



# NFRC UPDATE

NFRC Staff

September 2, 2016

The National Fenestration Rating Council (NFRC) provides this twice-monthly newsletter to keep you informed of pending deadlines, volunteer opportunities, and NFRC news.

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## Calendar and Deadlines

### September 2016

- **September 2, 2016** -- [Deadline for Discounted Early Bird Registration for the NFRC Fall Membership Meeting](#). After today, the registration price will increase.
- **September 2, 2016** -- [Today is the deadline for reserving rooms for the Fall Membership Meeting at the Grand Hyatt Denver](#). **PLEASE NOTE: The hotel is completely sold out and, once released, any unused rooms from the NFRC room block will go very quickly and at a significantly higher room rate.**
- **September 8, 2016** -- **Fall Ballot Cycle CLOSES**. Only current NFRC members are able to vote on NFRC ballots, but all are able to review the open ballots. Ballots may be accessed via [the NFRC Ballots page](#).
  - [Research and Technology Committee Ballots](#)
  - [Technical Committee Ballots](#)
  - [Ratings Committee Ballots](#)

### October 2016

- October 3-6, 2016 -- Fall Membership Meeting -- [Registration and details of the meeting are now available HERE](#).
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## NFRC Reinvigorating its Commercial Program

The National Fenestration Rating Council (NFRC) is acting on the findings of a four-month-long, independent study that assessed its current commercial program and opportunities for its future.

The Cadmus Group, a nationally recognized, high-performance building and sustainability-consultant specializing in delivering solutions that transform markets, carried out the study.

Through the course of its work, Cadmus conducted interviews with commercial manufacturers, building code officials, and design-build professionals in leading cities. The results shed light on the state of commercial certification throughout the country, better positioning NFRC to reinvigorate its program in alignment with substantiated market needs.

As NFRC undertakes this initiative, CEO, Deb Callahan, recognizes the importance of remaining steadfast in fulfilling the organization's mission. While manufacturers offer the knowledge and insight required for building an efficient tool, the commercial program itself must ultimately serve the public.

"Residential manufacturers often tell us their customers value the NFRC label, but any financial gain they realize is a byproduct of NFRC's work, not the purpose of it," Callahan said. "This also needs to be the case with our commercial program."

## **Next Steps**

NFRC has already begun taking its next steps. It has assembled teams, which include members of its commercial work group, to focus on market development and program design.

In addition to engaging commercial manufacturers in further interviews aimed at revealing their motivation for pursuing certification, the teams will investigate several other areas to guide NFRC's path forward:

## **Market Development and Program Design**

- Better understanding the commercial manufacturers' value chain and what will encourage them to adopt the program
- Uncovering specific challenges associated with building customized fenestration systems
- Establishing how code officials, design-build professionals, energy officers, and other organizations need to be involved

## **Discussions in Denver**

The Cadmus Group will deliver its findings during NFRC's fall membership meeting, which will be held at the Grand Hyatt Denver, October 3-5.

Cadmus will also host a number of breakout sessions. Discussions will include codes and government groups, component system suppliers, and design professionals.

Additionally, green building expert and NFRC Board member, Daniel Huard, will deliver a presentation intended in part to explain how the LEED and WELL Building Institute certification programs figure into NFRC's commercial program.

NFRC will publish a more detailed schedule of its planned commercial discussions within the next few weeks.

"The report findings and these discussions will help us guard against making assumptions and allow NFRC to proceed based on research," Callahan said. "Now, the real work begins."

If you would like to be included in the discussion, make sure to [register for the meeting](#). Once you register you will be invited to participate in the Brainstorming and Prototype Development Session.

## **New NFRC Staff Add Depth to the Programs Team Bench**

In 2015, the National Fenestration Rating Council (NFRC) experienced some significant changes in staffing and leadership. As a result, and under the direction of Deborah Callahan, CEO, a concerted effort has been undertaken to make sure that NFRC is staffed as it should be while preparing for a focused and well-planned course to the future.

Leading the charge for NFRC Programs is [Tom Barnett](#), Senior Director of Programs, who joined staff in March. With a B.S. in Engineering Management from West Point, a Master's degree in Business Administration, and practical engineering and product development experience from organizations such as Georgia Pacific, Masco, and Newell Window/Kirsch, Tom brings a very strong background in the technical needs of an organization that will profoundly benefit NFRC.

Barnett has set clear goals for the immediate future of programs. In addition to maintaining the current needs of NFRC, Barnett is looking for additional opportunities as well. "The opportunities for NFRC are outlined within its mission statement: 'NFRC develops and administers energy-related rating and certification programs that serve the public by providing fair, accurate, and credible information on fenestration performance'," he explained. "The Programs group role within NFRC lies in the development and administration of NFRC's programs. Whether it's a simple change or a major revision, members of the Programs team work with the many stakeholders and the NFRC membership to execute great product development. As we look to build on the past, attack the present, and prepare for the future, the Programs group has added two professionals to the NFRC staff: [Steve Urich](#) and [Stewart Nicholas](#)."

