



# SPEE.tectonics

CSI Houston Chapter  
The Construction Specifications Institute

February 2013

## February 25th meeting:

PLACE: H.E.S.S. Building  
5430 Westheimer

TIME:

5:30 P.M. (Registration and mixer)

6:00 P.M. (Evening Meal and Meeting)

COST:

\$35.00 Per Person; Gratis to CSI members.

RESERVATIONS: Go to:  
<http://www.csihouston.org>

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CSI Houston Website:  
<http://www.csihouston.org>

## "ENERGY CONSERVATION AND GLAZING"

As the construction industry seeks to meet the challenge of delivering new buildings that are more energy efficient, new changes to energy codes and standards are being implemented to mandate those changes. At our February meeting, we will be joined by a panel of experts who will discuss how those changes are affecting fenestration and the challenges of implementing them in new projects.

- Deron Patterson, Sales Development Manager with PPG Industries will be making a brief presentation on the latest changes to various codes and standards that will affect new projects.
- Greg Roberts, a Principal with WHR Architects, will be discussing the challenges facing designers in incorporating these changes into new building designs.
- George Wilson, Project Manager with Haley Greer, Inc., will discuss procurement and installation issues facing glaziers.

We hope that you can join CSI Houston Chapter on February 25, 2013, for what promises to be an informative meeting.

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## February 2013 President's Message

by Holly A. Jordan, CSI, CCS, LEED AP BD+C,  
SCIP

President, CSI Houston Chapter  
President-Elect, CSI South Central Region

When I think about January's Chapter Meeting, the first word that comes to mind is WOW! What a wonderful meeting. Pat Kiley was as engaging and inspirational as ever. His forecast for the coming year was thought provoking and positive. The room was brimming with members and guests with more than 130 people in attendance. There were attendees from at least six other Chapters as well as our Institute President-Elect, Casey Robb. All of the hard work of our Board Members, Committee Chairs, and other member volunteers paid off. It is my hope that with the momentum started by this meeting that all of our meetings are as well attended and thought provoking.



I would like to thank the following sponsors for their support of the CSI Houston Chapter:

Chad Tabor – Draper, Inc.  
Jim Hodges – Daltile  
Joey Penna – National Gypsum  
Mark Koehler – Siplast, Inc.  
Tim Wilson – Weatherization Partners – DuPont Tyvek  
Betsy Finch – Betsy Finch & Associates  
Bill Fairbanks – Rob Pelletier Construction, Inc.  
Chris Headley – Petersen Aluminum  
Nathan Rockwell – Fibertite  
Carl Metzroth – PPG Industries  
Shawn Walker – Portfolio Materials Group, LLC  
Robert Byrne – AMP Brick and Stone, Inc.  
Logan Vits – ASSA Abloy  
Al Horcica – Georgia Pacific

January marked the beginning of the next six months of my Chapter Presidency and it is time to reflect on accomplishments and re-evaluate goals for the next six months. Each Board Member and Committee Chairperson has been asked to write down their accomplishments and new goals and I will be reporting them over the next few months. Some of the accomplishments I have received so far include Certification Classes in the fall and spring, new CDT class instructors, Chapter tax exemption status re-instated, working budget with a six month review, cross marketing of CSI to other organizations, and a new website. Goals include member-

ship goals with a focus on lapsed and inactive members, re-vitalized Chapter programs, incorporating the new CSI re-branding, and better flow of information/activities from Region and Institute to Chapter members.

Thank you to everyone who participated in one way or another in our January meeting. Keep up the momentum. If each and every member took one moment to mention CSI to just one person and encourage them to attend one meeting or participate in one event, think about how much more successful our Chapter would be in the next six months.

Holly Jordan, CSI, CCS, LEED AP BD+C  
President, CSI Houston Chapter  
President-Elect, South Central Region

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## 2013 CSI NATIONAL ELECTIONS

By Dorothy Gumm Denison, CSI CCS, HUB,  
WBE, CSI Institute Director

The 2013 CSI National elections will be conducted electronically between Feb 1 to March 1, 2013. Members who are in good standing, and who have a valid email address on file on **January 1, 2013**, will receive a ballot instructions by email. (Student members and Emerging Professional members are not permitted to vote.)

