

# The Canadian Construction Materials Centre's mandate

The Canadian Construction Materials Centre (CCMC) has a mandate to advance and protect the Canadian construction industry through:

- support of Canadian construction authorities in making product approval decisions.
- support of innovation in the Canadian construction market

This mandate is achieved through:

- code compliance assessment of standardized and innovative construction products
- publication of technical information about a product's compliance with the requirements of Canada's national and provincial construction codes

The CCMC provides code compliance assessments either as an alternative **solution**, which uses a proprietary CCMC-developed set of criteria to establish code compliance, or as an acceptable **solution**, that verifies if a product meets a code-referenced product or material standard.

The CCMC is the only code compliance assessment service for construction products provided and supported by the federal government of Canada.



Figure 1. Example of the CCMC mark used on certified and evaluated products once an assessment has been successfully completed.

## **Why Pick CL4FIRE Systems**

CL4 Inc. is a Canadian company that makes it a practice to test and list their products within Canadian owned or Canadian government sponsored product testing laboratories whenever reasonable. As a Canadian corporation we are the only fire protection ductwrap company to have undergone a costly and extensive Canadian Codes Materials Centre (CCMC) engineering review of our fire protection systems to ensure the products you specify fully match Canadian codes requirements. During this CCMC evaluation we learned that there are many building code requirements that are typically not reviewed in a typical fire protection UL listed system product review program. CL4 Inc. fire protection products and systems are now the most extensively tested and reviewed fire protection ductwrap systems for Canadian building code acceptance. As the US government often excludes Canadian products from use within US government construction contracts CL4 Inc. has focused its efforts within Canada and to being the most responsible fire protection company for the Canadian construction industry.

## **Understanding the Canadian Codes Materials Centre (CCMC) Authority**

The Canadian Construction Materials Centre (CCMC) is an agency within the National Research Council of Canada that is funded by the Government of Canada. The CCMC's mandate is to evaluate products to ensure compliance with building code requirements, including both a review of NFPA-96 grease duct requirements as they relate to the building code, product testing, and system evaluation for fire safety, personal safety, and reliability. CCMC are the only Canadian government sponsored research facility that has the engineering authority to evaluate new and innovative products and systems for acceptance to Canadian Building Code requirements.

## **Comparison of CCMC and ULC Systems**

ULC is a private - for profit company that closed most of the Canadian fire testing facility when it came under American UL control in the 1990's. Now Canadian companies who want to test at UL / ULC cannot conduct most of their product testing within Canada and are required to travel to the USA or some other international country. It has also been our experience to find large American companies with larger testing budgets invited to assist in writing ULC fire protection standards to the exclusion of Canadian companies. ULC may be one of many standards writing bodies in Canada but their standards are not automatically accepted into the Canadian Codes nor are ULC the authority for determining Canadian codes requirements for product acceptance. Once a standard is written there are procedures including adoption by the Standards Council of Canada who are the governing authority for standards and testing in Canada and the building code must then adopt that standard into practice.

It is the mandate of CCMC to determine all product requirements for meeting the Building Codes of Canada. ULC does not have this mandate, they only test and list products to specific standards which may not entirely match or include all the building code requirements. As fire protection ventilation ductwork standards are not outlined within Canadian Building Codes a CCMC review is the best way to ensuring code compliance.