

FS131-18

IBC: 1404.3.3

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2018 International Building Code

Revise as follows:

1404.3.3 Material vapor retarder class. The *vapor retarder class* shall be based on the manufacturer's certified testing or a tested assembly.

The following shall be deemed to meet the class specified:

Class I: Sheet polyethylene, nonperforated aluminum foil with a perm rating of less than or equal to 0.1.

Class II: Kraft-faced fiberglass batts or vapor retarder paint applied in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions for a perm rating greater than 0.1 and less than or equal to 1.0.

Class III: Latex or enamel paint applied in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions for a perm rating of greater than 1.0 and less than or equal to 10.0.

Reason:

This proposal clarifies that where paints are used as vapor retarders they must be applied in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions to achieve the required perm rating for the vapor retarder class. Misuse or misapplication of paints that also may not be specifically recommended for use as vapor retarders has been shown to increase the risk of moisture problems in walls with Class III vapor retarders. Cases have been documented where paint applications have a water vapor permeance of more than three times greater than the maximum limit for Class III vapor retarders. As a result, walls intended to rely on Class III vapor retarders can experience an increased risk of moisture accumulation problems. This proposal will provide the ability to avoid this problem.

Cost Impact

The code change proposal will not increase or decrease the cost of construction .

This proposal clarifies the intent of the code and does not impact cost.

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