



Informal Interpretation Report Number 7075



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Section 402.4.1

Question:

Is it the intent of the statement "The following shall be caulked, gasketed, weatherstripped or otherwise sealed with an air barrier material, suitable film or solid material." Does use of the word "or" before otherwise provide an exception that if a housewrap that qualifies as an air infiltration barrier is on the outside of an exterior wall that no air infiltration barriers are required on the inside or elsewhere?

Answer

House wraps may serve as a building envelope air barrier in accordance with the definition of Air Barrier. The configuration of the conditioned and unconditioned spaces within the building may require additional air barriers. The definition contains a maximum air leakage rate that must be met by the house wrap.

Commentary:

Table 402.4.2 provides a list of required inspections in order to comply with the visual inspection option of 402.4.2.2. In this Table it stipulates that the area behind the tub/shower shall have an air barrier between the exterior wall (with insulation) and the tub/shower. Additionally, it requires that electrical boxes on exterior walls be installed inside the air barrier or be air sealed type boxes.

Notice:

The Building Officials Association of Florida, in cooperation with the Florida Building Commission, the Florida Department of Business & Professional Regulation, ICC, and industry and professional experts offer this interpretation of the Florida Building Code in the interest of consistency in their application statewide. This interpretation is informal, non-binding and subject to acceptance and approval by the local building official.