

# Industry Focus

## CERTIFICATION PROGRAM NOW AVAILABLE FOR CONCRETE COUNTERTOPS

The **Concrete Countertop Institute** (CCI) has announced its new concrete countertop certification program. The program is available to any concrete countertop professional, regardless of training received and manufacturing techniques, mixture ingredients, and sealers used. It tests the quality of the end product from a client's point of view, using project evaluations, and it tests general knowledge and business practices, using a written exam. Annual recertification will be required. To complete the program, concrete countertop professionals must submit extensive photos of three projects for paying clients. The photos cover certain steps of the manufacturing process to ensure basic structural integrity, as well as the finished, installed project. Client contact information is also required; CCI will interview clients to determine whether the professional used good business practices in estimating and contracting the project and dealing with any problems that occurred. There is also a written examination covering quality standards, basic concrete and countertop knowledge, and sales and marketing practices. For more information, visit [www.concretecountertopinstitute.com](http://www.concretecountertopinstitute.com).

## INDUSTRIAL PROJECT EARNS LEED GOLD CERTIFICATION

**Bob Moore Construction** has completed the largest LEED Gold Core and Shell Industrial project in Texas. The three-building, 1.16 million ft<sup>2</sup> (107,800 m<sup>2</sup>) business park along State Highway 360 in Arlington is also one of the first industrial projects in Texas to earn LEED Gold Core and Shell certification. The project began with the demolition and asbestos abatement of the Festival Marketplace mall; more than 95% of the steel, concrete, asphalt, copper, and aluminum coming from the mall was recycled rather than sent to landfill. The project contributed to community connectivity and infill redevelopment by replacing an abandoned mall on already developed land instead of a previously undeveloped area. Tilt-up concrete played an important role in the project's success, as construction took place on a site with space constraints. A white roof and light-colored concrete were used to reflect heat and reduce facility cooling costs.

## SAKRETE EXPANDS PRODUCER NETWORK

**Sakrete**<sup>®</sup> has entered into a new licensing agreement with **E-Z Mix, Inc.**, a leading producer of building materials

servicing home centers and independent retailers in Southern California. Through this licensing agreement, E-Z Mix will manufacture Sakrete concrete mixtures and related products, including masonry mixtures, concrete and masonry repair products, and sands and gravels. E-Z Mix has bagging operations in Rialto, CA, and Sun Valley, CA. Sakrete has also expanded its licensing agreement with **Materials Packaging Corporation**, owned by Ash Grove Materials Corporation. Sakrete products are produced by a national network of manufacturing partners, or licensees, and are available in home centers, independent retailers, and building material supply yards across the U.S., Canada, Mexico, and parts of the Caribbean.

## ACQUISITION EXPANDS PRODUCT OFFERINGS

**MK Diamond Products, Inc.**, has acquired the **Sawtec** brand from Blastrac NA. The Sawtec brand provides contractors with a range of dust-free tools and grinding accessories for surface preparation and concrete repair. Sawtec will be marketed as a sub-brand of MK Diamond, preserving Sawtec's successful reputation and brand identity within the construction industry. The acquisition combines one of the oldest family-owned leaders of cutting tools with a new line of products for surface preparation.

## DUAL EVALUATION AND CERTIFICATION PROGRAM FOR BUILDING PRODUCTS

**Underwriters Laboratories** (UL) and **ICC Evaluation Services, Inc.** (ICC-ES), have partnered to provide the building materials industry with a Dual Evaluation and Certification Program for building products. The program simplifies the testing and evaluation process for manufacturers. Through one point of contact for both UL and ICC-ES, manufacturers can conduct testing to UL safety standards, show code compliance via an ICC-ES Evaluation Report, and get simultaneous postings of compliant products in UL's Online Certifications Directory and Code Correlation Database along with ICC-ES's online directory of evaluation reports and e-Codes Premium. In addition to streamlining testing processes, UL has enhanced the usability of its product certification information. UL's Code Correlation Database connects product certifications directly with specific applicable model installation code sections to help code authorities and other industry professionals find ICC-ES code-compliant products. The ease of viewing code sections and manufacturer listings in one location makes it the only database of its kind in the industry.