Should New ASTM Standards Change How You Specify?

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To the design and building community, American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) is as significant as the United Nations (UN) is to global action or Technology, Entertainment and Design (TED) is to inspiring talks. ASTM sets the benchmark, defines standards and is synonymous with excellence. As the ASTM website states, “ASTM standards enhance performance and help everyone have confidence in the things they buy and use — from the toy in a child’s hand to the aircraft overhead.” So when ASTM changes a building standard, we in the industry take note. Any change ASTM approves should not be taken lightly.

In late 2014, ASTM added Cement Board Masonry Veneer (CBMV) to ASTM Standard C 1780. What does this mean to you, as an architect or specifier? The new ASTM C 1780 stamp of approval to use PermaBase® BRAND Cement Board (ASTM C 1325) as sheathing for manufactured stone, in residential and commercial construction (ASTM C 1780) should encourage you to try it if you haven’t already. This extra level of validation should give you peace of mind to replace expanded metal lath and scratch and brown coat mortars with PermaBase. And if being included in additional ASTM standards isn’t enough, the Masonry Veneer Manufacturers Association (MVMA) added cement board as an approved substrate to its publication, “Installation Guide and Detailing Options for Compliance with ASTM C 1780.” This includes provisions for Water-Resistive Barriers (WRB), continuous insulation and specialty fasteners.

In case you aren’t already familiar with it, PermaBase Cement Board is an engineered product that saves time, labor and takes variability out of assembly. It allows multiple finishes on one substrate, is appropriate for all climates, and compatible with continuous insulation. Moisture resistant, this specially fabricated cement board resists the growth of mold and mildew. Extremely durable, it even offers the industry’s best 15-year exterior warranty. But don’t just take our word for it. Take the word of ASTM and also MVMA.

Contact your construction design manager for details about this new ASTM information or with questions about specifying PermaBase Cement Board. As always, we’re here to help you build better.

“Although cement board has been used as an exterior substrate for coating and adhered veneer systems for decades, the inclusion of the product into the ASTM standard adds validation to an assembly method that has proven itself to have tremendous advantages over the traditional method of application. The use of a cement board substrate for adhered masonry easily allows for the inclusion of continuous insulation into the assembly. There are multiple application options and methods that will allow the assembly to comply with the required R value for most zones and includes a sturdy, durable and warrantable exterior cladding.”

“PermaBase is an engineered, manufactured product that complies with an ASTM product specification that must pass a series of quality inspections while expanded metal lath with a scratch and brown coat mortar are mixed in the field without the same exacting standards. Now that cement boards are accepted in ASTM C 1780, along with better mold and impact resistance, improved adhesion, and an industry leading warranty, it should be a no-brainer for an architect to specify PermaBase in his/her exterior wall system. Bottom line, by specifying PermaBase, the architect is assured that he/she has specified a system that provides performance, value and peace of mind.”