

DOCKETED

Docket Number:	19-BSTD-03
Project Title:	2022 Energy Code Pre-Rulemaking
TN #:	235579
Document Title:	Response to November 3, 2020 Workshop Questions
Description:	N/A
Filer:	System
Organization:	Clarissa Binkley
Submitter Role:	Public
Submission Date:	11/12/2020 2:43:44 PM
Docketed Date:	11/12/2020

Comment Received From: Clarissa Binkley
Submitted On: 11/12/2020
Docket Number: 19-BSTD-03

Response to November 3, 2020 Workshop Questions

During the November 3, 2020 workshop the Energy Commission said they were interested in getting input from stakeholders on a few questions related to this Docket. As a building enclosure consultant with more than 10 years of experience, including 4 years in California, I would like to provide feedback on those questions.

Question Posed: Have issues with installation of air barriers in currently required climate zones been observed, and do these issues occur with sufficient frequency to justify the improvement in performance claimed to verification? (30% to 40% over non-verified).

Response: In my role as a building enclosure consultant, I complete quality assurance field reviews during the course of construction, and have experience in multiple climate zones. Although a continuous air barrier is included in the design of these buildings, I identify air barrier continuity issues during quality assurance field reviews at almost every project. The level of severity of these issues varies significantly; however, it is true across that board that issues identified while the air barrier is exposed during construction can easily be addressed without significant additional cost or effort, and that these issues would be unlikely to be address if they were not identified through the quality assurance field reviews. This fact is very strong evidence that verification of air barrier installation can significantly improve air barrier performance.

Question Posed: Are there sufficient trained and qualified professionals in the state to assure a consistent level of verification performance and consistent results in all building types?

- a. What qualifications are needed for performing a visual inspection of an air barrier?
- b. What qualifications are needed for performing air barrier leakage testing?

Response:

- a. Qualifications to perform visual inspection of an air barrier should strike a balance between being sufficiently accessible (to ensure that costs are not excessive) and sufficiently rigorous (to ensure that inspections are effective). As a result, I would suggest that the party performing such inspections should have a minimum of three years of experience reviewing the installation of similar systems and provide written confirmation that they are familiar with the manufacturer's up-to-date installation requirements.
- b. Similarly, I would suggest that party performing air barrier leakage testing should have a minimum of three years of experience with conducting tests of this type, and provide written confirmation from the manufacturer of the testing equipment that the party is competent in the use of the testing equipment.