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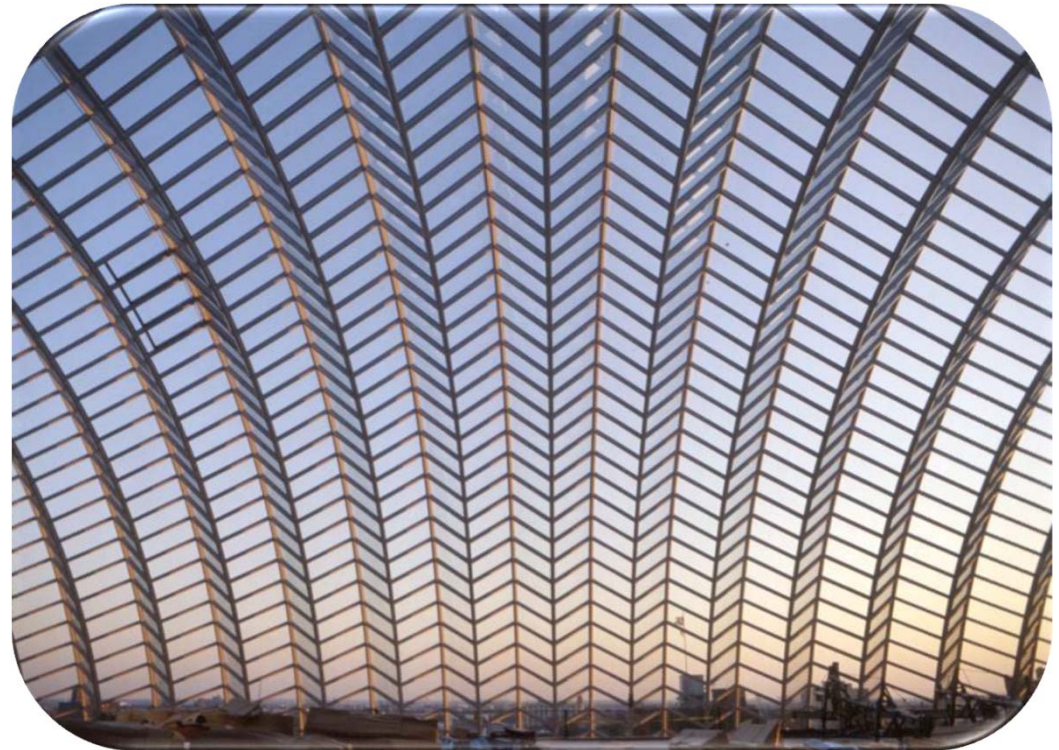
# Building Enclosure Commissioning

*What is it and why is it important?*

**Gilles PC Vandevoorde M.M.E.  
General Manager – Building Sciences**



- **Building Enclosure Commissioning Overview**
- BECx Drivers
- BECx Process
- BECx Value



Presentation 30 Minutes with 5 Minutes Q&A

# Defining Enclosure Commissioning

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Designation: E2813 – 12

## Standard Practice for Building Enclosure Commissioning<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation E2813; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reappraisal. A superscript epsilon ( $\epsilon$ ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reappraisal.

### INTRODUCTION

Building Enclosure Commissioning (BECx) is a process that begins with the establishment of the Owner's Project Requirements (OPR) and endeavors to ensure that the exterior enclosure and those elements intended to provide environmental separation within a building or structure meet or exceed the expectations of the Owner as defined in the OPR. A fundamental understanding of the most current published edition of [ASHRAE Guideline 0](#) and [NIBS Guideline 3](#) is recommended for optimal use and application of this practice.

#### 1. Scope

1.1 This practice is intended to serve as a concise, authoritative, and technically sound practice for Building Enclosure Commissioning (BECx) that establishes two levels of BECx: *Fundamental* and *Enhanced* (refer also to Section 4).

1.2 The BECx process as defined in this practice includes the following phases and sub-phases:

- 1.2.1 Pre-design,
- 1.2.2 Design,
  - 1.2.2.1 Schematic Design,
  - 1.2.2.2 Design Development,
  - 1.2.2.3 Construction Documentation,
- 1.2.3 Pre-Construction,<sup>2</sup>
- 1.2.4 Construction, and
- 1.2.5 Occupancy and Operations.

1.3 This practice includes a mandatory OPR Development Guideline ([Annex A1](#)) and requires the development of an OPR for both Fundamental and Enhanced BECx that addresses, at a minimum, the performance attributes and metrics included in [Annex A1](#) of this practice.

1.4 This practice includes mandatory BECx Performance Testing Requirements ([Annex A2](#)) approved for use with this practice to evaluate the performance and durability of enclosure materials, components, systems, and assemblies.

1.5 This practice mandates independent, third-party design peer review during the Design Phase of both Fundamental and Enhanced BECx.

1.6 This practice recognizes that the OPR for exterior enclosure performance and environmental separation may exceed the baseline requirements of applicable building codes and standards and provides guidance for the development of an OPR based on the following attributes as defined in [Annex A1](#) of this practice:

- 1.6.1 Energy,
- 1.6.2 Environment,
- 1.6.3 Safety,
- 1.6.4 Security,
- 1.6.5 Durability,
- 1.6.6 Sustainability, and
- 1.6.7 Operation.

1.7 The terms "building enclosure" and "enclosure" as they appear in this practice refer collectively to all materials, components, systems, and assemblies intended to provide shelter and environmental separation between interior and exterior, or between two or more environmentally distinct interior spaces in a building or structure.

