

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA CONTACTS

Scott Kolbe / Louie Sosa

nichiha@merlotmarketing.com

Merlot Marketing, Inc. 916-285-9835

Nichiha USA Announces Independent NFPA 285 Compliance for Its Architectural Wall Panel System

Fiber cement cladding successfully meets NFPA 285 fire-propagation requirements, reinforcing Nichiha’s commitment to safe, high-performance building envelope design

JOHNS CREEK, GA – [Nichiha USA’s](#) Architectural Wall Panels (AWP) have passed independent testing to meet the NFPA 285 fire test standard for exterior wall assemblies. This is a key benchmark for today’s commercial wall systems, giving architects and builders added confidence in the panels’ safety, performance, and code compliance.

“Architects, specifiers, and building owners rely on proven, tested systems,” said Max Rietschier, Technical Services Manager at Nichiha USA. “With this independent verification, architects can confidently specify Nichiha AWP for multi-story Types I-IV construction, knowing it meets fire-safety requirements while offering design versatility and easy installation.”

The full-scale fire test was conducted in August 2025 by ICC-ES at its Bryan, Texas facility and featured Nichiha AWP panels, 4-inches of rigid foam continuous insulation, and a 1-1/4” ventilated cavity. The test evaluates the ability of exterior wall assemblies to resist vertical and lateral fire spread and simulates a post-flashover room fire with flames venting out a window, intended to prevent fire from “leapfrogging” to upper floors.

KEY FINDINGS FROM NFPA 285 EVALUATION:

Across the full 30-minute burn period, the Nichiha 16mm AWP assembly achieved compliant results, including:

- No vertical flame propagation beyond 10 feet above the window opening
- No lateral flame spread beyond 5 feet from the center of the window
- Key thermocouple readings not exceeding 1000°F and 750°F thresholds at designated locations
- No flame entry into the second-floor test room at any time

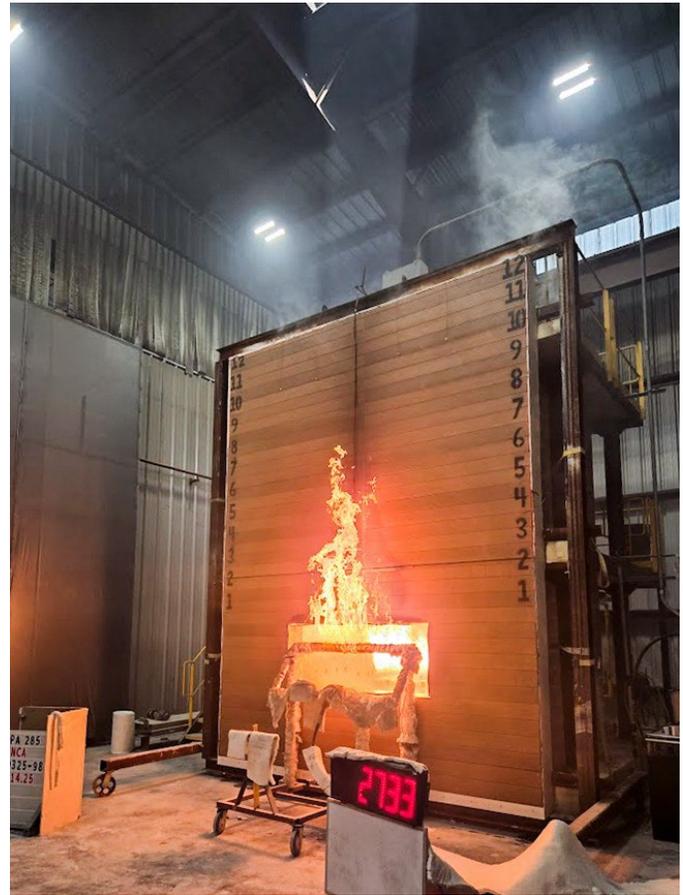
Nichiha's AWP platform combines architectural versatility with durable fiber cement performance. Panels are engineered to deliver exceptional fire, moisture, and weather resistance, promoting long-term durability with low cost of maintenance. Nichiha offers a wide range of textures, colors, and high-design finishes, all installed easily using the Ultimate Clip System hidden fastener. Together, these capabilities help commercial teams meet project goals for safety, design, cost, and performance.

For more information, please visit <https://www.nichiha.com/products>.

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From left to right in the image: Jacob Endsley with Nichiha, Alex Chernev with Nichiha, Jose Estrada with ClarkDietrich, Jason Wigboldy with TRUFast, Mike Luna with Priest & Associates, Max Rietschier with Nichiha, Mark Scharf with Nichiha.



30-minute burn period to successfully complete NFA 285-25 fire testing protocol.

About NICHHA

Nichiha USA, a subsidiary of Nichiha Corporation, is a leading manufacturer of high-functioning cladding for commercial and residential building applications. Founded in Japan in 1956, Nichiha now employs over 3,000 people across 13 locations worldwide, including a manufacturing facility in Macon, Georgia. Nichiha creates long-term value for architects, builders, and contractors through innovative building material solutions that offer durability, a wide range of colors, styles, and textures, and customized support to meet any specification—helping customers get the most out of their projects. To learn more, visit <https://nichiha.com>.