

2021 IBC & IECC Changes Affecting Air and Water Barriers

Two updates that impact air and water-resistive barriers (WRBs):

Under Section 1403.2, the IBC (International Building Code) expands WRB compliance methods to include materials in addition to #15 felt:



Not fewer than one layer of water-resistive barrier material shall be attached to the studs or sheathing, with flashing as described in Section 1404.4, in such a manner as to provide a continuous water-resistive barrier behind the exterior wall veneer. Water resistive barriers shall comply with one of the following:

- 1. No. 15 felt complying with ASTM D226, Type 1
- 2. ASTM E2556, Type I or II
- 3. ASTM E331 in accordance with Section 1402.2
- **4.** other approved materials installed in accordance with the manufacturer's installation instructions

Under Section C402.5.1.5, the IECC (International Energy Conservation Code) includes a building envelope performance verification that will affect designers more directly:



The new IECC building envelope performance verification requires:

- 1. a review of the construction documents
- 2. an inspection of a continuous air barrier and
- **3.** a final commissioning report by the registered design professional or approved agency

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