1.8 This practice establishes that the Building Enclosure Commissioning "Agent" or "Authority" (BECxA) refers specifically to the individual or firm retained by the Owner to develop, manage, and be in responsible charge of the BECx process, including individual members and technical specialists that may comprise the BECx team (see 4.2).

1.9 The role and responsibilities of the BECx/A as defined by this practice are not intended to supersede or otherwise replace the contractual obligations reserved specifically for the parties responsible for the design and construction of a building or structure, nor the duties that may otherwise be assigned to those parties by applicable regulatory or statutory law.

<sup>1</sup> This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee E06 on Performance of Buildings and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee E06.55 on Exterior Building Wall Systems.

Current edition approved Feb. 1, 2012. Published March 2012. DOI: 10.1520/E2813-12.

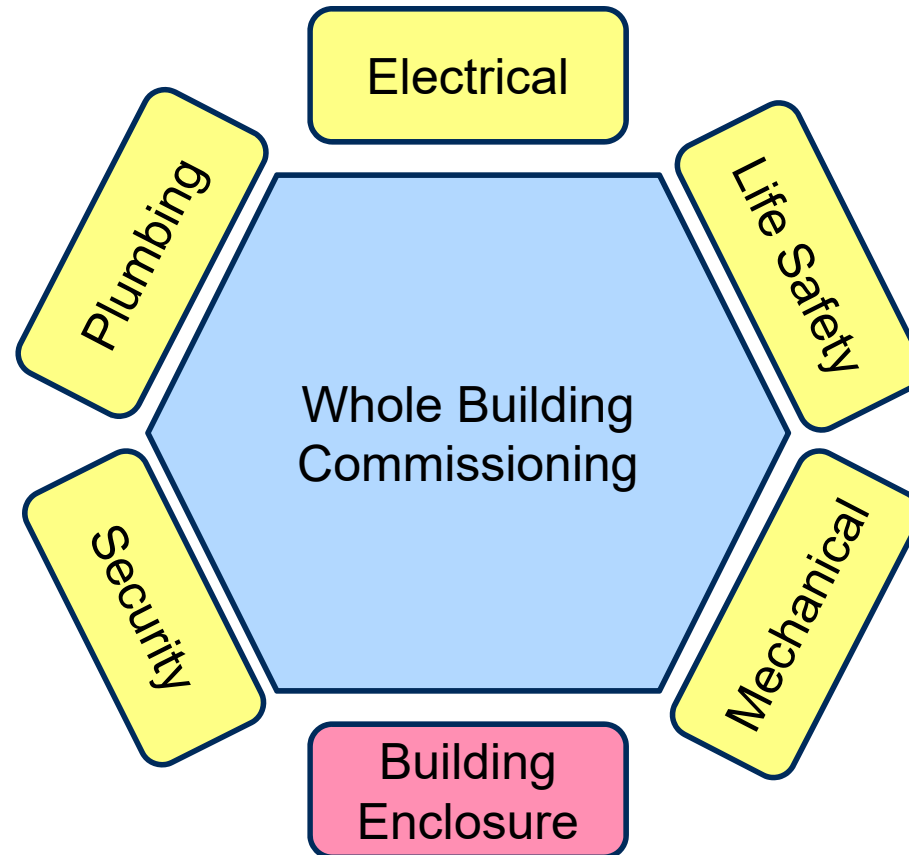
<sup>2</sup> See 5.1.3, Pre-Construction Phase, which includes BECx activities that occur prior to contract award and the start of construction, and is included in [ASHRAE Guideline 0](#) and [NIBS Guideline 3](#) as a sub-phase under the "Construction Phase" of the BECx process.

Definition: Process that verifies enclosure performance against the Owner's Project Requirements (OPR) and Basis of Design (BOD)

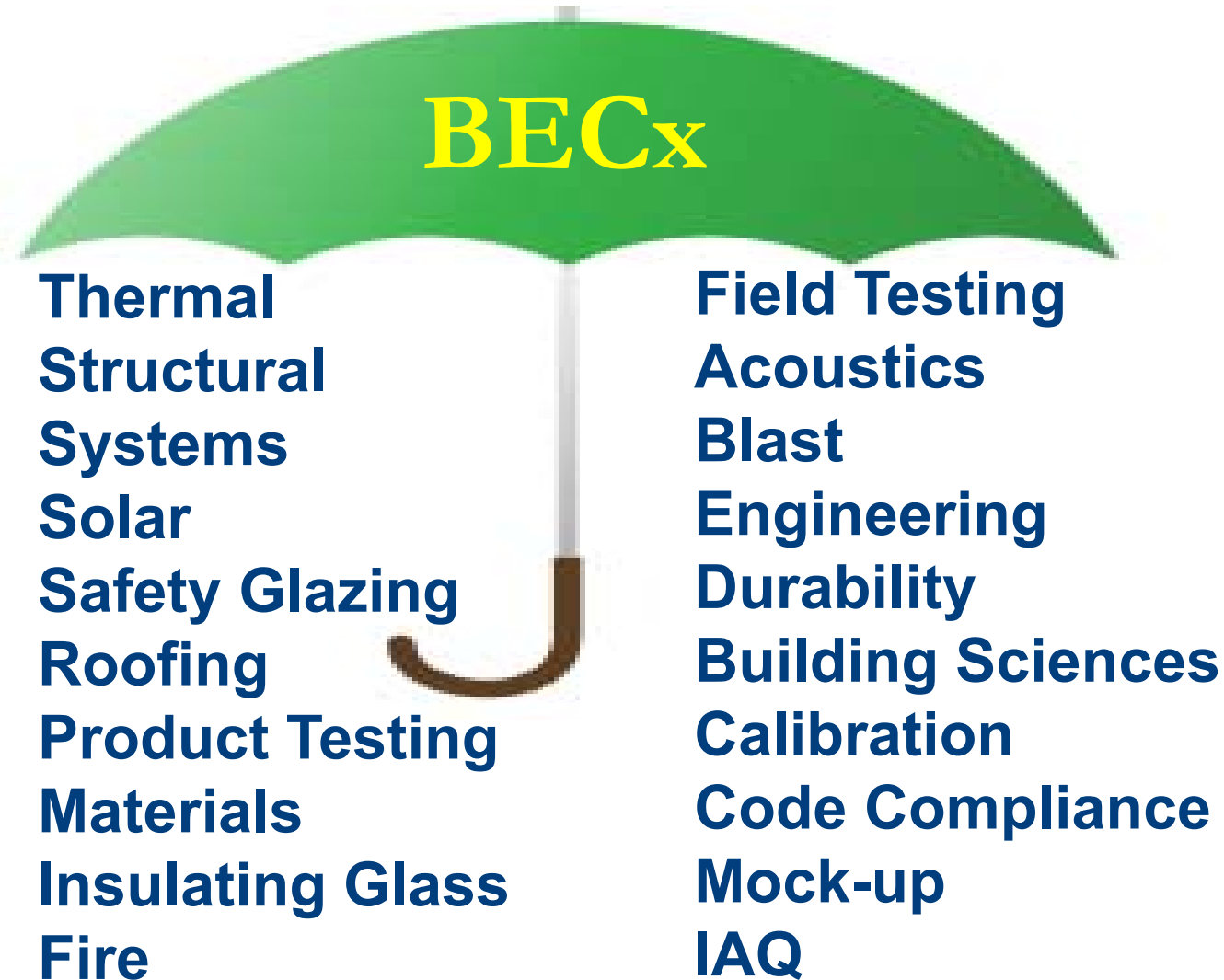
- BECx standards:
  - ASTM E2813
  - CSA Z 320
  - ASHRAE 202
  - VDI 6055

