

# THE IPCO FLASH



## IPCO FACT:.

*Mor-Life mortar life extender has been helping masons work more effectively and more productively in hot weather for over 30 years!*

## IN OUR LAST ISSUE...

we asked the question "Does Your Flashing Spec Hold Water?". If you missed our last issue, and would like a copy sent, emailed or faxed to you, please give us a call at 800-383-8183 or email us at holton\_ipco@ameritech.net.

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## THE IPCO TEAM TAKES ON *VEGAS*

It was wild... it was crazy... it was the CSI National Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada, and the IPCO team was there to represent the Illinois Product Corporation architectural product line.

The convention was held at the Las Vegas Convention Center in June. Although the temperatures outside reached 110 degrees, the temperature inside the convention hall was just right for networking. A myriad of classes were held, certification tests were taken, and the hundreds of exhibitors displayed their products. Once an hour throughout the exhibit, one lucky attendee was selected to win a cash prize of \$1000.

In the evening, conventioners could attend social hours or hit the Strip and try to beat the odds at the blackjack or craps tables. The final night party on Saturday was preceded by a black-tie Presidential Gala where outstanding CSI members received the prestigious Fellowship status in CSI.

The IPCO Team displayed their architectural line of products, including the IPCO Flashing System, Hard-N-Fast Chloride-Free powder set accelerator, Mor-Life Mortar Life Extender, and the IPCO line of joint fillers, Neocell, Neofirm and Recoverex, as well as ThermaDrain Insulated Drainage Board. The IPCO Team also introduced their new line of

copper drip edge products, which will provide an alternative to stainless steel in drip edge installations. The copper drip edge is made of 12oz copper with a hemmed edge, providing for a clean-looking and durable drip edge.

The IPCO Team would like to thank all of the convention attendees who stopped by our booth and took a moment to talk with us. It was a pleasure to speak with everyone and we hope you went away from the convention with new information and new ideas on how the IPCO Flashing System can make your next project a success!



Left to Right: Gordon Stepanek, IPCO President, Linda Holton, Sales Rep., and Joe Svejda, IPCO V. P.

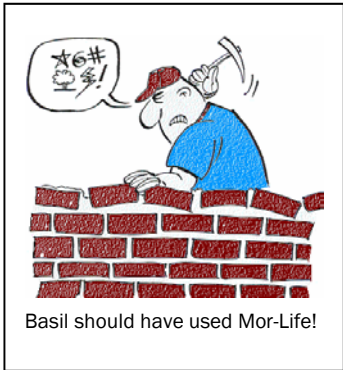
## SPEAKING OF LAS VEGAS...MORTAR AND HOT WEATHER MASONRY CONSTRUCTION

While in Las Vegas, the IPCO team couldn't help but consider the tradesmen that work in the sweltering conditions day in and day out, and how they address the oppressive heat in masonry construction. If there was ever a true test for a product designed to en-

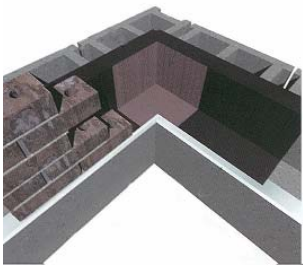
hance performance in a hot environment, Las Vegas has to be the ultimate testing grounds.

Ironically, as I was traveling to Las Vegas and reading my Masonry magazine for June, 2002, an article appeared speaking of just this subject.

Hot weather masonry construction can be a challenging and difficult task, and as the article points out, has certain requirements that should be met. The article suggests that one of the major concerns during hot weather construction is the workable life of the



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IPCO Preformed Inside Corner

*“...forming corners with conventional flashing is “a complicated process involving folding and/or cutting, which increases the potential for flashing failure”.*”

mortar and the effect the hot weather has on the bond between the mortar and the masonry unit.

Rightfully so, the article points out the multitude of actions that should be taken in order to protect the materials from the elements, including shading materials from direct sunlight, cooling mixing water, retempering the mortar within certain time periods, spraying of newly constructed masonry etc., all good protective measures that should be taken on every project.

The problem is, those measures are not always taken, and that is the cold reality on-site. Construction project site conditions, limitations on space, tight construction schedules, cost concerns, labor concerns, and access to shade and cool water are all reasons that many of the requirements outlined in the Masonry magazine article are not met.

Over 30 years ago, Illinois Products developed a product that specifically addressed hot weather masonry construction. Mor-Life was developed to retain the water and extend the workable life of mortar during the hot and windy conditions that are most difficult on mortar, and the masons

using it. Mor-Life keeps the mortar from drying out too quickly, eliminating the need to constantly retemper the mortar, a practice which can affect bond strength. A more plastic, workable mortar also allows for easier alignment and tooling.

ASTM C216-00 “Standard Specification for Facing Brick (Solid Masonry Units made from Clay or Shale)” indicates that “Mortar that has stiffened somewhat because of excessive loss of mixing water to a unit may not make complete and intimate contact with the second unit, resulting in poor adhesion, incomplete bond and waterpermeable joints of low strength”. Without Mor-Life, and without taking the recommended precautions, masonry walls built in hot environments are at risk.

Mor-Life is also useful when working with high IRA (Initial Rate of Absorption) masonry units, as these units will soak the water out of mortar like a sponge, even in the best of conditions. Mor-Life will allow the mason to lay “soakers” without concern for the mortar drying out too fast.

The bottom line benefit of using Mor-Life, besides extending the workable life of the mortar, is that the result is

a better bond. A simple job test can prove it: build a pier 9 brick high in stacked bond with ordinary mortar. Then mix a batch of mortar using Mor-Life and build a second pier of 9 brick. After a week or more, turn both piers on their sides and support them at the ends, like a bridge. Then pile brick in the middle until failure. In most cases, the pier built without Mor-Life will barely support its own weight, while the Mor-Life pier will handle much more weight. The Mor-Life pier resulted in a stronger bond.

Mor-Life has proven time and time again to increase the productiveness of masons and to produce better, more cohesive mortar. Even if all the precautions suggested in the article are taken, Mor-Life will provide the mason, building owner and architect extra confidence that the integrity of the mortar is not compromised in hot weather.

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*For reprints of the article or for information on Masonry Magazine, please contact the Mason Contractors Association of America; 630-705-4200*

## REVISED BIA TECH NOTE SUGGESTS USE OF PREFORMED CORNERS IN FLASHING INSTALLATIONS

BIA (Brick Industry Association) recently issued a revised Tech Note Section 21B, Brick Masonry Cavity Walls Detailing, which discusses issues such as flashing, joint fillers, expansion joints and other issues pertinent to masonry cavity walls.

One of the more critical issues the Tech Note covers is the proper detailing of end dams and corners in flashing installations. It suggests that pre-fabricated corners and end dams be detailed to “...eliminate the need to cut, patch and fold flashing,

thereby reducing some of the potential for water penetration...”.

The Tech Note points out that forming corners with conventional flashing is “a complicated process involving folding and/or cutting, which increases the potential for flashing failure.”

The IPCO Flashing System in self-adhesive rubberized asphalt is your only choice for prefabricated corners and end dams. The IPCO System provides the preformed technology that BIA suggests to minimize the chances of flashing

failure due to imperfect workmanship on-site.

When specifying and detailing preformed corners and end dams, it is important to set forth the entire IPCO Flashing System in the specification, as the system also includes the 30 or 40 mil flashing and the stainless steel or copper drip edge. For a copy of our specification, please give us a call, email or fax (numbers on Page 1 of the Flash).

BIA thinks preformed pieces are important to flashing integrity—don’t let another spec go out the door without them.