



M A N A G E M E N T B U L L E T I N

Date: December 21, 2007
To: All APA Members
From: Tom Williamson
Subject: APA Siding CAL FIRE Test Results

No. A-707

As reported to you earlier this month, APA has been working as quickly as possible to complete a wood panel siding fire test plan in order to gain a generic approval of APA member plywood siding products in advance of new California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regulations for fire-resistive construction assemblies in the state's urban-wildland interface areas. Those new regulations take effect January 1, 2008.

The tests were recently completed at the Western Fire Center, Inc. (WFCi), an accredited fire test laboratory in Kelso, Washington, and I am pleased to report that the results were very positive.

19/32" five-ply Texture 1-11 plywood siding with 3/8" grooves spaced 4 inches on center, made either of Douglas-fir face, back and center with hemlock cross plies, or with all veneers of southern pine, and attached directly to studs as a single layer without a sheathing back-up passed the test. Also passing was 19/32", five-ply Reverse Board and Batten with 1-1/2" grooves spaced 12 inches on center, made with Douglas-fir face, back and center with hemlock cross plies, and again, applied as a single layer direct to studs. All three products qualify under the CAL FIRE regulations for application direct to studs without a sheathing back-up or, of course, when applied over sheathing.

Not passing the test, with or without 3/8" sheathing, was Reverse Board and Batten plywood siding of the same specifications above, except made with all veneers of southern pine. Additional tests on that siding product will be conducted early next year.

A final WFCi test report will be completed and available in a few days. Please let us know if you have any questions or would like a copy of the complete report.