Formalization of the façade consulting practice

# Whole Building Commissioning



# BECx - Sub Disciplines



## Section 502.4- Air Leakage

**502.4.1 Air Barriers-** The building thermal envelope shall be constructed with a continuous air barrier to control air leakage into and out of conditioned space.

**502.4.1.2.1 Materials-** Individual materials to have an air permeability not to exceed **0.2L/s.m2 at 75 Pa**

**502.4.1.2.3 Building Test -** The completed the building shall be tested and the air leakage rate of the building envelope shall not exceed **2.0 L/s/m2 at 75 Pa (7.2 m3/hr @ 75 Pa)**

**502.4.5.2 Outdoor Intakes & Exhausts-** to have class A motorized dampers with maximum leakage of 5.1L/s/m3 @1250 Pa **Exception:** Gravity dampers with leakage rate of 34L/s/m3 at 1250 Pa when intake or exhaust doesn't exceed 300 cfm.

**502.4.8 Recessing Lighting-** to have a maximum air leakage rate of 0.944 L/s at 75 Pa



10x Leakier  
than U.S. and  
Canadian  
Standards

Credit – Department of Municipal Affairs

# Material Air Leakage - ASTM E 2178

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## Section 502.4- Air Leakage

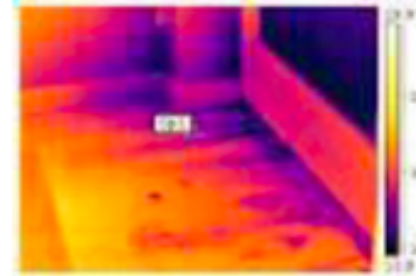
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**502.4.8 Recessing Lighting-** to have a maximum air leakage rate of 0.944 L/s at 75 Pa



