

SECTION 07 27 10.00 10

BUILDING AIR BARRIER SYSTEM

08/19, CHG 1: 02/20

PART 1 GENERAL

1.1 SUMMARY

This Section specifies the construction and quality control of the installation of an air barrier system. Construct the air barrier system indicated, taking responsibility for the means, methods, and workmanship of the installation of the air barrier system. The air barrier must be contiguous and connected across all surfaces of the enclosed air barrier envelope indicated. The maximum leakage requirements of individual air barrier components and materials are specified in the other specification sections covering these items.[]

This section also defines the maximum allowable leakage of the final air barrier system. The workmanship must be adequate to meet the maximum allowable leakage requirements of this specification. Test the assembled air barrier system to demonstrate that the building envelope is properly sealed and insulated. Passing the air barrier system leakage test and thermography test will result in system acceptance. Conform air barrier system leakage and thermography testing and reporting to the requirements of Section 07 05 23 PRESSURE TESTING AN AIR BARRIER SYSTEM FOR AIR TIGHTNESS.[]

1.2 REFERENCES

The publications listed below form a part of this specification to the extent referenced. The publications are referenced within the text by the basic designation only.

ASTM INTERNATIONAL (ASTM)

ASTM D4541	(2017) Standard Test Method for Pull-Off Strength of Coatings Using Portable Adhesion Testers
ASTM E96/E96M	(2021) Standard Test Methods for Water Vapor Transmission of Materials
ASTM E2178	(2021a) Standard Test Method for Air Permeance of Building Materials
ASTM E2357	(2017) Standard Test Method for Determining Air Leakage of Air Barrier Assemblies

JAPANESE STANDARDS ASSOCIATION (JSA)

JIS A 1324	(2017) Measuring Method of Water Vapor Permeance for Building Materials
JIS A 9511	(2021) Preformed Cellular Plastics Thermal Insulation Materials

JIS A 9526

(2017) Spray-Applied Rigid Polyurethane  
Foam for Thermal Insulation

NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION (NFPA)

NFPA 285

(2012) Standard Fire Test Method for  
Evaluation of Fire Propagation  
Characteristics of Exterior  
Non-Load-Bearing Wall Assemblies  
Containing Combustible Components

### 1.3 DEFINITIONS

The following terms as they apply to this section:

#### 1.3.1 Air Barrier Accessory

Products designated to maintain air tightness between air barrier materials, air barrier assemblies and air barrier components, to fasten them to the structure of the building, or both (e.g., sealants, tapes, backer rods, transition membranes, fasteners, strapping, primers).

#### 1.3.2 Air Barrier Assembly

The combination of air barrier materials and air barrier accessories that are designated and designed within the environmental separator to act as a continuous barrier to the movement of air through the environmental separator.

#### 1.3.3 Air Barrier Component

Pre-manufactured elements such as windows, doors, dampers and service elements that are installed in the environmental separator.

#### 1.3.4 Air Barrier Envelope

The combination of air barrier assemblies and air barrier components, connected by air barrier accessories that are designed to provide a continuous barrier to the movement of air through an environmental separator. There may be more than one air barrier envelope in a single building. Also known as Air Barrier System.

#### 1.3.5 Air Barrier Material

A building material that is designed, tested and/or produced to provide the primary resistance to airflow through an air barrier assembly of a wall system.

#### 1.3.6 Air Barrier System

Same as AIR BARRIER ENVELOPE.

#### 1.3.7 Air Leakage Rate

The rate of airflow (L/s) driven through a unit surface area (sq. m) of an assembly or system by a unit static pressure difference (Pa) across the assembly. (example: 1.27 L/s-m<sup>2</sup> @ 75 Pa)

#### 1.3.8 Air Leakage

The total airflow (L/s) driven through the air barrier system by a unit static pressure difference (Pa) across the air barrier envelope. (example: 3070 L/s @ 75 Pa)

#### 1.3.9 Air Permeance

The tested rate of airflow (L/s) through a unit area (sq. m) of a material driven by unit static pressure difference (Pa) across the material (example: 0.02 L/s-m<sup>2</sup> @ 75 Pa) as established by ASTM E2178 or JIS A 1324.

#### 1.3.10 Environmental Separator

The parts of a building that separate the controlled interior environment from the uncontrolled exterior environment, or that separate spaces within a building that have dissimilar environments. Also known as the Control Layer.

#### 1.3.11 Vapor Permeance

Vapor permeance is separated into three classes based on the water vapor permeance of a material as tested via ASTM E96/E96M or JIS A 9511

Class I Vapor Barrier/Retarder 0.1 perm or less

Class II Vapor Barrier/Retarder 0.1 perm to 1.0 perm

Class III Vapor Barrier/Retarder 1.0 perm to 10 perm

#### 1.4 PREPARATORY PHASE OR PRECONSTRUCTION CONFERENCE

Organize pre-construction conferences between the air barrier inspector and the sub-contractors involved in the construction of or penetration of the air barrier system to discuss where the work of each sub-contractor begins and ends, the sequence of installation, and each sub-contractor's responsibility to ensure airtight joints, junctures, penetrations and transitions between materials. Discuss the products, and assemblies of products specified in the different sections to be installed by the different sub-contractors.

