



The Insulating Concrete Form Association ICF Specialist Designation

Mission Statement: The Insulating Concrete Form (ICF) Specialist designation was created in an effort to identify qualified ICF Contractors and Installers. The ICF Specialist designation is intended to increase awareness of ICF construction, as well as recognize and increase the visibility of qualified builders and installers to consumers and all those related to the construction industry.

Insulating Concrete Form (ICF) Residential Installer Criteria:

- Companies are given the “Installer” designation, not individuals.
- Designation is an annual registration requiring yearly verification/re-verification of qualification criteria.
- Company must be a member in good standing of the Insulating Concrete Form Association and must follow ICFA’s Code of Ethics and Standards and Practices.
- Company must designate a key contact person responsible for verifying that all ICFA Specialist Designation requirements are met. *
- The individual responsible for ICF installation quality must have successfully completed an ICF installation training course given by an ICFA Primary member firm.
- Must have completed installation of a minimum of 7,000 square feet of ICF wall.
- Must have installed floor systems on at least one (1) ICF project. Floor systems include steel ledger systems, wood ledger systems, concrete floor systems. However, slab-on-grade and/or insulated slabs cannot be counted as a floor system.
- Must submit at least three (3) photographs (digital or print) per project to ICFA including stacking, pouring and finishing.
- Must submit owner’s/client’s reference with each project submitted, as well as the General Contractor(s) (if used) reference.
- Company must designate an individual responsible for ICF construction quality.
- The individual responsible for ICF construction quality must attend a minimum of three (3) ICFA approved education seminars. Approved seminars are listed for ICFA Fall Meetings, as well as other approved seminars.

Insulating Concrete Form (ICF) Light Commercial Installer Criteria:

- Companies are given the “Installer” designation, not individuals.
- Designation is an annual registration requiring yearly verification/re-verification of qualification criteria.
- Company must be a member in good standing of the Insulating Concrete Form Association and must follow ICFA’s Code of Ethics and Standards and Practices.
- Company must designate a key contact person responsible for verifying that all ICFA Specialist Designation requirements are met. *
- The individual responsible for ICF installation quality must have successfully completed an ICF installation training course given by an ICFA Primary member firm.
- Must have completed two (2) single story projects with a total installed wall area of 25,000 square feet.
- Must submit at least three (3) photographs (digital or print) per project to ICFA including stacking, pouring and finishing.
- Must submit owner’s/client’s reference with each project submitted, as well as the General Contractor(s) (if used) reference.

- The individual responsible for ICF construction quality must attend a minimum of three (3) ICFA approved education seminars. Approved seminars are listed for ICFA Fall Meetings, as well as other approved seminars.

Insulating Concrete Form (ICF) Commercial Installer Criteria:

- Companies are given the “Installer” designation, not individuals.
- Designation is an annual registration requiring yearly verification/re-verification of qualification criteria.
- Company must be a member in good standing of the Insulating Concrete Form Association and must follow ICFA’s Code of Ethics and Standards and Practices.
- Company must designate a key contact person responsible for verifying that all ICFA Specialist Designation requirements are met. *
- The individual responsible for ICF installation quality must have successfully completed an ICF installation training course given by an ICFA Primary member firm.
- Must have completed one (1) multi-story project with a total installed wall area of 20,000 square feet. Floor systems must include either light gauge/structural steel and/or concrete floors (poured or precast). Multi-story projects include anything over three stories.
- Must submit at least three (3) photographs (digital or print) per project to ICFA including one of stacking, pouring and a finished.
- Must submit owner’s/client’s reference with each project submitted, as well as the General Contractor(s) (if used) reference.
- Company must designate an individual responsible for ICF construction quality.
- The individual responsible for ICF construction quality must attend a minimum of three (3) ICFA approved education seminars. Approved seminars are listed for ICFA Fall Meetings, as well as other approved seminars.