No assembly requirements

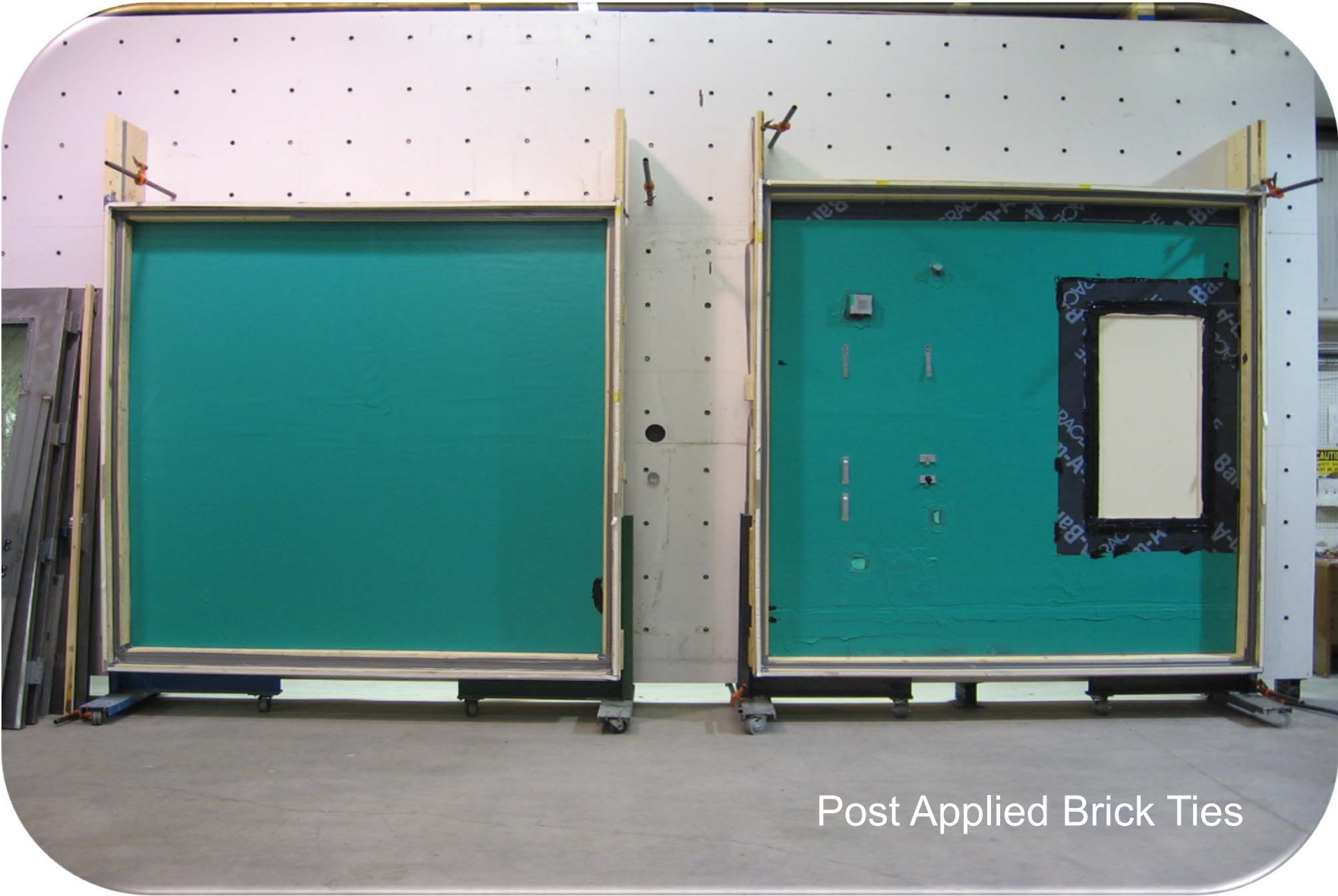
Credit – Department of Municipal Affairs



# Assembly Air Leakage - ASTM E 2357



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Post Applied Brick Ties

## Section 502.4- Air Leakage

**502.4.1 Air Barriers-** The building thermal envelope shall be constructed with a continuous air barrier to control air leakage into and out of conditioned space.

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**502.4.8 Recessing Lighting-** to have a maximum air leakage rate of 0.944 L/s at 75 Pa



Same as U.S. and Canadian Standards

Credit – Department of Municipal Affairs

# Whole Building Air Leakage-ASTM E 779

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# Estidama Pearl Building Rating System

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The Pearl Rating System *for* Estidama  
Emirate of Abu Dhabi

مجلس أبوظبي للتخطيط العمراني  
ABU DHABI URBAN PLANNING COUNCIL



TEL +971 2 409 6000  
FAX +971 2 443 2903  
Abu Dhabi U.A.E.  
[www.udc.gov.ae](http://www.udc.gov.ae)

## IDP-4: Building Envelope Verification

**Intent** To ensure the building envelope meets the design intent and minimizes building impacts from condensation, water ingress, air infiltration and improper drainage.

**Credit**

**Requirements**

### GENERAL

Demonstrate that a member of project team involved in the design of the building envelope has performed the following tasks:

**During Design**

□ A review of the design plans and specifications during Detailed Design phase:

**During Construction**

□ Off-site testing of prototypes for custom-made cladding systems before installation;

□ A review of standard product pre-testing certificate for pre-tested systems before installation; and

□ On-site water infiltration and air-tightness tests of the building envelope to ensure performance once installed.

Credit – Abu Dhabi Urban Planning Council – Estidama – PBRS - PORS

## IDP-R3: Basic Commissioning

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### Intent

To ensure that the building performs as designed to protect occupant health and provide comfort and ongoing building efficiency.

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## RE-2: Cool Building Strategies

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### Intent

To determine the most effective solution to reducing a building's cooling demand by incorporating passive design strategies as a priority.

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- Extracts from specifications relating to construction thermal performance parameters and building envelope air tightness specifications and air testing methodology (where applicable); and
- Roof drawings and specifications confirming all roof areas except those covered by mechanical plant, shading devices, renewable technologies and designated vegetated roofs use materials with a SRI  $\geq 78$ .

Credit – Abu Dhabi Urban Planning Council – Estidama – PBRS - PORS

- Building Enclosure Commissioning Overview
- **BECx Drivers**
- BECx Process
- BECx Value

# Why Commissioning?

- **Create durable structures**
- Save energy
- Improve indoor air quality
- Prevent leakage
- Increase occupant comfort
- To deliver a building that works







