

AIA Continuing Education

PLANT TOUR: A GUIDED DISCOVERY INTO THE MANUFACTURING PROCESS OF METAL COMPOSITE MATERIALS (MCM)

A technically oriented walking tour of a modern metal composite material (MCM) manufacturing facility

Course Specifics

Length: 60 minutes

Learning Credit Units: AIA 1.0

This course is HSW approved



Course Overview

This guided tour provides participants with a firsthand exploration into the manufacturing process of Aluminum Composite Material (ACM) and Metal Composite Material (MCM). Attendees will observe key material properties, sustainability features, core differences and fabrication capabilities as they occur in real-world conditions. Through in-field evaluation and guided discussion, participants gain a practical understanding of ACM/MCM performance, testing protocols, design versatility, code compliance, and specification considerations. The tour emphasizes best-practice manufacturing methods and highlights how ACM/MCM contributes to building durability, occupant well-being, and high-performing façades.

Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this course, participants should be able to:

- Identify the defining characteristics and physical properties of ACM/MCM as observed throughout the manufacturing process.
- Evaluate the sustainability attributes of ACM/MCM, including material composition, recycling potential, environmental performance, and contributions to green building material criteria
- Differentiate between PE Core and FR Core ACM/MCM through direct observation of raw materials, core composition, and the manufacturing steps that influence product performance
- Recognize the range of aesthetic and functional possibilities achievable through ACM/MCM production, including color systems, finishes, coatings, and surface treatments
- Interpret relevant material standards and product specifications as they pertain to ACM/MCM manufacturing, quality control, and performance requirements
- Understand the quality assurance processes and testing protocols used in the manufacturing process of ACM/MCM to ensure consistency, durability, and compliance with industry standards

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