



# NEWS RELEASE

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## Fastener Association Counters Claims of "Code Approved"

The International Staple, Nail and Tool Association (ISANTA) sent a letter to trade and professional groups in the building community alerting them to misleading claims of "Code Approved." The association has seen misuse of the term, and similar terms, in the fastener industry. The association hopes that the message will be passed along to fastener users.

Tom Willcutt, Chair of ISANTA's Board of Directors, explained, "This practice hurts the entire industry. A building official sees the claim, or hears it from a contractor, and the fastener industry gets the blame. By ordinance, only the building department, represented by the building official, can approve materials. If a fastener size is not in code schedules, the official can approve its use based on evidence - typically an evaluation report issued by the groups that write the codes. Even if a fastener size is in code schedules, the official still needs to know that the fastener meets code requirements on properties such as dimensional tolerance and stiffness. That goes for both hand-driven and power-driven."

Alan Phillips, Vice Chair of ISANTA's Board of Directors, explained the exposure. "Unfortunately, many people treat nails and staples as commodities, rather than the engineered fasteners they are. Misunderstanding building codes and the approval mechanism hurts the building community, and make the building official's job tougher. The builder can get an unexpected job stoppage. Architects' plans can be compromised. The owner's house may not meet code."

ISANTA's website explains why claims of "approval" cannot be trusted. The information can be accessed on the [www.isanta.org](http://www.isanta.org) site by selecting "Building Codes" and then selecting "No, the Fastener Isn't 'Code Approved.'" Printed copies of the information can be obtained by contacting ISANTA.

ISANTA has eighteen members: DePoan, DeWalt, Dubai Wire, ITW (Duo-Fast and Paslode), Falcon/Specialty Fasteners, Fasco/Beck, Gerdau Ameristeel -Atlas

Steel and Wire location, Hitachi, ISM Fastening Systems, Makita, Master Fasteners, Max USA, Pentair Tools Group (Porter-Cable and DeVilbiss Air Power), Prebena, PrimeSource, Senco, Stanley Fastening Systems, and Tree Island/Golden State/Halsteel.

The association concentrates in the areas of fastening recommendations, product and safety standards, and safety programs for fasteners and fastening tools used in: residential and commercial construction, remodeling, manufactured housing, furniture, vehicles, pallets and containers, picture frames and other industrial markets.

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