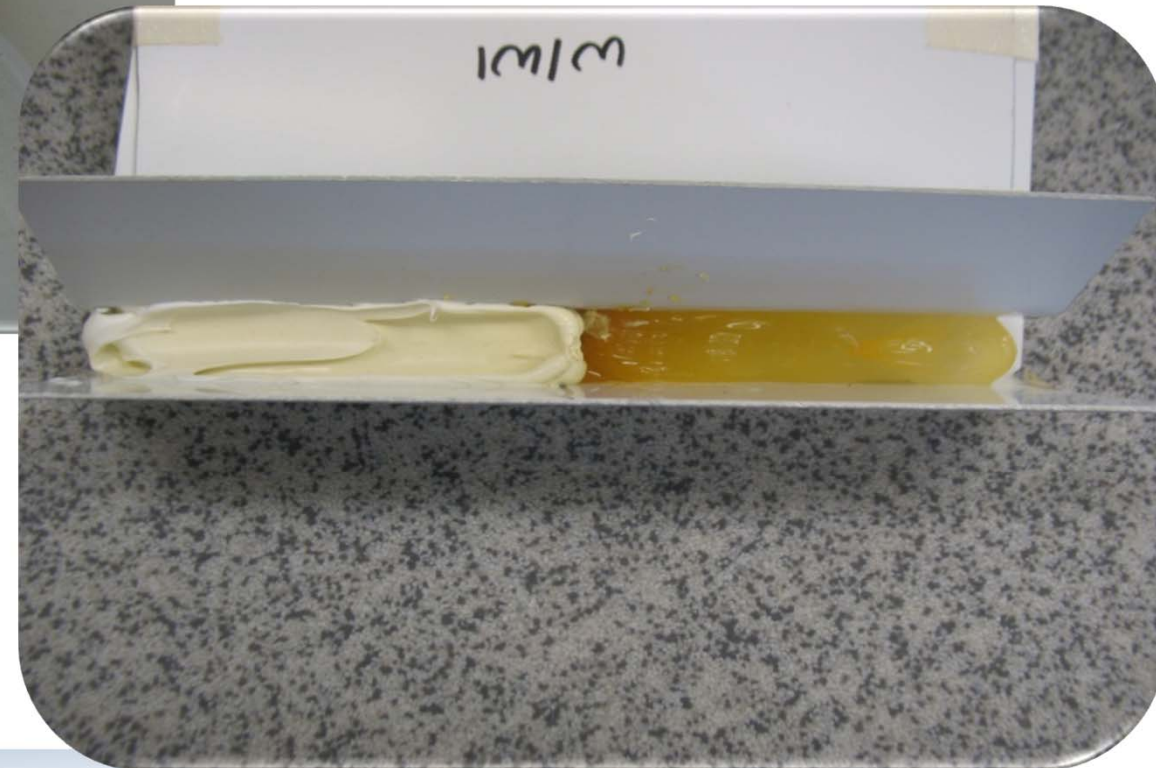




# Material Compatibility

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**Clear silicone turns yellow when exposed to light. White turns yellow when exposed to clear!**

# Material Compatibility



**Example of staining due to leading edge of asphaltic membrane touching the sealant.**



# Why Commissioning?

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- Improve indoor air quality
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# Energy Usage and Building Enclosures

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**Solar Heat Gain**



**U-Factor**



**Air Leakage**



# Solar Heat Gain

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SHGC  
Transmittance  
Reflectance  
Absorbance  
Emittance



# Window-to-Wall Ratio

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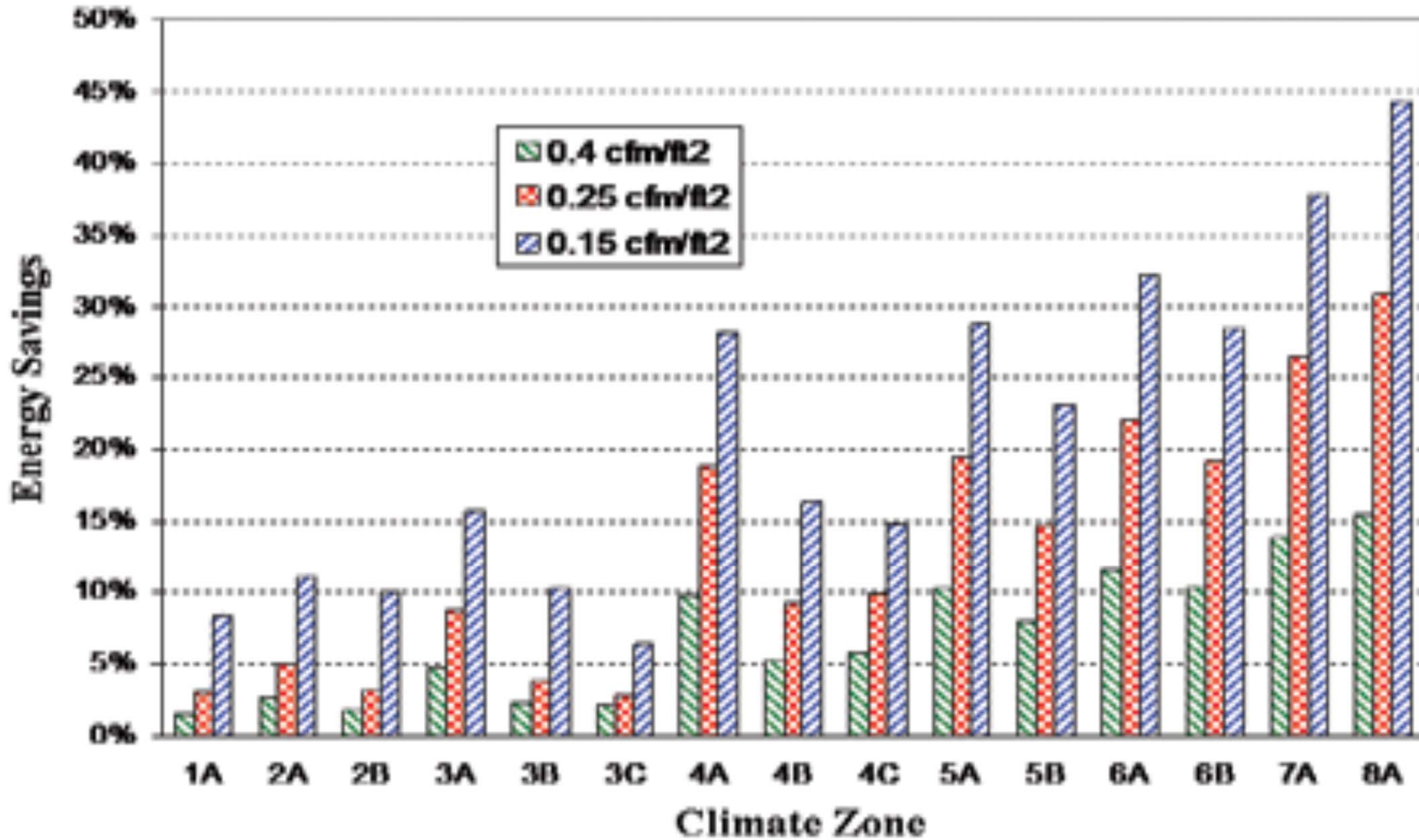
# Thermal Discontinuities