The following candidates will appear on the national ballot: Go to <http://www.csinet.org> to see thumbnails of candidates.

### President-elect:

[Robert W. Simmons, FCSI, CCPR](#)

### Vice President:

[Loren R. Berry, FCSI, CDT](#)

[Ronald L. Geren, CSI, CCS, CCCA](#)

[Scott J. Tobias, CSI, CDT](#)

### Director-at-large:

[William C. DuBois, CSI, CCS](#)

[Grady W. Whitaker, Jr., FCSI](#)

### Secretary:

[Kevin D. Corkern, FCSI, CCS, CCCA](#)

[Janet J. Piccola, FCSI](#)

Members in the [South Central](#) region will elect a director from this list:

[Richard \(Rick\) J. Lueb, FCSI, CCS, CCCA](#)

[Kirby M. Davis, CSI, CDT](#)

Successful candidates will serve on the Institute FY 2014 -15 Board and take office July 1, 2013.

## CSI CDT Prep Classes for Spring 2013

by Holly A. Jordan, CSI, CCS, LEED AP BD+C, SCIP, President CSI Houston Chapter

In preparation for the CSI CDT Exam during the month of April 2013, CSI-Houston will once again be sponsoring a CDT Prep Class this spring. The eleven week course is scheduled to begin on Thursday, January 17, 2013 at 6:00pm. The class is scheduled for two hours every Thursday evening, concluding on the week of March 25, 2013. Classes are scheduled to be held at Building Exterior Solutions, LLC; 6975 Portwest Dr., Suite 100; Houston, TX 77024

This is conveniently located near the intersection of the Katy Freeway and the West Loop. The cost for students attending will be \$75.00 for CSI members and \$100.00 for non-CSI members. Checks must be made payable to 'CSI-Houston.' In addition, CSI-Houston is also offering to order all study materials for prospective students as a group. This will enable all who order this way to receive a "group discount" and save some money on study materials. Please inform us upon sign-up that you wish to order your materials with the group.

New for this session is that the final class will be held on Monday March 25, 2013 at 4:00pm. This will be just before our monthly CSI-Houston Dinner. All prospective students are invited to join us for dinner without charge that evening. Individuals that would like to sign-up for the CDT Prep Class should contact the local Certifications Chairman, Tim Wilson. His contact information is Cell (832) 289-6765; Email [twilson@weatherizationpartners.com](mailto:twilson@weatherizationpartners.com)



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Division 07 - Thermal and Moisture Protection

## Houston Code News and Events

By Di Ann Hassloch, CSI, CCS, CCA, LEED AP

### New Electrical Code - Effective 09/01/2011.

On August 10, City Council approved the adoption of the 2011 National Electrical Code and local amendments.

### New Commercial Energy Codes - Effective 09/02/2011.

September 2, 2011, commercial buildings and structures shall comply with the 2009 IECC or 2007 ASHRAE 90.1, pursuant to Section 19.53 of Chapter 34, Texas Administrative Code. In accordance with this provision and the rules thereto, the City has reviewed the codes and has proposed amendments for review by the Energy Systems Laboratory.

Please visit the City of Houston Form & Publications Page at <http://www.houstonpermittingcenter.org/code-enforcement/code-updates.html> to access the new Commercial Energy Codes

### New Construction Codes—Effective 12/31/10.

On November 3rd, City Council approved the 2006 Code Package to adopt updated Construction Codes. The new amendments are available at our Forms & Publications page.

Texas Adopts New Energy Code 2009 IECC effective April 1st, 2011. The major points to be guided by for the building envelope are:

- All commercial projects will need insulated glass. No more monolithic exceptions for small window to wall ratios.
- All commercial projects will need to exhibit an SHGC (Solar Heat Gain Coefficient) of .25 or less. This is a major revision and improvement to save energy for our building owners. There are exceptions for projection factors i.e. shading.