#### 1.5 SUBMITTALS

Government approval is required for submittals with a "G" or "S" classification. Submittals not having a "G" or "S" classification are [for Contractor Quality Control approval.][for information only. When used, a code following the "G" classification identifies the office that will review the submittal for the Government.] Submit the following in accordance with Section 01 33 00 SUBMITTAL PROCEDURES:

##### SD-02 Shop Drawings

Air Barrier System Shop Drawings; G[, [\_\_\_\_]], Manufacturer produced warranted air barrier system

##### SD-03 Product Data

Air Barrier System Product Data; G[, [\_\_\_\_]]

SD-04 Samples

Mock-Up; G[, [\_\_\_\_\_]]

Material Samples For Air Barrier System; G[, [\_\_\_\_\_]]

SD-05 Design Data

Design Data And Calculations For The Air Barrier System; G[, [\_\_\_\_\_]], Manufacturer produced warranted air barrier system

SD-06 Test Reports

Design Review Report; G[, [\_\_\_\_\_]]

Testing and Inspection; G[, [\_\_\_\_\_]]

SD-07 Certificates

Air Barrier Inspector; G, RO

[1.6 AIR BARRIER ENVELOPE SURFACE AREA AND LEAKAGE REQUIREMENTS

The building air barrier systems must meet the following leakage requirements. The allowable leakage rate and the maximum leakage are at a differential test pressure of 75 Pa.

Air Barrier Envelope 1	
Surface Area	[_____] square meter
Architectural Only Test:	
Allowable leakage rate	[1.27][2.03][_____] L/s per square meter
Maximum leakage	[_____] total L/s
Architectural Plus HVAC System Test:	
Allowable leakage rate	[1.52][2.29][_____] L/s per square meter
Maximum leakage	[_____] total L/s

Air Barrier Envelope 2	
Surface Area	[_____] square meter
Architectural Only Test:	
Allowable leakage rate	[1.27][2.03][_____] L/s per square meter

Maximum leakage	[_____] total L/s
Architectural Plus HVAC System Test:	
Allowable leakage rate	[1.52][2.29][_____] L/s per square meter
Maximum leakage	[_____] total L/s

Air Barrier Envelope 3	
Surface Area	[_____] square meter
Architectural Only Test:	
Allowable leakage rate	[1.27][2.03][_____] L/s per square meter
Maximum leakage	[_____] total L/s
Architectural Plus HVAC System Test:	
Allowable leakage rate	[1.52][2.29][_____] L/s per square meter
Maximum leakage	[_____] total L/s

#### ][1.7 AIR BARRIER INSPECTOR

Employ a designated Air Barrier Inspector on this project. The Air Barrier Inspector performs a Design Review, oversees quality control testing specified in these specifications, performs quality control air barrier inspection as specified, interfaces with the designer and product manufacturer's representatives to assure all installation requirements are met, and verifies that the constructed work is in accordance with both the manufacturer's recommendations for products used, the content of this specification and other contract drawings or documents. Qualification for the Air Barrier Inspector are as follows:

- a. Training and certification as an Air Barrier Auditor from the Air Barrier Association of America (ABAA) or other third party air barrier association.
- b. Or, provide documentation in resume format that demonstrates that the individual proposed has the experience, knowledge, skills and abilities to fulfill the above stated duties as the air barrier inspector.
- c. It is acceptable that this individual be employed by the firm who will be performing the building pressurization test or another independent third party entity, provided they meet the above requirements but shall not be a member of the installing contractor or firm.

Provide copies of Air Barrier Inspector qualifications 30 days after Notice to Proceed.

]1.8 DESIGN REVIEW

Review the Contract Plans and Specifications and advise the Contracting Officer of any deficiencies that would prevent the construction of an effective air barrier system. Provide a Design Review Report individually listing each deficiency and the corresponding proposed corrective action necessary for proper air barrier system. Provide copies of the Design Review Report not later than [14] [\_\_\_\_\_] days after approval of the Air Barrier Inspector Qualifications. Submit design data and calculations for the Air Barrier System for a manufacturer produced warranted air barrier system.

]PART 2 PRODUCTS

2.1 AIR BARRIER

Provide air barrier system of compatible parts from one or several manufacturers coordinated by the contractor or provide a single warranted system provided by a primary manufacturer. The air barrier system as part of a tested exterior wall assembly must meet the conditions of acceptance as tested in accordance with NFPA 285. Materials used for roof assembly air barrier must conform to the appropriate UL and FM wind and fire requirements for the specified roof assemblies.

If a complete air barrier system from a single manufacturer is utilized, whether warranted or not warranted, the air barrier system must conform to ASTM E2357.

Materials in the following categories as used in the air barrier system or assembly of the exterior wall system are tested and are required to conform to ASTM E2178 or JIS A 1324: Self-adhered sheet membranes, fluid applied membranes, spray polyurethane foam, mechanically fastened commercial building wrap, factory bonded membranes to sheathing, and adhesive backed commercial building wrap and accessory products.

