



Masonry & Stucco Cements & Florida Code Approval

There have recently been several instances in which Building Officials have asked for the Florida Building Code Approval number for stucco cement. It has been determined by the Product Approval Program Oversight Committee that approval numbers are not necessary or possible for this product for the following reasons:

- 1) Masonry and/or Stucco cement is a job-mixed material. Therefore, by definition, each batch could be slightly different from the previous.
- 2) Stucco is not a “stand-alone product. There are a myriad of systems to which stucco can be applied. Stucco is merely a decorative, weather-resistant finish over some other structural wall or ceiling system.
- 3) Stucco cement is already approved by the Florida Building Code, 2004 by virtue of that code’s, and all subsequent editions, adoption of ASTM C-926 (American Standards and Test Methods) “Standard Specification for Application of Portland Cement-Based Plaster” and all the referenced standards within, as the standard for stucco applications in the State of Florida. One of those referenced standards is ASTM C-91, “Standard Specification for Masonry Cement.” All stucco cements produced within the United States are made to meet or exceed that standard. Most cement manufacturers certify that the stucco cement they produce will do so as well. A Letter of Certification should be readily available from your local manufacturer representative.
- 4) Masonry cement is already approved by the Florida Building Code, 2004, and all subsequent editions, by virtue that code’s adoption of ASTM C-270 (American Standards and Test Methods) “Standard Specification for Mortar For Unit Masonry” and all the referenced standards within, as the standard for unit masonry application. Both this standard and ASTM C-91 referenced above are cited by ACI 530-02 (“Building Code Requirements for Masonry Construction”) and subsequent editions, as the reference standards for the application of unit masonry. All masonry cements produced within the United States are made to meet or exceed that standard. A Letter of Certification should be readily available from your local manufacturer representative.
- 5) In the same way that stucco and masonry cements have been approved, plaster accessories, zinc, galvanized steel and PVC, are also approved, by virtue of the code’s adoption of ASTM C926 and C1063. New or improved accessories that meet the requirements for plaster accessories under these ASTM Standards should not need to be approved so long as they are used in previously approved systems such as two or three-coat traditional stucco applications.

For further information, contact In-Spex, LLC at www.in-spexllc.com or (407) 709-9001.