As published in the Texas Register today: ADOPTED RULES June 4, 2010 35 TexReg 4727

### Current codes in the City of Houston include:


- Building Code: 2006 IBC with Houston Amendments.
- Residential Code: 2006 IRC with Houston Amendments.
- Electrical Code: 2011 NEC with Houston Amendments—1st Printing.
- Mechanical Code: 2006 UMC with Houston Amendments.
- Plumbing Code: 2006 UPC with Houston Amendments.
- Fire Code: 2006 International Fire Code



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### FEATURE YOUR PRODUCTS WITH A TABLE TOP DISPLAY

At each monthly meeting, the Chapter encourages Industry Members to provide a table top display of their products and services for the inspection and education of those attending the meeting.

The table top display is also encouraged to be presented during the social hour and after the program for any questions by attendees.

The presentation fee for this time is \$200 for members and \$250 for non-members, or free with a Golf Sponsor-

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Contact Don Smith at  
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for more information.

## **CSI Houston Chapter Board Meeting Minutes**

**Location: HESS Building**

**5430 Westheimer Rd., Houston, TX**

**November 26, 2012**

Present: Betsy Finch, Bill Fairbanks, Bob Cook, Don Smith, Don Vernon, Doug Frank, Holly Jordan, Joey Penna, Mark Koehler, Neil Byrne, Robert Byrne, Tom Atwell

President Holly Jordan called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

The September 2012 and October 2012 Board Meeting Minutes were approved.

### **REPORTS**

#### **Member Services: Mark Koehler**

Programs: J. Peter Jordan

Holly discussed the format for the January 2013 meeting, offering reserved tables at a cost of \$400 each for eight plus a display table. Also discussed having display tables available for \$250 each.

Membership: Joey Penna

Joey reported the chapter has four new members, He also reported he contacted Houston Business Journal regarding the Journal publishing the chapter meeting information.

Awards: Amy Salmeron

No report.

Personal/Professional Development: Doug Frank/Di Ann Reid

Doug discussed the Member Biography Data form. He also stated he will email the form if a member is having difficulty downloading the form.

#### **Finance/Administration: Neil Byrne**

Neil reported he and Chuck are reviewing the budget. He also reported that the tax return due November 15, 2012 had been filed.

Treasurer's Report: Chuck Vojtech

Neil distributed the current treasurer's report to the board members.

Table Top Display: Amy Peevey

No report.

#### **Publications and Public Services: Don Smith**

Golf Tournament: Tom Atwell

Tom reported the chapter made approximately

\$7,000.00 on the tournament. He also stated Joey Penna, Wade Arnold and Brian Selig will be taking over the gold tournament responsibilities.

Quarterly Happy Hour: Amanda Carrington  
Holly reported she asked Amanda to arrange a happy hour social in February.

SPEC.tectonics: Don Smith

Don reported he is working on the next issue.

Electronic Communications:

Holly reported the website is up, needs additional work and that changes cannot be made until the training on November 28 has been completed.

Public Relations: Don Vernon

Don reported he is working with AIA regarding scheduling a Vendor Night in the Spring.

#### **Professional Development: Logan Vits**

No report.

Continuing Education: Mark Koehler

No report.

Certification: Tim Wilson

No report.

Technical Committee:

No report.

#### **New Business**

Holiday Party - December 10, 2012 - 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. Holly reported she would ask Di Ann Reid to make the arrangements with the manager at Guadalajara for the Holiday Party. Robert Byrne "moved to charge a fee for the Holiday Party and limit drink tickets to two per person". The motion was seconded and approved. The board set the amount to attend at \$10 per person with a can good donation and \$20 per person without a donation. The charge also includes two drinks and appetizers. The can goods will be donated to the Heights Food Bank.

Meeting adjourned at 5:03 p.m.

***Betsy Finch, CSI  
Chapter Secretary***

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## LIEBSTER BLOG AWARDS

By Sheldon Wolfe, RA, FCSI, CCS, CCCA, CSC

Early in December, fellow blogger Randy Nishimura honored me by nominating my *Constructive Thoughts* blog for the Liebster Award. "How cool!" I thought. "It's nice to know someone actually reads what I write!" Being a specifier, I know how rarely that happens, and the relatively few responses to the hundreds of articles I have written suggests those articles don't fare much better.

