Building Codes and The Spray Foam Professional

Steve Williams
Technical Director
Lapolla Industries, Inc.
Be Prepared!

• Know Your Area!
• Which code or code version is used?
• Who are your inspectors?
Be Prepared!

• Know the Code!

• Read the code or codes in place for your area of work.

• Confused, any questions, get help!
Be Prepared!

• Review the code on a regular basis!

• Several changes to the code are coming in the near future which may the installation methods or requirements.
Be Prepared!

• Code changes that were recently adopted.

• NFPA 275 – Method to qualify thermal barriers over foam plastics.

• Added to 2012 IRC Section R316.4 and to the 2012 IBC Section 2603.4
Be Prepared!

• Code changes that were recently adopted.

• 2012 IRC Section R316.5.3 now includes item 3.7 - 1.5 inch thick cellulose insulation as an approved Ignition barrier.
Be Prepared!

- Code changes that were recently adopted.

- A completely new section added to the 2012 IRC, Section R316.5.13 and Section 2603.4.1.14 of the 2012 IBC

- Floors, which defines the requirements for structural floor assemblies in attics.
Be Prepared!

• Code changes that were recently adopted.

• A completely new section added to the 2012 IBC Section 2603.5.5 Vertical and Lateral fire propagation

• Exterior wall assemblies must comply with NFPA 285
Be Prepared!

- Code changes that were recently adopted.

- 2012 IBC Section 2603.10.1 Exterior Walls
- No components used in Section 2603.5.5, NFPA 285 testing, may be eliminated by testing in 2603.10 Special Approval.
Be Prepared!

• Code changes that were recently adopted.

• Energy Code changes based on the DOE updated proposal package.
Be Prepared!

• Does your product have an ICC-ESR report?

• Read the report!

• Any questions, get help!
Be Prepared!

• Does your product, your code requirements and your intended application all work together for your job?

• Any questions, get help!
Be Proactive!

• Try to meet and talk to your inspector BEFORE you apply for your permit.

• Is the inspector foam friendly?
Be Proactive!

• If your inspector is not foam friendly determine what the issues are.

• Is there testing or reports that address the issues, if so, present them.
Issues AFTER the application or during inspection

• Occasionally issues arise after the application. What happens then?

• First, remember that the inspector is just like you, trying to do a good job.
Issues AFTER the application or during inspection

• A calm discussion to identify the issues and determine what is needed to resolve them will make the process go much easier.

• Get the requested materials, or test results, and any additional assistance and try to work through the issue.
Where to get help and additional information

• Call your manufacturer.

• Check with SPFA

• Review the following websites for additional information
Where to get help and additional information

Websites –
• Bcap-energy.org

• Energycodes.gov/implement/pdf/codes101.pdf

• ICC-ES.org
QUESTIONS?