Insulating Concrete Form (ICF) Residential Contractor Criteria:

- Companies are given the “Residential Contractor” designation, not individuals.
- Designation is an annual registration requiring yearly verification/re-verification of qualification criteria.
- Must be a member in good standing of the Insulating Concrete Form Association and follow ICFA’s Code of Ethics and Standards and Practices.
- Must be a licensed homebuilder in the state(s) in which company does business.*
- Company must designate a key contact person responsible for verifying that all ICFA Specialist Designation requirements are met. **
- The individual responsible for ICF installation quality must have successfully completed an ICF installation training course given by an ICFA Primary member firm.
- ICF Installation must be performed by in-house crews or ICF Residential Installer Specialist.
- Must complete a minimum of three (3) homes annually for a total of at least 9,000 square feet of ICF wall area. Two (2) ICF homes must include the use of a floor system. Floor systems include steel ledger systems, wood ledger systems, concrete (poured or precast) floor systems. If the ICF homes are a slab-on grade or insulated slab, single story type, a minimum of four (4) homes or 12,000 square feet of ICF wall area must be documented.
- Must submit three (3) photographs (digital or print) per project including stacking, pouring and finishing.
- Must include owner/client’s reference with each project submitted.
- Must attend three (3) ICFA approved education seminars. Approved seminars are listed for ICFA Fall Meetings, as well as other approved seminars.

Insulating Concrete Form (ICF) Commercial Contractor Criteria:

- Companies are given the “Commercial Contractor” designation, not individuals.
- Designation is an annual registration requiring yearly verification/re-verification of qualification criteria.
- Must be a member in good standing of the Insulating Concrete Form Association and follow ICFA’s Code of Ethics and Standards and Practices.
- Must be a licensed Contractor in the state(s) in which company does business. *
- Company must designate a key contact person responsible for verifying that all ICFA Specialist Designation requirements are met. **
- The individual responsible for ICF installation quality must have successfully completed an ICF installation training course given by an ICFA Primary member firm.
- ICF Installation must be performed by in-house crews or an ICFA Light Commercial or Commercial Installer Specialist.
- Must have completed a minimum of:
 - Two (2) single story commercial projects with a total installed wall area of 25,000 square feet, or
 - One (1) multi-story commercial project with a total installed wall area of 20,000 square feet.
- Must submit three (3) photographs (digital or print) per project including stacking, pouring and finishing.
- Must include owner’s/client’s reference with each project submitted.
- Must attend three (3) ICFA approved education seminars. Approved seminars are listed for ICFA Fall Meetings, as well as other approved seminars.

* Many states require any individual that builds new homes or enters into a contract to build a home or who enter into contracts to sell new homes to consumers become licensed.

** Member firms participating in the ICF Specialist Program must notify the Insulating Concrete Form Association if the designated key contact person responsible for verifying that all ICF Specialist Designation requirements are met resigns or is released from the participating company. If the designated individual responsible for verifying that all ICF Specialist Designation requirements are met resigns or is released from the participating company, the company must verify its qualification criteria using a newly appointed designee.

†: Multi-story projects include any project three (3) stories or more.

Disclaimer: The ICFA Insulating Concrete Form Specialist program is an information-based program established to assist individuals, contractors, design professionals and the general public to learn more about the credentials and experience of its contractor members and is not intended to replace any product-specific company training program. The ICF Specialist program does not indicate the suitability of a company’s installation quality assurance program to construct ICF walls, floors or decks.

Commonly used phrases:

Approved Seminars – ICFA will list approved seminars based on content. ICFA will review outside organization’s education seminars to determine continuing education requirements of the ICF Specialist Designation.

Concrete floor system – poured or precast concrete floor.

ICF Installer – Individual or company that subcontracts with a contractor to install insulating concrete forms and fills the cavity with ready-mixed concrete.

ICF Contractor – An individual or company is under contractor to build something. This individual or company may or may not also be an ICF installer depending on the terms of a contract.

Insulating Concrete Form – any leave-in-place form made of foam insulation or composite materials that are connected with plastic or metal ties.

Licensed Homebuilder – Individuals and companies that register with a state to build new homes or who enter into contracts to sell new homes to consumers. Several states require homebuilders to pass an examination.

Pouring – The physical task of pumping and/or pouring concrete into the cavity of an ICF wall.

Slab-on-grade - type of foundation consisting of a structural concrete slab poured directly on the grade.

Stacking – The physical task of assembling ICF panels and blocks to form a designed wall.

Steel ledger floor system – type of floor where steel joists are attached to a steel rim track that is connected to an ICF wall by a structural clip or connector.

Wood ledger floor system – type of floor where wood-based joists are attached to a wood rim joists connected to an ICF wall by a structural clip or connector.