Frequently Asked Questions about the 5th Edition 2014 Energy Conservation Requirements under the New Florida Residential Building Code?

Question 1:
The Florida Building Code has two methods - Performance and Prescriptive. What is the difference?

Answer 1:
The Prescriptive Method has pre-assigned minimums for each component of the building; the Performance Method allows customization and assigns values for each component. The total e-ratio for the residential structure must match baseline home performance requirements to receive a building permit. [Performance Method is defined under Section R405]

Question 2:
The Florida Prescriptive Method now requires an R-6 (Climate Zone 2) for mass walls; does this mean my only option is to use insulation with an R-6 or higher value?

Answer 2:
No. By using the Performance Method with Energy Gauge software, you can insert Fi-Foil's AA2 Vapor Shield Hi-Perm (R-4.1), as your masonry wall insulation. If your home does not pass code compliance, then you simply have to make up the difference in another area. For example, adding a radiant barrier, upgrading from R-30 to R-38 attic insulation, change the duct leakage to "Leak Free" or upgrading to SEER 15 HVAC unit to reduce the e-ratio achieved for your home. Must have e-ratio of 1.0 or less.

Question 3:
Will the use of the Performance Method be "New" to the builders and architects?

Answer 3:
No, in fact the Prescriptive Method has been used in less than 15% of the total buildings in Florida. The Performance Method has always been the preferred method.

Question 4:
Does Fi-Foil have higher R-value solutions for masonry block walls?

Answer 4:
Yes. Fi-Foil manufactures a product called VR Plus Shield Hi-Perm reflective insulation that can be installed on 1-1/2" wood furring or 1-5/8" metal framing to achieve an R-7.0 (or R-7.1 for Standard version). Fi-Foil reflective insulation can also be combined with other insulation materials to generate even higher insulation system values. . For example, if you install a 3/4" foam board against the masonry block wall or use core fill foam injection to hybrid option then install 3/4" furring strips over the foam board, then staple Fi-Foil's AA2 Vapor Shield Hi-Perm (R-4.1) to the face of the furring strip. The total R-value for this hybrid insulation system will be R-4.1 + the foam board or core-fill R-values (refer to the foam board or core-fill insulation manufacturers' specification for R-value).

Question 5:
What other Fi-Foil product options will help us lower the point totals in the buildings?

Answer 5:
Fi-Foil's Silver Shield Radiant Barrier installed as an attic radiant barrier. And the insulation contractor currently installing your Fi-Foil products can install this product for you.

Question 6:
How can I improve the R-value of the frame wall insulation system?

Answer 6:
A hybrid spray foam / reflective insulation system will provide high R-values and air sealing, all in one system. Fi-Foil's HY-Fi (reflective insulation combined with Open Cell or Closed Cell Spray Foam) is a high performance solution for frame walls. Go to: **HY-Fi** for more details.