



Protection is a concrete idea.



14 April 2009

Subject: Masonry Construction and Air and Vapor Barriers

The States of Massachusetts and Rhode Island are the only states with Air and Vapor Barrier Code requirements at the current time. (The State of Wisconsin dropped their requirement in 2007)

In the past, single wythe masonry construction has been able to achieve satisfactory air and vapor barrier values using standard construction procedures namely, by the use of integral water repellent additives in both the block itself and mortar. Surface coatings as well have been used in some cases.

The National Concrete Masonry Association (NCMA) currently has a Laboratory Test Program investigating air leakage through several different masonry walls with various coatings in an attempt to verify the true characteristics of coated walls. The test results should be available this fall.

In the meantime, by contacting your local coatings suppliers, they should be able to advise you to what is currently being accepted as well as which surfaces the coatings are being applied to.

You can also visit our website at www.cbisinc.com and click on the left, Technical Library. At the top of that page is a TEK button which will reach the complete set of (NCMA) TEK Reports. This information will help in your future design questions in all phases of masonry construction.

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