

# AIR BARRIER REQUIREMENTS

# Energy Code - Air Barrier Requirements

**AIR BARRIER.** Material(s) assembled and joined together to provide a barrier to air leakage through the building envelope. An air barrier may be a single material or a combination of materials.

- Material air permeability  $\leq 0.004$  cfm/ft<sup>2</sup> per ASTM E2178 ([IECC 2012 C402.4.1.2.1](#))
- Some codes may list “deemed-to-comply” air barrier materials
  - Best to verify with product manufacturer’s test data
- Typical types of air-barrier materials or assemblies
  - Sheathing (gypsum board, FPIS, WSP, etc.)
  - Concrete / stucco / parged (mortar finished) masonry
  - Membranes (wraps, spray/elastomeric, peel-and-stick, etc.)

# Air Barrier Applications of FPIS

- Many FPIS products are AB materials
  - Refer to [TER No. 1410-06](#)
  - As with any air-barrier material, the installed performance depends on good joint sealing

# Air Barrier Applications of FPIS

- AB application tips:
  - Though code requires AB only on one side of wall, both sides will give better thermal and moisture control
  - Know the difference between AB and vapor barrier
    - An air barrier stops the movement of air into or out of the conditioned space
    - A vapor barrier slows or reduces the movement of water vapor through a material.
  - Like other materials, air-barriers have vapor permeance properties and should be coordinated with the code-compliant vapor control strategy for a wall assembly.