides education, publications, technical support, research and development, and market development programs to companies representing the full spectrum of manufacturing, construction, design, distribution and professional services.

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