



FLORIDA BUILDING CODE BINDING INTERPRETATION



Date: May 26, 2008

Report # 42

Petitioner: Ron Banks

Year: 2004

Code: Mechanical

Section: 603.6.1

Question: Local code interpretation is requiring the closure system to be mastic only at fibrous duct board to metal equipment housings, specifically an air handling unit. We are using UL-181 pressure sensitive tape, which is an approved closure system as provided for in Section 603 of the code. The local building inspectors are inconsistently enforcing this misinterpretation of the code with some allowing the tape while others fail the tape. The owner/builder of the homes are incurring the added expense of re-inspection fees and down time and we are incurring the unnecessary expense of the extra travel time of having to return to mastic these connections.

Answer: Putting the requirements in order,

- 1.) Section 603.6.1 (exception) states a joint between fibrous glass duct and the equipment housing requires the use of closure systems for fibrous glass duct.
- 2.) Section 603.4.2.1 is very clear in specifying there are three (3) approved options or systems available for the closure of rigid fibrous glass duct. These closure methods are:
 - 1) Heat-activated tape.
 - 2) Pressure-sensitive tape.
 - 3) Mastics or mastic-plus- embedded fabric systems.
- 3.) Section 603.4.2 requires a mechanical fastener (such as a connector) where the fibrous glass duct meets the air handler. Pressure-sensitive tape, by itself, is not a mechanical fastener. (See 603.1.6)

Commentary: This question and interpretation are discussing the sealing of fibrous glass duct (supply plenum) to an air handler. Any of the three (3) methods described above are an acceptable means to provide closure as required by the code for the juncture of the fibrous glass duct and the mechanical equipment housing. The code leaves it up to the installer to choose which closure system to use. Unless there is a properly adopted local technical amendment (in

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accordance with Florida Statute 553.73) specifying mastic as the only acceptable method, Pressure-Sensitive tape, (meeting UL-181 standards) must be accepted as an approved closure method.

It should also be noted: The Florida Building Code, Residential (M1601.6.3, M1601.6.3.1, and M1601.7.1) and the Florida Building Code, Building (Energy 13-610.1.ABC.3.2.1 and 13-610.1.ABC.3.2.2) contain the same requirements for mechanical attachments and closure methods as found in the Florida Building Code, Mechanical.

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