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Technical Advisory Bulletin

To: GAF Residential Sales, GAF Contractors, Field Services, AIS, CARE
From: Technical Services
No: TAB-R-171

Meeting CT Residential Building Code Requirements

What Is The Concern?

Starting October 1, 2018, the state of Connecticut adopted the 2018 Connecticut State Building Code, which is based on the 2015 edition of the I-Codes. There is an amendment that requires **all joints in a steep-slope roof deck to be sealed.**

What Are The Code Requirements?

The amendment can be found in Section R905.1.1, Chapter 9 – ROOF ASSEMBLIES. You can get a copy of the amendment and information on how to obtain the 2018 Connecticut State Building Code by going to <https://portal.ct.gov>. It states as follows:

“(Amd) R905.1.1 Underlayment. Underlayment for asphalt shingles, clay and concrete tile, metal roof shingles, mineral-surfaced roll roofing, slate and slate-type shingles, wood shingles, wood shakes and metal roof panels shall conform to the applicable standards listed in this chapter.

Underlayment materials required to comply with ASTM D 226, D 1970, D 4869 and D 6757 shall bear a label indicating compliance to the standard designation and, if applicable, type classification indicated in Table R905.1.1(1). **A minimum 4-inch-wide (102 mm) strip of self-adhering polymer-modified bitumen membrane complying with ASTM D 1970, installed in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions for the deck material, shall be applied over all joints in the roof decking.** [Emphasis added.] Underlayment shall be applied over the entire roof and over the 4-inch-wide (102 mm) membrane strips and shall be applied in accordance with Table R905.1.1(2). Underlayment shall be attached in accordance with Table R905.1.1(3).

Exceptions:

1. As an alternative, self-adhering polymer-modified bitumen underlayment complying with ASTM D 1970 installed in accordance with both the underlayment manufacturer’s and roof covering manufacturer’s instructions for the deck material, roof ventilation configuration and climate exposure for the roof covering to be installed, shall be permitted.
2. The 4-inch-wide (102 mm) strips of self-adhering polymer-modified-bitumen membrane are not required for roofs sheathed with lumber having a nominal width of less than 3 feet (914 mm).”

Is There a GAF Product Available?

GAF does not manufacture a 4-inch-wide (102 mm) strip of self-adhering polymer-modified bitumen membrane product; however, both GAF’s **StormGuard®** and **WeatherWatch®** self-adhering leak barrier products meet ASTM D1970 and may be cut into minimum 4 inch wide (102 mm) strips in order to meet this new code requirement.

Products such as EPDM flashing tapes or polypropylene sheathing tapes do NOT satisfy the new requirement.

*Can I Apply Leak
Barrier to the Entire
Roof Instead?*

There is an exception to the new requirement that allows the entire roof deck to be covered with a self-adhering polymer-modified bitumen underlayment. If this approach is used, **it is critical that proper ventilation and moisture control below the roof deck be incorporated into the building design**, especially in the Connecticut climate. Unintended moisture-related consequences, such as condensation problems, deck deteriorations and mold, may occur without proper roof ventilation. Refer to **TAB-R-111 Full Deck Coverage of Leak Barriers** for further information.

*What Else Do I
Need To Know?*

The Authority Having Jurisdiction should be contacted to confirm the requirements. Building officials may have different interpretations of the requirement and also may accept substitute products.

Questions?

GAF Technical Services Can Assist You... with these and other questions you may have regarding your new roof installation. Technical Support Services can be contacted at 800-766-3411. The GAF website is a great resource for just about any question you may have or for additional information you may require. Please visit www.gaf.com to find the latest information on our products and their installation.

Important: This document supersedes any prior GAF Technical Advisory Bulletins on this topic. Please always check www.gaf.com to make sure you have the most up to date information.