

# Has Industry Found the Perfect Exterior Wall?



What do an F-22 stealth tactical fighter jet, a ton of bananas and a college classroom full of students have in common?

The architects who designed the buildings to safely house each of these items chose insulated metal panels (IMPs) as the cladding of choice.

For good reason. Evolving energy code requirements play to IMPs' strength of superior rain screen performance, installation ease, water vapor management and proven all-weather durability. In fact, a recent white paper\* by Joseph Lstiburek, Ph.D., P.Eng., states, "Insulated metal panel systems are a pre-manufactured version of a perfect wall."

Dr. Lstiburek goes further, "Drying to the exterior occurs from the exterior face of IMPs in all climate zones. Drying to the interior occurs from the interior face of the IMP in all climate zones." He also notes other unique IMP characteristics:

- Eliminates the need and expense of traditional cladding in most applications
- Shields the assembly from ultra-violet radiation damage

- Protects the assembly from physical damage
- Satisfies aesthetic requirements with a wide range of color, profile and texture options

The acclaimed educator also notes IMP systems work for all interior environmental conditions, including refrigerated buildings and cold storage facilities in all climates, without exception.

## GO-TO SOLUTION

Throw into the mix "one-pass-and-done" installation ease and project savings, little or no downstream maintenance, decades of proven performance across tens of thousands of buildings in nearly all applications, and it's easy to see why IMPs are a specification favorite.

With the IMP wall system becoming de facto best practice in a growing range of applications, the question then pivots to "Which IMP manufacturer should I specify?"

## DIFFERENTIATORS

"What differentiates one fabricator from another fabricator is service before and after the sale along with product quality," explains Rahim Hakimi, vice president of engineering and support for IMP pioneer, innovator and market leader, Metl-Span® of Lewisville, Texas. Metl-Span serves a "who's who" of leading names in cold storage, such as Sysco and most supermarket chains, and industrial clients like Boeing, BMW, FedEx, GM, and Whole Foods.

## RISK MITIGATION

"Some view IMPs as a commodity. A closer look, however, reveals major differences. The architects we work with place a high value on performance and structural testing. They want to eliminate risk," Hakimi notes.

That backup support also extends to state-by-state code compliance. Just ask Arnold Corbin, Metl-Span pre-engineered buildings manager: "Energy codes are changing. Architects wonder how they can meet tough new codes and still deliver an attractive design."

## DESIGNER'S BEST FRIEND

Metl-Span dedicates considerable resources to serve as the designer's backstop on all industrial, commercial, institutional (ICI) and cold storage facility wall construction matters. Designers are free to tap into AIA- and GBCI-accredited courses, a massive CAD library, data sheets, white papers, technical bulletins and reports, and much more on demand.

"Our website offers a wealth of material. But designers like personal contact," Hakimi says. "So we talk to them and give them options."

## AT YOUR SERVICE

"We offer this level of support before a project even goes to bid," observes Hakimi. "Designers want recommendations. We may not always win the order. But for the 80 percent of the time we do, those projects have no issues. The detail work is done."

Is the IMP system the perfect exterior wall solution? Today nothing comes closer. ■

### To Learn More

- Website [Metl-Span.com](http://Metl-Span.com)
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- Twitter [@Metl\\_Span](https://twitter.com/Metl_Span)

\*Insulated Metal Panel (IMP) Systems, Joseph Lstiburek, Building Science Corporation, November 2015, 43 pages.