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## **WFCA and CFI Expand Training Excellence with NFIC Merger**

July 22, 2024—Dalton, GA— The World Floor Covering Association (WFCA) and the Certified Flooring Installers (CFI) are excited to announce the successful acquisition of the National Fiber Institute Certification (NFIC). This strategic merger strengthens both organizations and furthers their commitment to advancing education and training in the flooring industry.

Established in 2006, NFIC is the oldest and largest recognized certification, education and training for installers, salespeople, and inspectors in the natural fiber industry. NFIC will operate under the CFI umbrella while maintaining its unique identity. This merger will leverage the strengths of WFCA, CFI, and NFIC, amplifying their impact on the industry.

NFIC is a critical player in the industry with over 600 certified installers. Their training covers a wide array of materials, including natural fibers such as woven/tufted wools,

Axminster, Wilton, velvet, flat weave, sisal, handmade, and seagrass. Notably, NFIC's certification serves as a prerequisite for CFI's Master II certification, highlighting the natural alignment between the two organizations.

The acquisition aims to:

- Expand the opportunity for installers to obtain NFIC certification by broadening its reach.
- Grow the scope of technical training provided by NFIC to non-installers.
- Hold training sessions to develop new instructors, expanding the current team to increase the number of trainers.

Steve Abernathy, COO of WFCA and Executive Director of CFI stated, "We are thrilled about the acquisition of NFIC. This merger will allow us to reach new heights in education and training for flooring professionals. With NFIC's esteemed reputation and shared values, we are poised to continue leading the industry with unmatched expertise and innovation."

"Joining forces with WFCA and CFI is a monumental step for NFIC," added P.J. Arthur, CEO and founder of NFIC. "Our combined expertise and resources will enable us to offer unparalleled training and certification options, fostering excellence in the natural fiber sector."

WFCA, CFI, and NFIC will continue to drive progress and set new benchmarks in the flooring industry, ensuring that professionals are equipped with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed.

#### **ABOUT CFI:**

Certified Flooring Installers (CFI) is a division of the WFCA that is devoted to installation training and certification through a team of dedicated trainers who share their experience and knowledge to help others help themselves. The enthusiasm for doing this continues to grow. CFI provides educational resources for the industry through

inspection, installation, estimating, product knowledge, and patterned and woven carpet, hardwood, ceramic, laminate, and resilient flooring training. CFI provides teams of skilled craftsmen to assist when called upon for installations by dealers and manufacturers.

## **ABOUT NFIC:**

The Natural Fiber Installers Certification (NFIC) is committed to setting the highest standards in the natural fiber industry. They provide professionals with comprehensive training and certification programs, teaching techniques essential for working with these products, and promoting quality, safety, and sustainability in fiber installation and maintenance. NFIC equips installers with the skills and knowledge needed to excel, supporting a community dedicated to preserving the integrity and beauty of natural fiber installations. Founded by PJ Arthur, whose expertise in natural fiber carpets predates the advent of synthetic alternatives, NFIC benefits from his extensive industry involvement since 1964 and his recognized contributions to the field.

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