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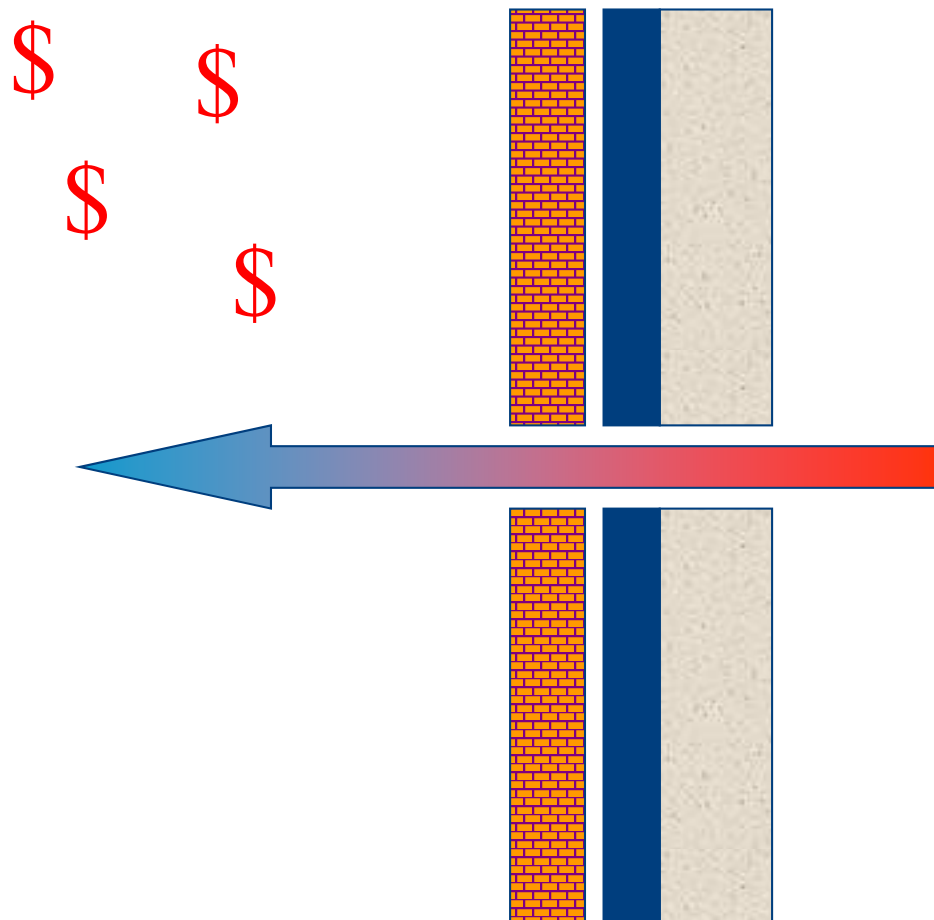


# Energy Usage vs Air Leakage

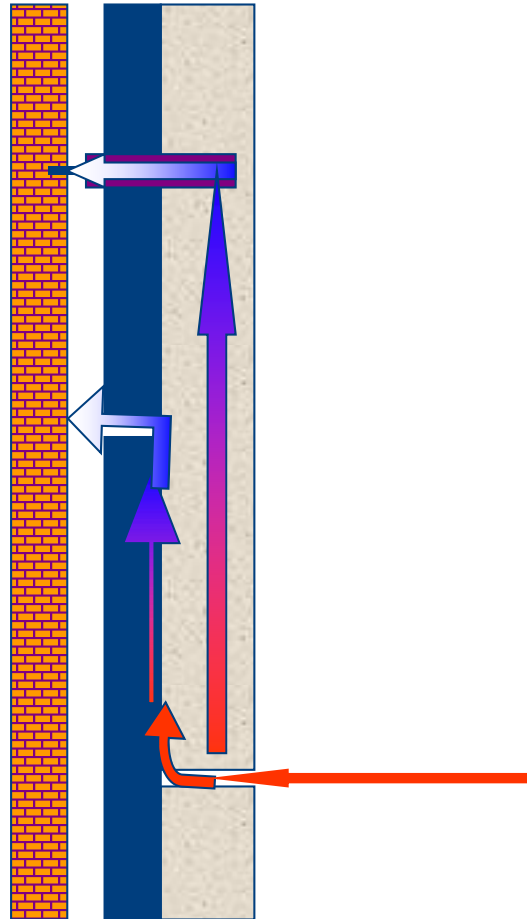


Credit: Journal of Building Enclosure Design Summer 2011 "Improvement of Air Tightness in U.S. Army Buildings" pgs. 11-13

