

NATURAL STONE INSTITUTE

Sample Specification Language for Design Professionals

Natural Stone Institute

The Natural Stone Institute was formed in 2018 as a merger of the Marble Institute of America (MIA) and the Building Stone Institute. The Building Stone Institute was formed in 1894 as the International Cut Stone Contractors and Quarrymen's Association; the name was changed to the Building Stone Institute in 1955. Established in 1903 as the National Association of Marble Dealers, the Marble Institute of America officially formed in 1944, when the association merged with the National Association of Marble Producers. In 1962, the National Association of Marble Builders merged with MIA.

The Natural Stone Institute 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) Natural Stone Institute Accredited Contractors and Fabricators; and 3) Natural Stone Institute 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; restoration and maintenance of exterior and interior stone installations; and a glossary of terms relating to dimension stone.

Sample Specification Language to Reference the Natural Stone Institute's DSDM

For [variety of] dimension stone, comply with recommendations in Natural Stone Institute's *Dimension Stone Design Manual* (DSDM), version VIII (©2016).

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2) **Natural Stone Institute 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 Natural Stone Institute 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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Accredited Natural Stone Fabricators:

Fabricator Qualifications: Preference shall be given to a Natural Stone Institute Accredited Natural Stone Fabricator. Natural Stone Institute 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 Natural Stone Institute Accreditation number as proof of accreditation.

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Accredited Commercial Contractors:

Installer Qualifications: Preference shall be given to a Natural Stone Institute Accredited firm experienced in installing engineered dimension stone cladding systems. Company must be a Natural Stone Institute Accredited Commercial B Contractor (low rise) or a Natural Stone Institute Accredited Commercial A Contractor (high rise) of current good standing with the Natural Stone Institute. Bidding company must supply their official Natural Stone Institute 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 Natural Stone Institute *Dimension Stone Design Manual* and compliant with applicable codes. Comprehensive shop drawings with attachment details shall accompany engineering analysis.

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3) **Natural Stone Institute members** include marble, granite, limestone, sandstone and other natural stone producers and quarries, fabricators, installers, distributors and contractors around the world. Natural Stone Institute 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 Natural Stone Institute (Natural Stone Institute) 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.