Urich joined the NFRC staff on August 15, 2016, in the role of Senior Manager, Programs, and his responsibilities will include the commercial fenestration program, training, inspections, and committee work. Urich comes to us from Keystone Certifications and has approximately 20 years in the fenestration industry. He has served on several committees for NFRC in the past and is very familiar with the NFRC mission. Urich has a BS in Mechanical Engineering and is a registered Professional Engineer.

Nicholas joined the NFRC staff in June 2016 in the role of Manager, NFRC Software Applications. One of his primary responsibilities is to oversee the development of requirements for new or improved NFRC software. In addition, he will lead the applications support team as they assist with documenting functionality, extracting needs for new and/or improved solutions, and supporting end users with issues resolution and training. Nicholas is a seasoned fenestration product certification professional with over seven years in an NFRC-licensed inspection agency role and comes to us from AMS, Inc. with hands-on experience with several of the NFRC applications including Window, Therm, Optics, and the NFRC Certified Product Directory (CPD). Nicholas is a 10 year veteran of the US Army in the Signal Corp branch.

Individually and collectively, Barnett, Urich, and Nicholas bring a wealth of knowledge, experience, and skills that will be put to immediate use at NFRC. All three of these new staff members will be at the [Fall Membership Meeting in Denver, CO, October 3-5, 2016](#).

The full staffing list, with job titles and contact information, may be found on the NFRC website at <http://tinyurl.com/NFRCStaff>.

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**Additional Data Gathered for the NFRC 100 Custom Grid Ballot**

The following information is for the NFRC 100 Custom Grid ballot in reference to the grid data in the NFRC Certified Products Directory (CPD). ([Ballots may be accessed HERE.](#))

More information will be collected, analyzed, and made available on the NFRC website until the NFRC membership meeting in October.

### **Summary of the Grid Data in CPD**

In order to determine the grid add-on U-factor rating value, data was pulled from the CPD determining the U-factor difference between a product option that has no grid and a grid modeled for each grid size (0.75" & 1.5"). The data displays the number of product options at 0.01 (BTU) intervals of the total U-factor rating value from the effect of the grid being modeled.

The grid data represents 62 participants.

Staff will continue to provide an update of the grid data in the CPD through the balloting process and intends to have a majority sampling by the October meeting. If interested, please feel free to review the updated data at your convenience when staff forwards updates informing members when new data is available.

As of August 24, 2016, the data shows that approximately 96.7% of all grids modeled fall within 0.03 (BTU) of the non-modeled grid.

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE DATA RESULTS.](#)

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### **The National Fenestration Rating Council (NFRC) invites you to attend the NFRC Fall Membership Meeting in Denver, Colorado, October 3 – 6, 2016**

**Registration:** Registration is available on the NFRC website: [click here to register now.](#) The draft schedule [may be viewed HERE.](#)

**Early Bird Registration:** The deadline for early registration is **September 2, 2016.** Register before the deadline to have your name in the program booklet and to save \$100 on registration.

**Book Your Stay:** Hotel accommodations with the NFRC meeting hotel, the Grand Hyatt, Denver, are significantly discounted. NFRC has negotiated this rate for a limited number of rooms. You can [reserve your room online](#) or call 1-888-421-1442 (ask for NFRC group rate -- \$209/night). *The deadline to obtain the NFRC discounted hotel rate is Friday, September 2, 2016.*

### **Highlights of the Meeting:**

- **Prospective Leaders Network (PLN):** NFRC is excited to introduce the PLN track at the fall membership meeting. This is for anyone who is new to NFRC, who wants to refresh their understanding of NFRC's documents and software, or who is interested in pursuing leadership opportunities. There will be various sessions throughout the day on Monday, October 3, and a PLN networking reception.
- **British Fenestration Rating Council (BFRC):** A representative from the British Fenestration Rating Council will talk about the role of the BFRC and Fenestration Self-Assessment Scheme (FENSA) in the UK.
- **Networking Opportunities:** Join other decision makers at these 3 networking opportunities.

- o Welcome Reception: Sunday, October 2 – Network with other meeting attendees as well as NFRC staff.
- o Networking Reception: Monday October 3 – Join other meeting attendees and staff for a casual evening of networking.
- o Networking Lunch: Tuesday, October 4 – There will be a networking lunch open to all registered meeting attendees.

**More to Come:** Document ballots for review (**ballots will close September 8, 2016**), agendas, past draft minutes, and rosters will be available as the meeting gets closer. Continue to check the [NFRC's meeting site](#) for additional details. NFRC members will get email alerts when available.

Please contact NFRC's Meetings and Membership Manager, [Jessica Finn](#), at 240--821-9512, if you require assistance. Thank you for your continued support of the NFRC.

