†NFPA 285 is a standard test method for evaluating fire propagation characteristics of exterior noncombustible wall assemblies containing combustible components. NFPA 285 compliance is identified through assembly analysis by accredited testing facilities and Fire Protection Engineers as referenced in AC12 §6.6. This document is intended as a guide for architects, general contractors, building owners and authorities having jurisdiction in the design and construction of walls requiring NFPA 285 compliance. Product manufacturers do not have the authority to approve and do not approve project specific NFPA 285 compliance. Contact the authority having jurisdiction for final approval.


**2015 International Building Code: Section 1403.5 Vertical and lateral flame propagation. Exterior walls on buildings of Type I, II, III or IV construction that are greater than 40 feet (12192mm) in height above grade plane and contain a combustible water-resistive barrier shall be tested in accordance with and comply with the acceptance criteria of NFPA 285. For the purposes of this section, fenestration products and flashing of fenestration products shall not be considered part of the water-resistive barrier (WRB).

Exceptions:
1. Walls in which the water-resistive barrier is the only combustible component and the exterior wall has a wall covering of brick, concrete, stone, terracotta, stucco or steel with minimum thickness in accordance with Table 1405.2.
2. Walls in which the water-resistive barrier is the only combustible component and the water-resistive barrier has a peak heat release rate of less than 150 kW/M2, a total heat release of less than 20MJ/m2 and an effective heat of combustion of less than 18MJ/kg as determined in accordance with ASTM E 1354 and has a flame spread index of 25 or less and a smoke-developed index of 450 or less as determined in accordance with ASTM E84 or UL 723. The ASTM E1354 test shall be conducted on specimens at the thickness intended for use, in the horizontal orientation and at an incident radiant heat flux of 50 kW/M2.