

TO: The Architectural/Specifying Community

RE: **TECHNICAL ADVISORY, October 2009**

The use of air barriers continues to grow dramatically. Technologies are advancing rapidly as is standardized testing. While standardized testing is critical to your decision making there are some large technical gaps in your reliance on this standard to judge air barrier system and accessory performance.

1. **Gap 1**, the test does not evaluate the effect of a through wall flashing that incorporates a mechanically attached flashing termination bar. More than likely the air barrier would not pass ASTM E 2357 if this feature were incorporated.

**Solution**, use a non-penetrating flashing system by adhering the through wall flashing and its' end/lap joints to the air barrier. Special caution must be used in material selection as chemical compatibility is a huge hidden problem. *Your best bet is to use the polyether sealant technology as manufactured by STS Coatings (LT-100 or GreatSeal PE-150), York Mfg. (UniverSeal) or Sonolastic 150. Polyether technology is the most universally chemically compatible sealant on today's market.*

2. **Gap 2**, the Air Barrier System test does not evaluate the chemical compatibility issues of the flashings system and the air barrier. We strongly recommend that you consider non-asphaltic copper flashings like York Mfg's Flash Vent or Multi-Flash, STS Coatings Gorilla Flash FV or MF, or the EvacuFlash.

**Use non-asphaltic copper flashing and seal all of the laps/end joints with the polyether sealants listed above to ensure that any possible incompatibility issues will be absolutely minimized.**

If you have any questions please feel free to call me and discuss, take care.

Roy Schauffele, FCSI, CCPR  
President