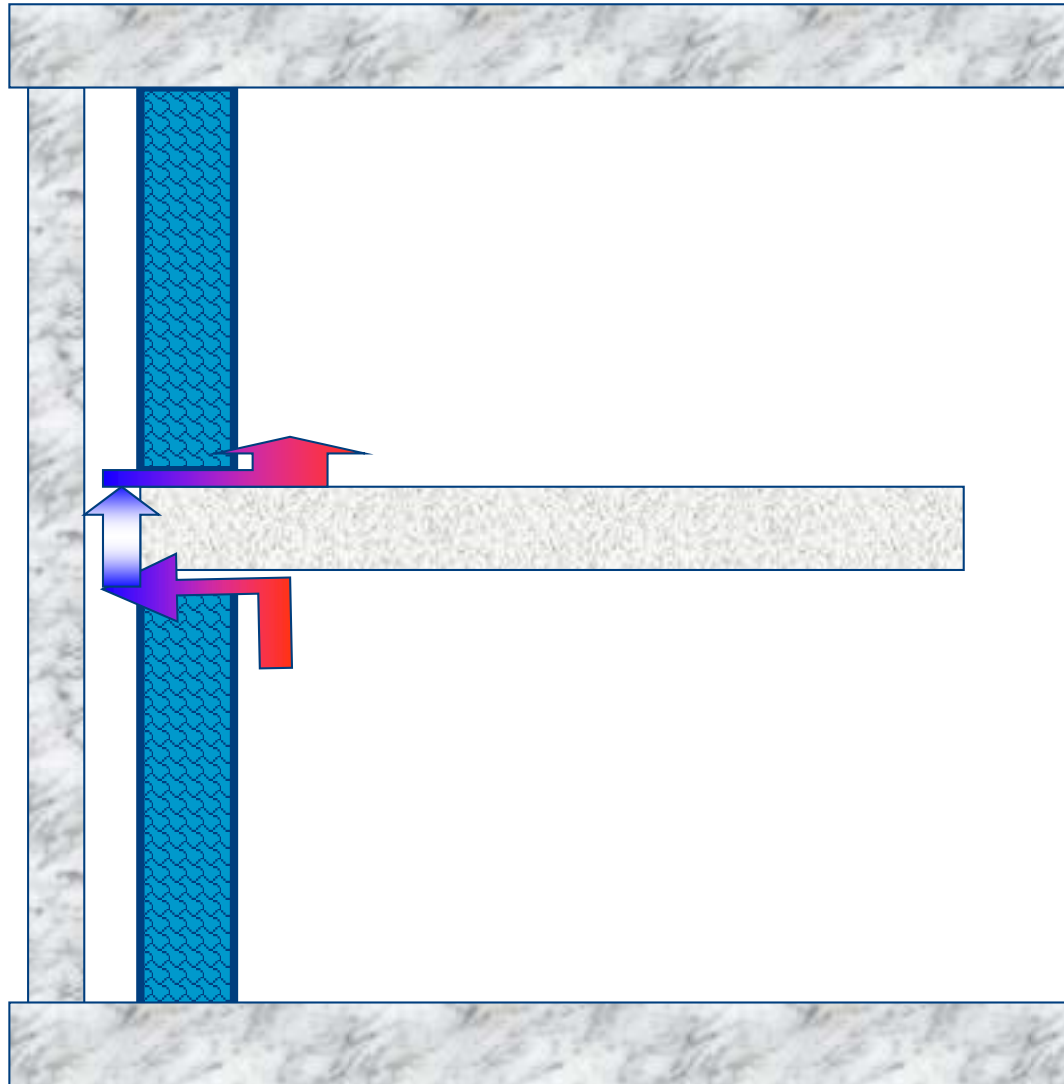
# Orifice Leaks



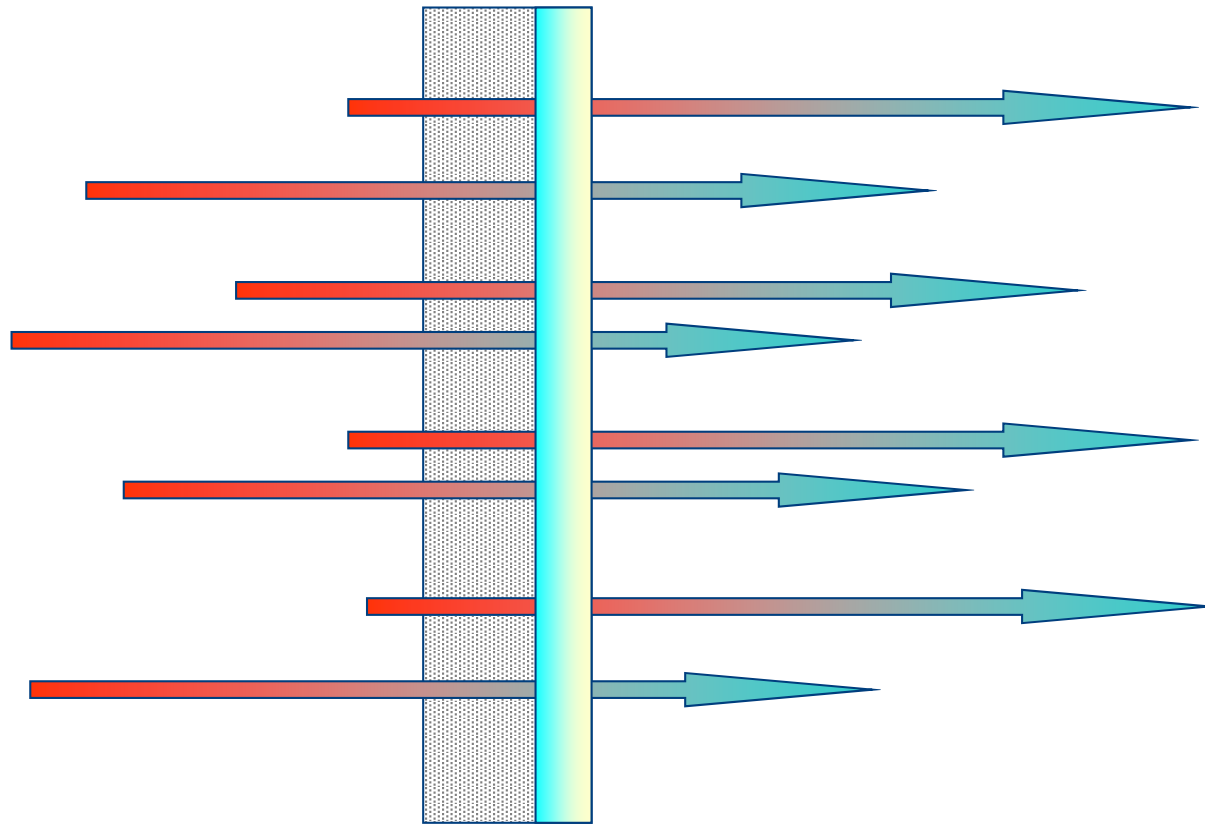
# Channel Leaks



# Flow Leaks



# Diffusion





# Why Commissioning?

- Create durable structures
- Save energy
- **Improve indoor air quality**
- Prevent leakage
- Increase occupant comfort
- To deliver a building that works





# Why Commissioning?

- Create durable structures
- Save energy
- Improve indoor air quality
- **Prevent leakage**
- Increase occupant comfort
- To deliver a building that works

