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Mechanical attachment of EIFS over house wraps is not an acceptable practice in Canada.

Mechanical Attachment over Sheathing Membranes

The mechanical attachment of an exterior insulation and finish system (EIFS) over a breather-type sheathing membrane or building paper is not approved by CCMC nor does it meet ULC S716 EIFS Standards.

Every EIFS in Canada is designed, evaluated and installed to function as a complete system. This includes a liquid-applied, water resistive barrier (LA-WRB) bonded to the substrate¹. CCMC evaluates systems and components for functionality and durability.

CCMC and ULC S716.1 Evaluations

CCMC evaluates every EIFS to both the CCMC EIFS Technical Guide and the ULC S716.1 Standard for Exterior Insulation and Finish Systems (EIFS) – Materials and Systems. CCMC evaluations encompass the performance of the LA-WRB and the other components of the EIFS including the complete EIFS assembly bonded to the LA-WRB.

¹ Some evaluated systems include mechanical attachment over self-adhered membranes. These are not the installations covered by this bulletin.

In addition, rigid insulation mechanically fastened over house wraps is less likely to provide sufficient drainage capacity to meet EIFS standards. Water trapped between foam and house wrap may migrate to the fastener penetrations resulting in damage to the sheathing at those locations.

CCMC has stated in an opinion that EIFS evaluations, "... don't cover the sheathing membranes defined in Section 9.27.3 [NBCC] and/or the CCMC evaluated spun-bonded polyolefin membranes." In addition, the letter states, "... it would be a grave mistake, to consider systems with components other than the ones defined in S716.1 as being part of the standard."²

Summary

House wraps and building paper are not acceptable substrates for EIFS in Canada.

² Letter from CCMC to John Garbin, President / CEO, EIFS Council Canada, 30 June 2014, RE: CCMC's scope of evaluation of EIFS claddings.

Technical Bulletins

This is one of a series of Technical Bulletins that the EIFS Council has produced to provide guidance concerning the performance of EIFS installations. New bulletins, as well as updates of existing bulletins, are issued periodically, as necessary. The bulletins do not create regulations; rather they provide specific guidance for complying with the minimum requirements of manufacturer's recommendations.

About the EIFS Council of Canada

Founded in 1987, the ECC, a national not-for-profit industry trade association, represents the overall EIFS industry in Canada. The ECC membership is comprised of EIFS manufacturers, distributors, component suppliers, contractors, building science/design consultants, affiliates and financial services companies. The ECC serves as the "official voice" of the EIFS industry with a mandate to provide for the advancement and growth of the industry across the country, through advocacy, education and marketing.

The EIFS Council of Canada (ECC) formed a not-for-profit corporation called the EIFS Quality Assurance Program Inc. (EQI). EQI owns the intellectual property rights and trademarks of the EIFS QAP and will be responsible for the overall operation of the program.

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