

Frequently Asked Questions about the 6th Edition Draft of 2017 Energy Conservation Requirements under the Florida Residential Building Code?

Question 1:

The Florida Building Code has two compliance methods – Performance-based and Prescriptive. What is the difference?

Answer 1:

The Prescriptive requirements have pre-assigned minimums for each component of the building; the Performance-based allows customization and assigns values for each component. [Performance-based is defined under Section R405] [Prescriptive requirements are outlined under Section R402]

Question 2:

The Florida Prescriptive requirement is R-6 for mass walls, in Climate Zone 2 (if more than 50% of the insulation is on the interior side of the wall); does this mean my only option is to use insulation with an R-6 or higher value?

Answer 2:

No. By using EnergyGauge USA software to meet Performance-based compliance, 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, increasing your ceiling insulation or changing the size of your air conditioning unit.

Question 3:

Will the use of the Performance-based compliance be "New" to the builders and architects?

Answer 3:

No, in fact the Prescriptive requirements have been used in less than 15% of the total buildings in Florida. Performance-based has always been the preferred option.

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" non-reflective faced foam board against the masonry block wall, 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-8.1 (if the R-value of the foam board is R-4.0).

Question 5:

What other Fi-Foil product options will help us meet the energy performance levels needed in our homes?

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:

What do you have to address frame wall applications?

Answer 6:

Fi-Foil's HY-Fi (reflective insulation combined with Open Cell or Closed Cell Spray Foam) to create a high-performance solution for frame walls. Go to: [HY-Fi](#) for more details.

Question 7:

Does Fi-Foil offer an Air Barrier that works in bonus room and knee wall applications?

Answer 7:

Fi-Foil's SkyFlex is used as a primary air enclosure boundary between conditioned and unconditioned air in the building envelope. SkyFlex's air permeance levels fall below 0.02L(sxm2)@75 Pa, making it a very effective air barrier material. An air barrier permeance equal to or less than 0.02L(sxm2)@75 Pa, as tested in accordance with ASTM 2178, qualifies as an air barrier material.

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