

tech-checking products

their properties and other stuff

RMW PRODUCT SELECTION

RMW's method of specifying products is by using a "**Basis of Design**" designation. This allows for the following:

- By selecting a product the details and specifications are not done from scratch, just modified to accommodate project's conditions.
- The product research is done and strictly documented to avoid substitutions for inferior products.
- In most cases, the product has been tried in several of our projects and we are satisfied with the performance of the product and the manufacturer.
- **All this reduces WASTE and RISK.**

For basic products (roof waterproofing, sealants, coatings and paints, fireproofing, and such, coordinate with Gloria or Josie.

Before researching a product, ask Josie or Gloria or ask around if someone in RMW has used it before.

"BASIS OF DESIGN" PRODUCTS

RMW specified products using the "**Basis of Design**" approach. This specifying method consists of naming both a single manufacturer's product and one or two "comparable products" for which the Contractor does not have to submit a Substitution Request, just the submittals required for the Basis of Design product.

The single product is described in the documents as needed to reduce the number of products that could be proposed for substitution. It also makes the reviewing of submittals more efficient.

"OR EQUAL"

We only use this term ONLY when we are using the Owner's specifications (usually with agencies specs, like when we work with the National Laboratories." It really does not mean much but opens doors we do not want opened, **so avoid using this term every time you can do so.**

SOURCE LIMITATIONS

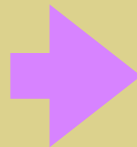
To the fullest extent possible, **products of the same kind AND in the same assembly should be provided from a single source**, for example, ACM panels and ACM column covers, all types of glass in the project, all paint systems, all types of flush wood doors, all roofing assembly components, all waterproofing types, and such.

THE "BUY AMERICAN ACT"

Some agencies require that the products used in the project comply with the "Buy American Act". This designation includes products manufactured in Canada, the USA, and Mexico.

OWNER'S PRODUCT LIMITATIONS

Some of our clients have strict guidelines as to the type of products that can be used in their projects. If you have never work in a project with those types of restrictions, ask around to see if someone in RMW has. Get a list of the products used in other of our projects, including contacts, and find out if there were substitutions (and what were they) or if the product specified was actually used.



RISK MANAGEMENT

If a product fails, it is not available, if there is no good support from the manufacturers or the installers, or if something else goes wrong, send around a notice to the firm so we do not repeat the experience. Do the same if you are "happy happy" with your product selection. A quick email may eliminate waste of time and resources.

When talking to manufacturers and doing your research, use the **PRODUCT GENERAL PERFORMANCE CHECKLIST** form so you do not forget something that you need to ask. Fill it as you go. Add categories not listed but relevant to the product you are researching. Post the completed list in Pinnacle so other people can use it. You can get the form from Rspace.

Check the following:

Check!

- Advantages.
- Review available information: Technical data sheet; CAD or Autodesk details; other information.
- Cost -Installed.
- Manufacturer's location and local distribution.
- Buy America Act (includes products manufactured in North America : US, Canada, and Mexico).
- How product is manufactured and raw materials contained.
- Delivery time.
- Environmental concerns.
- Environmental advantages.
- Code compliance and standards conformance.
- Initial cost – Long term cost.
- Maintenance – Availability of mechanics, spare parts, etc. Maintenance cost.
- Expected useful life.
- Warranty.
- Installation methods and requirements (i.e. approved installers, special materials, etc.)
- Interface with other products.
- Rated capacity.
- Limitations.
- Types and sizes.
- Uses and potential uses.
- List of projects, owners, dates, and performance history.
- Acceptable substitutions.

DOWNLOAD the **PRODUCT INFORMATION TECH-CHECK LIST**

from the Tech-Checking Web or from RSPACE.