



Stairway Manufacturers' Association

Goal of SMA Certification Programs:

Provide certification of education, and skill development by offering viable SMA branded certification programs to the stair industry that are recognized by the public as representing valuable professional accomplishments.

SMA Code Certification Program

Purpose of Code Certification Program:

To provide those certified with:

- A broader understanding of how concerns for building safety apply to the products of the stair industry and those that use stairs.
- An understanding of the purpose of building codes and standards as they relate to the stair industry through knowledge of their history, development, adoption and enforcement
- Skills in the identification and use of those resources essential to the design, detailing, and sales of code compliant stairs and stair components
- An understanding of the benefits of educating their customers in stair code compliance.

Individual Certification:

Any Individual working within the stair industry employed by an SMA member company in good standing may apply for certification. Only member employees in good standing may retain certification.

Company Certification:

Minimum levels of certification need to be maintained in all applicable areas of responsibility to achieve company certification. Such certification shall be approved by the Certification Review board based on an annual submission of positions and responsibilities within the applicant company and the related certifications acquired.

Expiration of Certification:

The SMA will provide required update "Supplemental Certification" study guides and workbooks in a timely fashion parallel to the ICC code development cycle for purchase only by those certified individuals/companies. Any certification not updated within one year of the issue of the next edition of the code will be notified of the expiration of their certification.

Levels of Achievement:

Skills will be assessed at three graduated levels representing basic, intermediate and advanced. A minimum level will be established based on the combined responsibilities of an individual applicant's job responsibilities within the company. The highest applicable level will apply.

Outline of Certification Levels

	Basic	Intermediate	Advanced
Position	Stair part sales Detailers Stairbuilders Installers	Stair Salespersons/Technicians Draftspersons Product Development Staff Stair Project Managers Lead Personnel	Stair Design/Engineering Stair Shop Forepersons/Mfg Mngr Owner/Operator ** SMA Certified Trainer
Job Responsibility	part only sales/selection, take offs, fabrication to specified design	Customer relations/education, job measuring, drafting, project oriented product selection, project management, fabrication supervision, development of new products, prototyping, modeling, testing, hand off to mfg or installation	Design and specification, layout, , management of production or quality control

Course Objectives by Level

	Basic	Intermediate	Advanced
Course Objectives	An overview of the history and purpose of Building Codes and Standards	How to read the code	How to find something in the code
	The Safety Issues related to stairs	General knowledge of the codes affecting stairs in commercial and public spaces	An understanding of the professional responsibilities of code officials and inspectors
Course Objectives	Knowledge of all related residential stair codes	Identification of applicable codes and definitions as they relate to a project or sale	How to find a local/regional code official association and the benefits and opportunities of membership?
	How to make SMA publications available to customers, architects, and building officials and inspectors?	An understanding of how codes are enforced	The importance and benefit of establishing a professional relationship with local code officials and inspectors.
Course Objectives	How to seek SMA code services and reference the SMA website	What to do when the code is not clear	How and when to seek or reinforce a particular interpretation
	The benefits of SMA certification programs as they apply to their personal career and company's development	The importance of understanding "Interpretation"	Options for appeal of an interpretation
Course Objectives		How to access and use the ICC Code Commentaries	An understanding of the ICC and the model code development process
		How to access pertinent resources on the ICC website	How to learn about local code adoption and development of building codes
		How to introduce the concept of code compliance to customers as a minimum standard required by law?	How to acquire the codes used in a jurisdiction
		How to equate the code's minimum standard to a company's standards	General knowledge of SMA stair related research projects
			Specifics on how to seek future SMA certification for commercial and public stairways

**Not required for company certification if design and Mfg are covered by other staff position(s)