



Cliff Kapson Consulting, Ltd

Invasive Moisture Survey/ Synthetic Stucco Evaluation Report

GLOSSARY

Adhesive	A material used to attach the insulation board to the substrate.
Aesthetic Joint or Groove	A groove cut into EPS board for appearance purposes. It also may provide a place for the applicator to stop and start the application process.
Applicator	An independent contractor who installs EIF systems. They are instructed and sometimes certified by specific EIFS manufacturers in the proper handling and use of their products.
ASTM	American Society for Testing and Materials. An independent organization that is involved with setting standards and practices for all materials, including those used in EIFS. ASTM standards have recently been developed specifically for EIFS construction.
Backer Rod	Closed cell, flexible, polyethylene foam rod. It is sized for specific joint widths and is inserted into a joint cavity to a specific depth from the face of the joint. The rod limits the depth of the sealant joint, helps produce an hourglass sealant shape that helps to distribute stresses in the sealant, and prevent three-sided adhesion of the sealant.
Back wrapping	The practice of attaching a strip of reinforcing mesh to the wall substrate, adhesively attaching EPS insulation board to the substrate, then wrapping the mesh around to the face of the EPS board and embedding it in the base coat. When the base coat is applied in this manner and totally encapsulates the system, the system is resistant to water penetration.
Base Coat	A material applied to the face of the insulation board that functions as the weather barrier.
Class PB System	A class of EIFS applied over various types of insulation board where the base coat varies in thickness depending on the number of layers, or thickness, of reinforcing fiberglass mesh which is embedded into the base coat per EIFS manufacturer's recommendations and with no mesh color visible. Protective finish coats of various thicknesses, in a variety of textures and colors are then applied over the base coat.

Class PM System	A class of EIFS where the base coat is applied to a uniform thickness, which can range from a nominal 1/4 inch to 3/8 inch. The base coat thickness is not dependant upon the number of layers or thickness of reinforcing mesh. The reinforcing mesh is installed over the surface of the insulation board. The base coat is applied over the reinforcing mesh.
Deflection	The amount of movement in a wall as a result of the loads applied to it.
EIFS	Exterior Insulation and Finish System
EPS	Expanded Polystyrene. Type I Rigid EPS insulation board is typically used in Class PB EIFS. Thickness ranges from 3/4 inch to 4 inches.
Expansion Joints	Gaps that extend through the entire depth of the EIFS and allow movement of the wall system without damage to the EIFS. They are usually coincidental with expansion joints in the substrate and are sealed with the proper sealant to prevent water intrusion into or behind the system.
Finish	A decorative and protective textured coating applied over the base coat.
Flashings	Metal or plastic accessories used to deflect water away from EIFS terminations in the event of water infiltration. They are used at parapet tops, window and door heads, windowsills and the like.
Insulation	A preformed insulating material of a specific type and density that functions to reduce heat flow through the wall. Additionally, the insulation provides the surface to receive the base coat.
Isolation Joint	A joint provided around penetrations through the EIF system such as window and door openings, scuppers, etc. It may or may not incorporate flashings and is sealed with the appropriate backer rod and sealant.
Kick Out (Flashing)	A diverter flashing that is installed as the first piece of flashing at the end of the roof where it intersects the wall. Intended to prevent channeling of moisture behind system at roof/wall or roof/chimney intersections.
Lamina	The combinations of the base coat, embedded mesh and finish coat. The lamina provides strength and resistance to damage and gives the system its appearance, durability and resistance to water penetration.

Mechanical Fasteners	A device used to attach the insulation boards to the substrate.
Permeability	The relative ability of a specific material to allow the flow of water vapor. EIFS generally have a low resistance to the flow of vapor, so they are considered to have low vapor permeability.

Primer	A material that may be used to prepare surfaces prior to the application of another system component.
Reinforcing Mesh	Balanced, open weave fabric, treated for compatibility with other materials of the system, which functions to strengthen the system.
Sealant (also referred to as caulk)	A specially designed sealant used with backer rod to fill joints and make them waterproof. The sealant used must be flexible enough to expand and contract with the wall system while maintaining its bond to both sides of the sealant joint. Low modulus sealants are generally preferred for use with EIFS because of their ability to elongate without imposing high stress at the EIFS/sealant interface.
Substrate or Sheathing	The surface to which an EIFS is attached.
Terminations	Any place an EIFS ends. Terminations can be window or door openings, the bottom or top of a wall or both sides of an expansion joint. In any case, all terminations must be totally encapsulated with base coat and mesh and a sealant or flashing with appropriate backer rod installed to prevent water infiltration.