In this issue >>>

A discussion about Air Barriers.

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A Newsletter about Roofs and Building Science

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current topics >>>

Do building envelope specifications need to be integrated with the air barrier specification?

Yes, all specification sections for work that interface with the air barrier system must be integrated to establish and maintain the integrity and continuity of the whole building air barrier strategy. For example, cladding and insulation manufacturers/subcontractors need to know about air barrier manufacturer requirements for penetration treatments, adhesive compatibilities, etc. Lack of an integrated specification to assist in contractor coordination may lead to inadequate substrate installation, incompatibilities in product selection, or inadequacies in the installation, all of which affect the final performance of the air barrier. **Find out more about air barriers at: www.bdhatchman.com**

How do the Design, Bidding, Pre-construction and Construction processes impact air barrier performance?

Design is critical to the specification of the air barrier material to match up with the project location, occupancy, schedule for installation, and integration of the project specifications to assure that the continuity of the air barrier is maintained from design thru construction. The project specification would include the performance field testing requirements per the ABAA Quality Assurance Program (QAP).

Bidding is critical to the selection of a CM, GC and air barrier installer that have the collective experience and knowledge to plan and implement a successful air barrier installation on the specific project pursuant to the specified ABAA QAP. Preconstruction is critical to the air barrier to provide the submittals, shop drawings, mock up, first work, and coordination scheduling for all trades and the training/demonstration during the mockup performed by the air barrier installation crew to assure proper transitions and terminations.

Construction is critical to the air barrier for scheduling, work sequence, weather protection, protection from other trades, and maintaining continuity of the air barrier including at the interfaces of the waterproofing, fenestration, penetrations, parapets, and roofs. Each of these processes are equilaterally important to the performance of the air barrier and the attainment of the stated objective for the building. The design should be established, critiqued with input from related trades, and executed with a verification plan to ensure that the end product meets the owner's performance requirements.

Taken from: *Technical Bulletin on Air Barriers, June 22, 2016. Airbarrier.org*
Organized by: Thomas Kita, Jr.