The thrill quickly dissipated as I read the description of the award; it's for bloggers with fewer than 200 followers. The upside is, though my blog is relatively unknown, someone thinks it might be worth reading.

The statistical tools available for websites give a little better idea of how many people at least look at my blog posts. Suffice it to say, mine have not gone viral. I have only twenty followers, but the statistics show I have many more readers. The number varies greatly, depending in large part on how it is publicized, something I'm not good at. Posting a notice on LinkedIn about a recent article brings in more traffic, and a spike in page views always follows a link in the CSI Leader.

Randy's blog post included some information about the Liebster award, but, specifier that I am, I had to learn more about it. As I tracked backwards from his nomination, I found several variations with different requirements. Eventually, the rules seemed to stabilize at these:

- Thank your Liebster Blog Award presenter on your blog. *Thanks, Randy!*
- Link back to the blogger who awarded you. <http://sworegonarchitect.blogspot.com/>
- Copy & paste the award to your blog.
- Nominate 5 blogs that you enjoy to receive the award who have less than 200 followers.
- Inform them of their nomination by leaving a comment on their blog.

These rules are much simpler than those Randy passed on, which included responding to a list of questions asked by the person making the award. However, in fair-

ness to Randy, I'll respond to his questions.

- *Do you have ambitions for your blog? If so, what are they?* Continuing my ambition for the articles I have written for more than fifteen years, I hope they are useful and used.
- *Where would you live if you could live anywhere you wanted on Earth?* So many choices, and I have seen but a few! In the end, proximity to my family is the most important criterion.
- *Imagine you've won the lottery. If you had to nominate one charity to inherit your largesse, what would it be?* Again, so many choices! Our current favorite charity is Hope Academy in Minneapolis. Hope is a privately funded school that provides a safe education - and hope - to inner-city kids. [www.hopeschool.org/](http://www.hopeschool.org/)
- *What is your favorite example of architecture?* I love arches, so it's tough to decide between Roman and Gothic. The Romans took the arch and built an empire; Gothic cathedrals are a perfect expression of structure, making a megaton structure look as if it could float away.
- *What excites you most?* At my age, waking up is pretty good.
- *If you could change one thing about the city or town in which you live, what would it be?* I would add a couple of good restaurants.
- *Are you a glass half-full or half-empty person?* I'm a glass is twice as big as it needs to be person.
- *What advice do you have for the young people in your profession?* You didn't learn everything you need to know in school. Those contractors have a lot of practical knowledge you lack.
- *Has technology changed your life for better or worse?* Definitely for the better. As a sci-fi reader, I appreciate the marvels, but I am able to ignore those things that are done simply because they can be done.
- *What's the first item on your wish list?* After the family is taken care of, more travel.
- *Do you make and keep New Year's resolutions?* I'm sure I made resolutions at one time, but the only one I remember - the last one -



was to quit smoking, New Year's Eve, 1971. I did it!

And now for my nominations. The envelope, please! After seeing the various ways this award has been made, I'll deviate a bit from the rules. I don't know how many followers my nominees have; I hope I don't offend anyone who has hundreds of followers!

- Ron Geren, [www.specsandcodes.com/](http://www.specsandcodes.com/)
- Michael Chusid, [www.buildingproductmarketing.com/](http://www.buildingproductmarketing.com/)
- Ken Adams, my favorite attorney. I'm sure he has more than two hundred followers, but he is unknown to most specifiers. [www.koncision.com/category/blog/](http://www.koncision.com/category/blog/)

The next nominees don't have blogs, but they should; encourage them!

- Ed Buch has been writing book reviews, many more than you will see here. <http://csiwestregion.org/BuchNotes.html>
- Michael Chambers has been writing for a long time. He's one of few who writes for those we formerly called Industry members. [www.mcaspecs.com/all\\_articles.php](http://www.mcaspecs.com/all_articles.php)

Finally, visit Randy's post, <http://sworegonarchitect.blogspot.com/2012/12/the-liebster-awards.html>, which includes his nominations for the Liebster Award, all but one of which I had been following already. Follow those links, and I know you will find a lot of interesting thoughts and useful information.

