

Vesta Challenge



Low-emission, Wood-Fired Retrofit Technology for Existing Wood-burning Fireplaces

For the fourth year, *Hearth & Home* is issuing a Vesta Challenge to hearth product manufacturers for the creation of low-emission, wood-burning retrofit technology. Over the past three years, this challenge has not been met.

Last year, ICC/RSF met a different challenge, the creation of a low-emission, wood-burning fireplace. We have confidence that the hearth industry has the ability to create retrofit technology that will dramatically reduce emissions in wood-burning fireplaces; therefore we are re-issuing that challenge.

Documentation that such retrofit technology offers lower emissions than traditional fireplaces is needed. This can be accomplished either by using the tenets of solid science or, to the extent that it is feasible, the ASTM protocol. The test report must be submitted to a panel of judges for review as part of the Vesta procedure.

At a minimum, the testing program and associated report should include the following:

Magnitude of Emission Reductions

Comparison of air emissions from a wood-burning fireplace with and without the retrofit technology in place should be the key objective of the testing.

Documentation

Measurement data, intermediate data and photographic documentation of the test set-up and fireplace unit should be included as part of a test report.

Real World Use

The new technology should be operated in a realistic fashion in terms of burn rates, fuel properties and chimney configurations.

Indoor Air Quality and Safety

The retrofit model need to operate without negatively impacting indoor air quality or safety. Material strength, clearance to combustibles and smoke spillage must be within acceptable limits.

Hearth & Home's Vesta Challenge Award offers a head start to manufacturers to credibly publicize innovative wood-burning retrofit technology offering lower air-emissions.

For more information on the Vesta Challenge Award go to www.VestaAwards.com or contact Richard Wright, editor of *Hearth & Home* (1-800-258-3772). For technical suggestions on testing, contact Dr. James E. Houck at OMNI Environmental Services (503)-643-3788).



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www.VestaAwards.com