

MARBLE INSTITUTE OF AMERICA (MIA)

Sample Specification Language for Design Professionals

Marble Institute of America (MIA)

MIA traces its roots back to the National Association of Marble Dealers, founded in 1907, which joined with the National Association of Marble Producers in 1944 to form the Marble Institute of America (MIA). The National Association of Marble Builders merged with MIA in 1962.

The Marble Institute of America (MIA) serves as the authoritative source of information on standards of natural stone workmanship and practice and the suitable application of dimension stone products. Membership in the association is worldwide and includes natural stone producers, exporters/importers, distributors/wholesalers, fabricators, finishers, installers, and industry suppliers – all committed to the highest standards of workmanship and ethics.

Sample specification language is provided for 1) The *Dimension Stone Design Manual* (DSDM); 2) MIA Accredited Contractors and Fabricators; and 3) MIA Member Companies.

1) The *Dimension Stone Design Manual* (DSDM) is the stone industry's single-source reference for dimensional stone design and construction facts and details. Contents include sections on granite, marble, limestone, serpentine, soapstone, travertine, quartz-based stone and slate with product descriptions and technical data; general installation guidelines; guidelines and typical detailing for horizontal surfaces, vertical surfaces, wet areas, furniture and countertops; maintenance of exterior and interior stone installations; and a glossary of terms relating to dimension stone.

Sample Specification Language to Reference the MIA's DSDM

For [variety of] dimension stone, comply with recommendations in MIA's *Dimension Stone Design Manual* (DSDM), version 7.2 (©2011). Note: Version 8.0 will be available January 1, 2016.

2) **MIA Accreditation** for natural stone fabricators and commercial contractors recognizes those companies meeting the industry's highest standards for business activities, product knowledge, fabrication and installation. To earn MIA Accreditation, a company must complete an intensive, rigorous process that includes documentation of its business and employment practices, letters of recommendation, a written examination and site visits to the facility and completed jobs.

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Sample Specification Language for MIA Accredited Natural Stone Fabricators:

Fabricator Qualifications: Preference shall be given to an MIA Accredited Natural Stone Fabricator. MIA Accredited Natural Stone Fabricators are those companies meeting the industry's highest standards for business activities, product knowledge, fabrication and installation. Bidding company must supply their official MIA Accreditation number as proof of accreditation.

Sample Specification Language for MIA Accredited Commercial Contractors:

Installer Qualifications: Preference shall be given to an MIA Accredited firm experienced in installing engineered dimension stone cladding systems. Company must be an MIA Accredited Commercial B Contractor (low rise) or an MIA Accredited Commercial A Contractor (high rise) of current good standing with the Marble Institute of America. Bidding company must supply their official MIA Accreditation number as proof of accreditation.

Installer's responsibilities include sourcing of qualified fabricator of dimension stone cladding and providing professional engineering services per project requirements. Engineering Responsibility includes comprehensive design of stone attachment systems by an experienced, licensed professional in accordance with practices outlined by the MIA *Dimension Stone Design Manual* and compliant with applicable codes. Comprehensive shop drawings with attachment details shall accompany engineering analysis.

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- 3) **MIA members** include marble, granite, limestone, sandstone and other natural stone producers and quarries, fabricators, installers, distributors and contractors around the world. MIA Members, upon acceptance as members in good standing, agree to abide by a Code of Ethics.

Sample Specification Language for Fabricator/Installer Qualifications (Residential or Commercial Projects)

Fabricator/Installer Qualifications: A Marble Institute of America (MIA) member firm experienced in fabrication/installation of dimension stone as indicated for this project and whose work has a record of successful in-service performance.