

The Air Barrier Quality Assurance Program for the  
Air Barrier Association of America Inc

# WHAT DOES THE QUALITY ASSURANCE FEE BUY FOR THE OWNER?

## ASSURANCES:

- Reduced Liability and Ensuing Costs
- Experienced and Trained ABAA Subcontractor
- Trained and Certified Installers
- Improved Job Site Efficiency
- Enhanced Scheduling
- Time And Money Saved By Minimizing Contractor Call Backs
- Risk Management
- Job Site Quality Control
- Improved Energy Efficiency

air barrier  
**abaa**  
association of  
america

## WHAT ACTUALLY IS THE PROGRAM THAT PRODUCES THESE ASSURANCES?

For the General Contractor and/or Project Manager this quality assurance program should translate into reduced liability and its ensuing costs. The costs to restore an improperly installed air barrier can be enormous, including possible mold remediation, exterior wall deconstruction and restoration plus the costs incurred due to the loss of building use.

ABAA's Quality Assurance Program is modeled after the standards laid out in the ISO 9000 program with 3rd party program management and administration. Everything from accreditation, audits, conflict resolution, paperwork review and the assessment of demerit points are handled through an impartial organization. All contractors must demonstrate and maintain a high quality of workmanship to be associated and continued with the program.

ABAA's Quality Assurance Program consists of a number of components, all working together to provide the highest level of confidence that the air barrier will be installed correctly and to high industry standards.

1. **Contractor Accreditation:** ABAA contractors have met ABAA's mandatory quality assurance and training requirements and are awarded accredited contractor status. These contractors have completed air barrier training and are required to sign a licensing agreement to ensure professional conduct and are obligated to meet the requirements of the QAP on a continuous basis.
2. **Installer Training and Certification:** ABAA contractors employ ABAA certified installers who have undergone necessary training to properly install air barrier materials. These installers have successfully completed ABAA's installer training program which is technologically-advanced, competency based and tailored to job site realities.
3. **Site Testing:** Installers are required to perform daily inspection and testing of their work and document the results
4. **Documentation and Reporting:** A comprehensive written record of the installation including detailed daily work records of each project, from start to finish.
5. **3rd Party Audits:** The mandatory auditing process is performed by 3rd party auditors ensuring compliance with the Quality Assurance Program and provides job site quality assurance. All managerial and administrative aspects of the ABAA Quality Assurance Program are handled by 3rd party organizations.

6. Impartial Resource for Help: The construction manager, general contractor and the design professional can contact the ABAA office for assistance and support on projects.
7. Standards and Specifications: ABAA has developed guide specifications for various air barrier materials so architects can properly specify various types of air barrier materials and site quality assurance. ABAA currently works with such groups such as ASTM in developing a number of standards for testing materials, assemblies, installation, inspections, durability and so forth. These specifications and standards provide the information you need to implement a proper air barrier assembly.
8. Manufacturer Accreditation: Manufacturer members can apply to have their material evaluated against a set of performance criteria and have their product validated as meeting the predefined criteria. This provides a tool for the designer to rely on when choosing a material, as no evaluation criteria currently exists in the US market, such as the ICC evaluation services.
9. Research and Development: In-field and laboratory testing of materials, components, assemblies and systems by credible research bodies such as Oak Ridge National Laboratories (ORNL) and industry help provide reliable and credible answers to questions the industry may have in regards to material performance, design or installation issues and real life performance.



# WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF SPECIFYING ABAA?

Specifying ABAA is a win-win for all parties involved including building owners, design professionals, contractors and the manufacturers. The benefits to each include:

## **BUILDING OWNERS:**

- Level of comfort in the quality of workmanship
- Decrease chance of high maintenance costs to repair or retrofit premature degradation of the building envelope
- Decrease in energy costs
- Decrease in chance for mold/mildew growth
- Better indoor air quality
- Decrease in possibility of premature degradation of building components

## **CONSTRUCTION MANAGERS / GENERAL CONTRACTORS:**

- Risk Management
- Preconstruction mock-up's
- Installation as a integrated wall component
- Experienced Subcontractor
- Enhanced Schedule
- Field inspection, testing and auditing
- Deliver of contractual requirements

## **DESIGN PROFESSIONALS:**

- Pre-qualified quality contractors
- Level of comfort in quality of installation
- Trained and educated installers working on site
- Reduction in liability
- Provide the best for their clients
- Documented installation records
- Reduced site time
- Assistance with problems and conflict

## **CONTRACTORS / INSTALLERS:**

- Level playing field for industry
- Reduction in possible call backs
- Education and technology transfer to actual installers
- Able to perform quality workmanship
- Processes in place for ISO 9000 registration

## **MANUFACTURERS:**

- Correct installation of their products
- Training system in place for their products and systems
- Reduction in call-backs
- Reduced site time
- "Real Life" feedback on field installation

All of this is attained at a minimal cost of \$0.085 per square foot of the air barrier material being installed, which is included in the ABAA accredited contractors bid.

\* This program does not constitute a warranty

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For more information visit our web site or email us:  
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