Follow me at <http://swconstructivethoughts.blogspot.com/>, and <http://swspecificthoughts.blogspot.com/>, <http://twitter.com/swolfearch>

## **SPECIFYING ABUSE OR IMPACT RESISTANT GYPSUM BOARD? HOW TO KNOW THE DIFFERENCE** By Scott Hughes

Remember when it was easy to write a gypsum specification? All you needed to worry about was what thickness and core type to specify. In a relatively short time, that has changed. There are so many products to choose from, it's difficult to know when to specify what product. Just as important, you need to understand what performance features are compromised if a lower cost product is substituted for the higher performing product.

One of the biggest concerns is determining when to specify an abuse resistant "AR" or impact resistant "IR" product. There are real performance differences between these two product categories that need to be defined. Let's see if we can get a better understanding of when you need to specify abuse resistant or impact resistant gypsum board.

Abuse resistant gypsum boards are designed for use in wall assembly areas where surface abrasion is a concern. Abuse resistant products are excellent at preventing surface damage due to abrasion or scuffing in high traffic areas during standard use, and indentation of the wall surface from low impact accidental or occasional impact. Impact resistant gypsum boards do all of this with the added feature of reducing penetration damage due to intentional or continual force that would break through standard gypsum board into the stud cavity. Manufacturers add fiberglass mesh reinforcement to the gypsum core to help reduce penetration damage. Abuse resistant products do not have additional reinforcement.

When the impact resistant gypsum board specification is not clear or a contractor tries to substitute abuse resistant gypsum board for impact resistant gypsum board, it is important to understand that you are giving up significant performance. The dollars saved may be spent making repairs for years to come.

ASTM C 1629 is the standard used to qualify abuse and impact resistant gypsum boards. ASTM C 1629 has four specialized tests. Each Classification Level is based on specific minimum or maximum results depending on the test. A product may meet Level 1 on one test and Level 3 on another test, which means that each performance characteristic should be specified based upon the desired Classification Level. Gypsum manufacturers report these values in both product literature and website product pages. Here are the tests and Classification Levels for ASTM C 1629: continued on page 10

Continued from page 9

Chart A

**ASTM C 1629**  
Classifications and Performance Requirements

	ASTM D 4977 Surface Abrasion	ASTM D 5420 Surface Indentation Resistance	ASTM E 695 Soft Body Impact	Annex A1 Hard Body Impact
				
Classification Level	Abraded Depth Maximum	Indentation Maximum	Impact Minimum	Impact Minimum
<b>1</b>	0.126"	0.150"	90 ft-lbs	50 ft-lbs
<b>2</b>	0.059"	0.100"	195 ft-lbs	100 ft-lbs
<b>3</b>	0.010"	0.050"	300 ft-lbs	150 ft-lbs

Looking over Chart A, you can see that in some tests, like the Hard Body Impact test, the differences between Classification Levels are significant. Did you know that the result of Annex A1 testing for standard gypsum board is 35 ft.-lbs.? That means that a Classification Level of 1 for this test only improves performance by 15 ft.-lbs. Abuse resistant gypsum boards do not test in this category because they are not designated as impact resistant. When tested, abuse resistant products usually score a Level 1. If you are concerned about penetration into the stud cavity, impact resistant gypsum products must be specified and installed.

There are choices when it comes to abuse resistant and impact resistant products including the facing material and additional attributes such as mold and moisture resistance and GREEN-GUARD certification. The current abuse and impact product offerings include paper-faced, non-faced and fiberglass-faced products. The fiberglass-faced products offer an extended exposure warranty that enables the products to be installed prior to the building being dried in.

The chart below illustrates the abuse and impact products available. The biggest difference in abuse and impact resistant products is the fiberglass mess reinforcement embedded in the core of impact resistant gypsum.

