SIPS - UPDATE – FIRE & OTHER CODE ISSUES

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Fire Performance Requirements

- Foam – Class B / Labeled / covered by thermal barrier or in attics & crawl space covered by OSB
- In 2015 IRC – 23/32-inch of wood structural panel is a thermal barrier. Not in IBC.
- SIPS limited to Type V construction.
- §610 of IRC addresses SIPS construction.
- Assembly tests
  - ASTM E119 – walls / floors / roofs
  - ASTM E108
Use of Fire Retardants

- Considerable concerns over the use of FRs in products to include insulation.
- Bans of specific FRs in products such as toys, upholstered furniture, etc. have been enacted & more to come. Building insulation has been exempted.
- CA 127 – Addressed the use of FRs in building insulations.
  - Over time morphed into “choice” for below grade foam.
• Has been addressed in six ICC hearing to date & no change has occurred.
• Potential testing by CASFM – below grade application.
• Industry’s concerns:
  • Past history of foam plastic
  • Increased potential for ignition and fire
  • Misuse on job site 0 Use non-FR where FR has been tested for use.
  • Potential increased fire potential in manufacturing & storage
  • Liability
• New FRs coming into use
Use of Fire Retardants - continued

US EPA: “risk [is] the chance of harmful effects to human health or to ecological systems resulting from exposure to an environmental stressor [hazard].”

A. Maynard, Hazard vs. Risk - Same Difference?, Risk Bites (YouTube), 10/5/2012, University of Michigan: Risk Science Center
Thank You and Questions?

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