

Windstorm Inspections Program

July 2021 Newsletter

Windborne debris

Make sure you're using the 2018 International Building Code and International Residential Code for new construction, alterations, repairs, and additions in catastrophe areas. The 2018 IRC and IBC codes have replaced the 2006 International Building Code and 2006 International Residential Code with Texas Revisions. Here's what you need to know.

- You have a choice of products when windborne debris protection is required for glazed building products. You can use impact rated glazed building products or non-impact rated products with a windborne debris protective device. Examples include a proprietary shutter product, or a 7/16-inch wood structural panel.
- Windborne debris protection is required at construction sites where the "V basic" wind speed is 140 mph or higher for Risk Category II structures. Risk Category I structures, such as greenhouses or storage buildings that aren't habitable, don't have to be protected from windborne debris.
- Fasteners used to secure windborne debris protective panels to a structure must be permanently installed into the structural framing. The fasteners may be designed using the component and cladding wind pressures developed for the structure in accordance with the ASCE 7 standard. Or you can use fasteners that conform to the windborne debris protection fastening schedule from the appropriate table in the IBC (Table 1609.2) or the IRC (Table R301.2.1.2). Be sure to follow the limitations listed in footnotes beneath the table.
- We got a lot of comments from property owners and builders about the codes' permanently installed fastener requirement. There are two-piece fasteners available you can use to avoid a threaded stud extending beyond the exterior surface of the exterior wall covering. Several suppliers offer two-piece or coupling type fasteners that meet the permanently installed requirement of the code. They use a threaded stud to secure the "shutter" that screws into the permanently installed portion of the fastener. This type of fastener usually eliminates the aesthetic and safety concerns about a fastener extending beyond the plane of the wall covering.
- The IRC lets you use innovative methods or materials to satisfy code requirements. Proprietary fastening systems can meet code requirements for windborne debris protection. The proprietary fastening system must be tested and rated to a specific design pressure and installed the same way it was tested. Proprietary fastening systems, such as Plylox clips, satisfy the code when following this general procedure. Remember to review the panel type, thickness, and configuration of stiffeners added to wood structural panels when the protective device was tested.

Intake reminders

- When you submit a windstorm inspection for an addition, keep the type of structure in mind. It needs to be listed for the building the addition is added to. For example, if you add a patio cover to a house, the type of building should be House, not Patio Cover.
- To make sure your application is certified quickly, remember that you don't need to submit a signed WPI-2/WPI2E if you entered it on or after September 14, 2020. We will return any applications that don't match what was entered in the windstorm system, and you'll need to make corrections.