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## CPD – Latest Notes

Did you know that the latest information for the recent CPD release with the Phase II of Large Product Line Project can be found on the [Community Project Page HERE](#). Join the group to be notified of updates to the project page and other information that may be added to the page.

Laboratories and IAs are advised to view this project page to review issues that have been submitted in the Support Information section by reviewing the “[Helpful CPD User Tips](#).” Staff will update this page with known issues, suggested actions, and expected resolve dates.

Laboratories should continue to prepare their reporting systems with the CSV upload spreadsheet prior to its implementation on January 1, 2017.

Questions or comments about the new CSV upload spreadsheets may be sent to [support@nfr.org](mailto:support@nfr.org).

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## NFRC Meeting Information

- **Dates through 2018**

The following dates have been set for the NFRC's Spring and Fall meetings through 2018. The dates have been vetted thoroughly, are published early, and were reported to affiliated industry contacts to avoid potential conflict. Please mark your calendars with the following meeting dates through the fall of 2018:

### 2016

- Fall Membership Meeting: October 3-6, 2016  
Denver, Colorado. [Additional details are available HERE](#).

### 2017

- Spring Committee Meeting -- March 27-29, 2017  
Alexandria, Virginia
- Fall Membership Meeting -- September 25-28, 2017  
San Diego, California

## 2018\*

- Spring Committee Meeting -- March 19-21, 2018\*
- Fall Membership Meeting -- October 8-11, 2018\*

\*dates may change

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### Member Tips

All NFRC members are encourage to vote on the NFRC ballots that are open through September 8, 2016. New members and those needing a refresher may find instructions for voting on [the ballots page](#), which also provides links to each committee's ballots.

Any questions may be directed to [Jessica Finn](#), NFRC Meetings and Membership Manager, at 240-821-9512.

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### Volunteer Opportunities

- The [ANS Standards Committee](#) is seeking members, particularly in the User and General Interest categories. This group is responsible for the adoption and revisions to ANSI/NFRC 100, ANSI/NFRC 200, and ANSI/NFRC 400, and to ensure the ANSI consensus process is followed. Additional information (including definitions of the member categories) and the applications for the committee may be found on the group page linked or you may contact [Robin Merrifield](#) at 240-821-9513.
- The [NFRC 700 PCP Certification Subcommittee](#) is looking for a new Chair. The scope of this group is "to create and maintain Product Certification Program (PCP) document and procedures." To volunteer for this position, please submit your name to [Scott Hanlon](#).
- The [U-factor Subcommittee](#) is looking for a new Chair. The subcommittee is responsible for developing and coordinating NFRC 100: The Technical Procedures for Determining Fenestration Product U-Factors. To volunteer for this position, please submit your name to [Scott Hanlon](#) or [Steve Urich](#).
- The [CPD Advisory TG](#) is looking for a new Chair. The CPD Advisory Task Group's scope is to support staff with defining projects, their scopes and business rules to improve the Certified Products Directory (CPD) as well as monitor how changes to NFRC programs may affect the CPD. The task group will also support staff in recommending the priorities and the testing of projects. The purpose of this effort is to provide and maintain accurate and well documented software that fulfills NFRC's core mission. To volunteer for this position, please submit your name to [Stewart Nicholas](#) or [Sherri Wendt](#).

Volunteer opportunities are always listed on the [NFRC community](#).

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### Fee Adjustments Aim to Keep Programs Strong

NFRC will implement an adjustment to its fee schedule on January 1, 2017.



Despite numerous increases in operating costs over the years, NFRC has absorbed these expenses to minimize the impact on its licensees. The cumulative effect, however, necessitates adjusting participation fees.

These fees cover NFRC's operating costs and allow the organization to maintain the programs that support its rating and labeling process.

These include the Certified Products Directory (CPD) and the Attachments Product Directory (APD). Both have seen unprecedented growth that brought with it significant investments in maintenance and improvement over the last few years.

"Our licensees are investing in their products through NFRC certification, and we strive to keep this affordable while also evolving to meet their needs," said CEO, Deb Callahan, "These adjustments will help us accomplish that."

The 2017 Fee Schedule may be viewed [HERE](#); a brief bulletin outlining the fee changes can be found [HERE](#). Questions may be directed to [accounting@nfr.org](mailto:accounting@nfr.org).

NFRC offers the ability to pay invoices online. Once logged in, you will see all of the open invoices. This is a secure site and it is PCI Compliant. It will not process payments automatically. If you choose to pay by credit card, click here: [PAYMENT PORTAL](#).

Information on the NFRC billing and invoices may be found in a brief explanatory video, [located HERE](#).

If you have any questions regarding billing or the new portal, please contact us at [accounting@nfr.org](mailto:accounting@nfr.org).

NFRC is the recognized leader in energy performance rating and certification programs for fenestration products. Visit *NFRC News Now* for the latest fenestration-related information.

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