Other materials used as an air barrier such as concrete, glass, wood, metal or gypsum board may or may not conform to ASTM E2178 or JIS A 1324 but are acceptable provided that when integrated into the air barrier system or assemblies that they are not subject to material or environmental induced degradation in their final produced state and once incorporated in the permanent construction.

All materials used must be identifiable through manufacturer testing data and/or literature to be compatible with all the attached or adjoining materials or substrates used in the system.

Provide Air Barrier System Shop Drawings, Material Samples for Air Barrier System and Air Barrier System Product Data.

PART 3 EXECUTION

3.1 QUALITY CONTROL

3.1.1 Documentation and Reporting

Document the entire installation process on daily job site reports. These reports include information on the Installer, substrates, substrate preparation, products used, ambient and substrate temperature, the location of the air barrier installation, the results of the quality

control procedures, and testing results.

[3.1.2 Construction Mock-Up

Build mock-up prior to building envelope construction.

- a. Prepare a construction mock-up to demonstrate proper installation of the air barrier assemblies and components. Include air barrier system connections between floor and wall, wall and window, wall and roof. Also, include the sealing method between membrane joints at transitions from one material or component to another, at pipe or conduit penetrations of the wall and roof, and at duct penetration of the wall and roof. Work will not begin until the mock-up is satisfactory to the Contracting Officer.
- b. Size the mock-up to approximately 2 m long by 2 m high. The mock-up must be representative of primary exterior wall assemblies and glazing components including backup wall and typical penetrations as acceptable to the Contracting Officer. A corner of the actual building may be used as the mock-up.
- c. Mock-Up Tests for Adhesion: Test the mock-up of materials for adhesion in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations. Perform the test after the curing period recommended by the manufacturer. Record the mode of failure and the area which failed in accordance with ASTM D4541 or JIS A 9526. When the air barrier material manufacturer has established a minimum adhesion level for the product on the particular substrate, the inspection report must indicate whether this requirement has been met. Where the manufacturer has not declared a minimum adhesion value for their product/substrate combination, simply record the value.

]3.1.3 Quality Control Testing And Inspection

Conduct the following tests and inspections as applicable in the presence of the Contracting Officer during installation of the air barrier system, and submit quality control reports as indicated below.

- a. Provide a Daily Report of Observations with a copy to the Contracting Officer.
- b. Inspect to assure continuity of the air barrier system throughout the building enclosure and that all gaps are covered, the covering is structurally sound, and all penetrations are sealed allowing for no infiltration or exfiltration through the air barrier system.
- c. Inspect to assure structural support of the air barrier system to withstand design air pressures.
- d. Inspect to assure masonry surfaces receiving air barrier materials are smooth, clean, and free of cavities, protrusions and mortar droppings, with mortar joints struck flush or as required by the manufacturer of the air barrier material.
- e. Inspect and test to assure site conditions for application temperature, and dryness of substrates are within guidelines.
- f. Inspect to assure substrate surfaces are properly primed if applicable and in accordance with manufacturer's instructions. Priming must extend at least 50 mm beyond the air barrier material to make it

obvious that the primer was applied to the substrate before the air barrier material.

- g. Inspect to assure laps in materials are at least a 50-mm minimum, shingled in the correct direction or mastic applied in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations, and with no fishmouths.
- h. Inspect to assure that a roller has been used to enhance adhesion. Identify any defects such as fishmouths, wrinkles, areas of lost adhesion, and improper curing. Note the intended remedy for the deficiencies.
- i. Measure application thickness of liquid applied materials to assure that manufacturer's specifications for the specific substrate are met.
- j. Inspect to assure that the correct materials are installed for compatibility.
- k. Inspect to assure proper transitions for change in direction and structural support at gaps.
- l. Inspect to assure proper connection between assemblies (membrane and sealants) for cleaning, preparation and priming of surfaces, structural support, integrity and continuity of seal.
- m. Perform adhesion tests for fluid-applied and self-adhered air barrier membranes to assure that the manufacturer's specified adhesion strength properties are met. Determine the bond strength of coatings to substrate in accordance with ASTM D4541 or JIS A 9526.
- n. Provide cohesion tests for spray polyurethane foam (SPF). [Perform the tests in accordance with the specification sections which specify these materials.] [Perform adhesion tests as follows: Using a coring tool remove a sample and determine the relative adhesion quality of the foam. If the foam is hard to remove and leaves small bits of foam on the substrate it is called cohesive foam failure and is considered the best adhesion. If the foam comes away from the substrate with some force but is clean, it is called a mechanical bond. If it comes away easily from the substrate, the adhesion is poor. Cohesive foam failure and a good mechanical bond are acceptable.]
- o. Provide written test reports of all tests performed.

### 3.2 REPAIR AND PROTECTION

Upon completion of inspection, testing, sample removal and similar services, repair damaged construction and restore substrates, coatings and finishes. Protect construction exposed by or for quality control service activities, and protect repaired construction.

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