



How to Specify AMCA-Certified Products

An AMCA International White Paper



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ABSTRACT

This white paper summarizes how the AMCA CRP works and how series products that undergo the rigorous certification process deserve to be specified ahead of noncertified series equipment. It also matches certified products to the AMCA CRP publications that lay out its certification rules and identifies the product rating test standards associated with the product and certification. Additionally, this paper clears up some misconceptions about the AMCA CRP, and it provides some exemplary language that can be used as a guideline for specifications.

AMCA INTERNATIONAL

The Air Movement and Control Association (AMCA) International has roots going back to 1917 as a not-for-profit for manufacturers, and its hallmark program, the AMCA Certified Ratings Program (CRP), has been in place for almost 50 years. The AMCA CRP assures that a duplicable series product line has been tested and rated in conformance with AMCA's test standards and rating requirements. Participating in the AMCA CRP is distinct from testing a product in accordance with AMCA standards, even in an AMCA-accredited laboratory. Unless engineers, architects and contractors properly specify AMCA-certified products in project submittals, owners may not get the performance they believe they are paying for.

This white paper summarizes how the AMCA CRP works and how series products that undergo the rigorous certification process deserve to be specified ahead of noncertified series equipment when AMCA-certified products are available. It also matches certified products to the AMCA CRP publications that lay out the rules of certification for that product and identifies the product rating test standards associated with the product and certification.

This paper also clears up a few prevalent misconceptions about the AMCA CRP, and it provides some exemplary language that can be used as a guideline for cogent and enforceable specifications.



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THE AMCA CRP

AMCA certifies 21 air movement and control products, which are listed in Table 1.

Take note that all of these products are series produced – designed and fabricated for general-purpose installations in commercial, industrial and residential facilities. Custom products, such as many industrial process/power utility fans and dampers and custom-designed site-built louvers, cannot be certified. They can, however, be tested in accordance with AMCA standards in an AMCA-accredited laboratory.

The AMCA CRP was developed in response to a need for validated published product performance ratings for buyers, specifiers and users of air movement and control devices. Only after the product has been tested and the cataloged ratings have been approved can manufacturers display performance seals (Figure 1).



Figure 1. Example AMCA CRP seals for fans and dampers (left) and louvers (right). Note that multiple certifications can be combined into one label.

AMCA CRP seals can be affixed to equipment and placed in catalogues and sizing/selection software. Additionally, each certified/licensed product line is subject to continuing check tests every three years, either in AMCA's laboratory or in one of AMCA's independent accredited laboratories. After a product has passed three successive check tests, a longer interval between subsequent check tests is allowed.

The AMCA certification process is accredited by the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation to the requirements of ISO/IEC Guide 65, *General Requirements for Bodies Operating Product Certification Systems*. Soon, it will be accredited to the newer requirements of ISO/IEC 17065, *Conformity Assessment — Requirements for Bodies Certifying Products, Processes and Services*.

Currently, 231 manufacturers from around the world are enrolled in the AMCA CRP, accounting for a total of 3,245 products. Over the last five years, the number of manufacturers with certified products has increased by more than 33 percent, while the total number of certified products has increased by more than 28 percent (Figure 2).

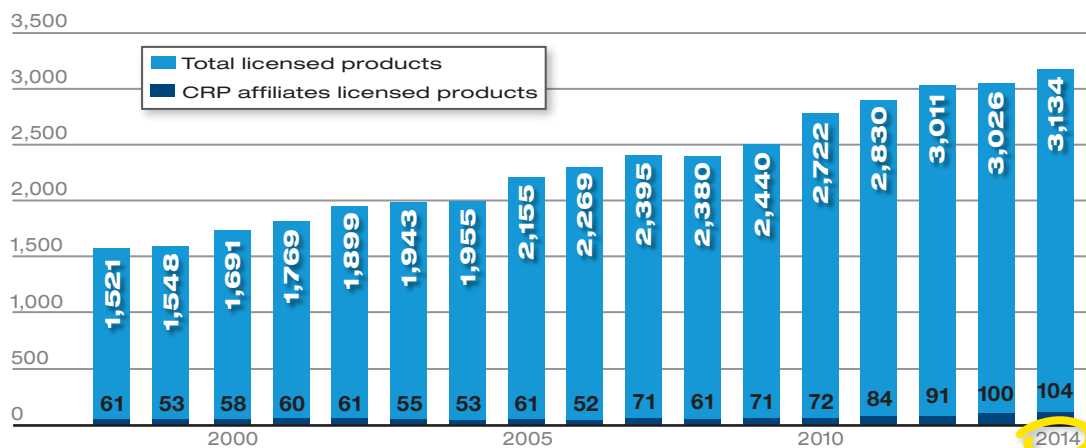


Figure 2. AMCA-certified products: growth over the years

