

7.2.2 – VAPOUR BARRIER (NATIONAL BUILDING CODE OF CANADA)

Logix Insulated Concrete Forms Ltd.
Project No. 3109888-R1

January 30, 2007
Revised: January 31, 2007
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1 Introduction

Intertek Testing Services NA Ltd. (Intertek) has conducted an engineering evaluation for Logix Insulated Concrete Forms Ltd., on Logix ICF, to evaluate the vapor permeance properties of the product. The evaluation was conducted to determine if Logix ICF meets the 2005 National Building Code (NBC) for use as a vapor barrier.

2 Sample Description

Logix ICF consists of rigid interlocking expanded polystyrene (EPS) foam plastic boards that serve as permanent formwork for reinforced concrete, exterior and interior walls, and foundation and retaining walls.

3 Reference Documents

- 2005 National Building Code (NBC)
- ASTM E96/96M-05, Standard Test Methods for Water Vapor Transmission of Materials (ASTM E96)
- Intertek Test Report 3048347 dated October 14, 2003
- Intertek Letter dated January 6, 2005

4 Evaluation Method

Vapor barrier properties and installation are described in detail in Section 5.5.1.2 of the 2005 NBC. These details are summarized below:

- 1) The vapor barrier shall have sufficiently low permeance and shall be positioned in the building component or assembly so as to
 - a) minimize moisture transfer by diffusion, to surfaces within the assembly that would be cold enough to cause condensation at the design temperature and humidity conditions, or
 - b) reduce moisture transfer by diffusion, to surfaces within the assembly that would be cold enough to cause condensation at the design temperature and humidity conditions, to a rate that will not allow sufficient accumulation of moisture to cause deterioration or otherwise adversely affect any of
 - i. the health or safety of building users,
 - ii. the intended use of the building, or
 - iii. the operation of building services.
- 2) Coatings applied to gypsum wallboard to provide required resistance to vapour diffusion shall conform to the requirements of Sentence (1) when tested in accordance with CAN/CGSB-1.501-M, "Method for Permeance of Coated Wallboard."

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- 3) Coatings applied to materials other than gypsum wallboard to provide required resistance to vapor diffusion shall conform to the requirements of Sentence (1) when tested in accordance with ASTM E96, "Water Vapor Transmission of Materials" by the desiccant method (dry cup).

Vapor Barrier materials are further discussed in Section 9.25.4.2 of the 2005 NBC under Sentence (1) which is summarized below:

- 1) Vapor barriers shall have a permeance not greater than 60 ng/Pa-s-m² measured in accordance with ASTM E96, "Water Vapor Transmission of Materials" by the desiccant method (dry cup).


Logix ICF fall under Sentence (3) of Section 5.5.1.2 of the 2005 NBC and have been tested by Intertek in accordance with ASTM E96 using the desiccant method. The results were summarized in Intertek Test Report 3048347 dated October 14, 2003 and showed that a 1-inch Logix ICF had a water permeance of 100 ng/Pa-s-m². In the field, Logix ICF is installed with a 2.75-inch thickness and thus the calculated water permeance at this thickness is 36 ng/Pa-s-m². The detailed calculations are shown in Intertek Letter dated January 5, 2005. Based on these results, Logix ICF meets the requirements of Section 9.25.4.2, Sentence (1) of the 2005 NBC and can be installed without the use of a vapor barrier.

5 Conclusion

Intertek has conducted an engineering evaluation for Logix Insulated Concrete Forms Ltd., on Logix ICF, to determine if the Logix ICF meets the 2005 National Building Code as a vapor barrier. The analysis, per Section 4 above, showed that Logix ICF meets the water permeance requirements and can be installed without a vapor barrier.

INTERTEK TESTING SERVICES NA LTD.

Reported by: 
Matt Lansdowne, EIT
Engineer, Building Products

Reviewed by: 
Kal Kooner, EIT
Team Leader, Engineering Services Canada

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REVISION SUMMARY

DATE	SUMMARY
February 1, 2007	Added additional reference to 2005 NBC and maximum permeance requirements

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