Abuse Resistant	Impact Resistant
Enhanced mold and moisture resistant gypsum core with abrasion, mold and moisture resistant facings.	Enhanced mold and moisture resistant gypsum core with abrasion resistant face paper and fiberglass mess reinforcement embedded in the core.
Enhanced mold and moisture resistant gypsum core with abrasion resistant fiberglass faced mats.	Enhanced mold and moisture resistant gypsum core core with abrasion resistant fiberglass faced mats and fiberglass mess reinforcement embedded in the core.

Call your local rep below or 1-800-NATIONAL for the information you need to choose the right product and write an accurate specification.

Joey Penna  
CSI, CDT, LEED Green Associate

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## 2013 Brian Harrington Golf Classic

By Joey Penna, CSI, CDT, LEED AP



**Date:** The 2013 CSI Brian Harrington Golf Classic will be held Monday, October 21, 2013.

**Golf Course:** Falcon Point Golf Club, Katy, TX

**Entry Forms & Sponsorship Forms:** Go to the CSI Houston Chapter website at <http://www.csihouston.org>. Forms will be available shortly for you to attend and support the CSI Houston Golf Classic.

## “Strictly SMITH-ly”

### Writing Specifications

By Donald F. Smith, Jr., CSI CCS RA LEED AP

This month we continue last month's article on “Writing Specifications.”

The savvy specification writer should begin during the Design Development project phase to collect facts about the project. This can start with a visual takeoff of the DD Drawings, collecting the material and systems that will be needed in the completed Work. A MasterFormat table of contents facilitates the collection of the facts taken from the drawings by allowing the specification writer to check off the Section Titles (work results that will be needed). Key words about special materials, products and assemblies can be added as well as questions for the Architect about missing information on the drawings. There will always be a list of things that cannot be determined during Design Development. The important thing is that someone must be responsible for obtaining decisions for each item on the list and make sure that the decisions are made and incorporated into the specifications.

An interview with the Architect once the takeoff is fairly complete fills in the details to give the specification writer a fairly complete picture of the project.

The Architect should supplement this information with cut sheets for unusual materials, assemblies and equipment that are required. The cut sheets should be specific with only required information highlighted, underlined or otherwise marked to show what is wanted, and by inference what is not wanted. A manufacturer or source is always required.

The architect may need to be reminded, from time to time, that the Project Manual is a work of non-fiction. It does everyone in the project team a disservice to specify things that do not exist, no longer exist, do not meet Code, or are buried in a cloud of choices and options. The specification writer should be constantly aware not to

accept incomplete information and information that is incompatible with related work.

Although the specifier may or may not be called upon to review Drawings for constructability, it is in his best interest to review the roof and exterior enclosure walls for continuity and constructability, especially at material changes and penetrations.

The specifier is the arranger of information for construction team in a logical predetermined order to facilitate team “Building Knowledge and Improve Project Delivery.”

There are usually about 400,000 pieces of information in the average Project Manual. While the MasterFormat facilitates their arrangement, the good information can look as good as a mistake or change of mind. It is therefore imperative that changes be documented as soon as possible and coordinated with other work before memories fade.

Some information such as interior design finish selections often require coordination with furniture and furnishings that have yet to be selected and approved by the client. Often, it may be sufficient to know what kinds of finishes are required and reference a Finish Legend and Finish Schedule that will appear later in the Construction Document phase.

The important thing is the list of items required, but not identified. This list must be kept current and reviewed periodically and coordinated with work already specified.

Nomenclature is also a big item. The terms used in Drawing notes must be the same for the same materials used in all of the Drawings and must match those terms used in the Project Manual.

There is no better help to the specifier than another set of eyes.

**“There are no facts, only interpretations”**

Nietzsche

... Just my opinion.

Donald F. Smith, Jr., CSI, CCS, RA, LEED™ AP

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## February 2013 Through February 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Jan 27	28	29	30	31	Feb 1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15 Planning Mtg—Jackie's Kitchen 7 am	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 CSI Houston Board / Chapter Meeting—HESS	26	27	28	Mar 1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15- Planning Mtg - Jackie's Kitchen 7 am	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 / 31	25 - CSI Houston Board / Chapter Meeting - HESS	26	27	28	29	30