# Building Requirements

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*Buildings are designed to protect the inhabitants from environmental conditions*







8 3:10PM





# Why Commissioning?

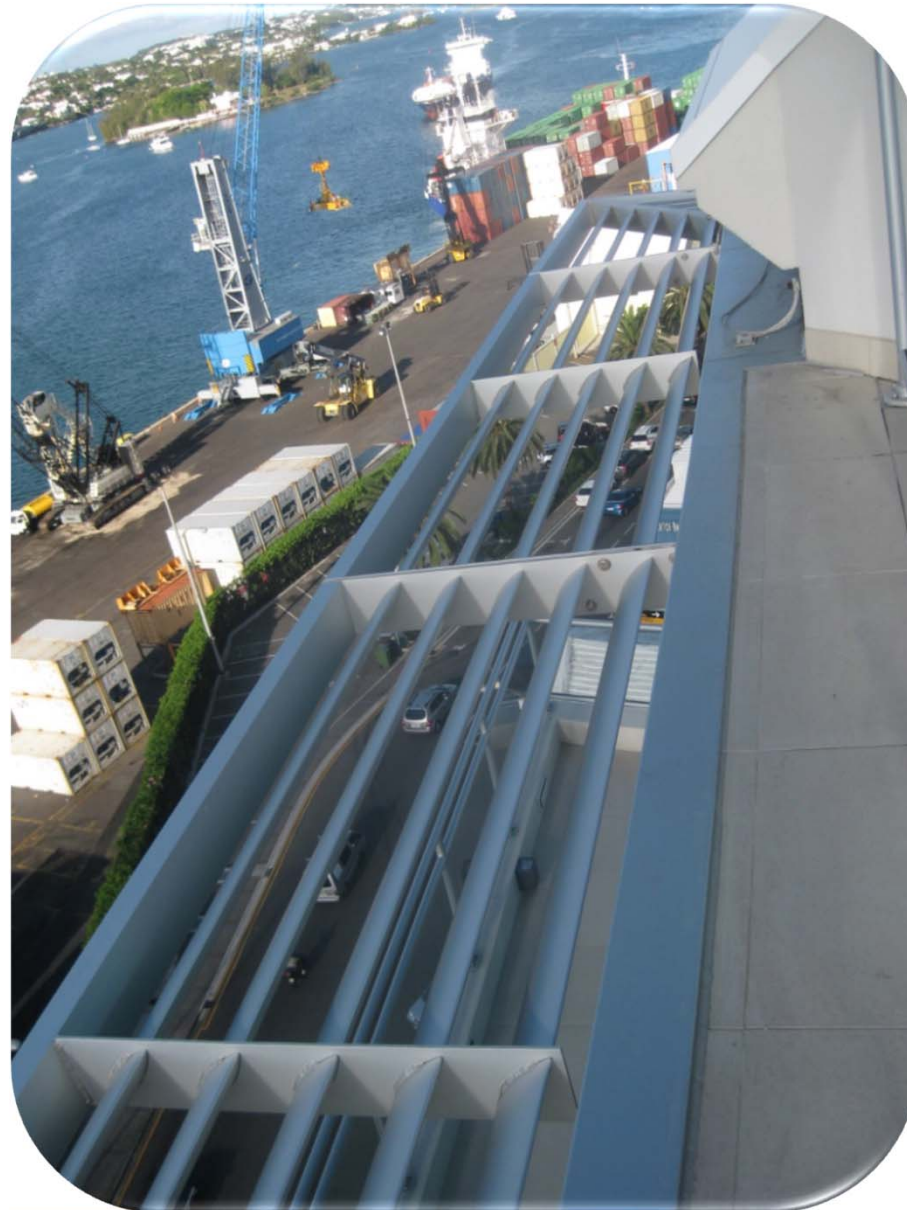
- Create durable structures
- Save energy
- Improve indoor air quality
- Prevent leakage
- **Increase occupant comfort**
- To deliver a building that works



# Shading

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# Why Commissioning?

- Create durable structures
- Save energy
- Improve indoor air quality
- Prevent leakage
- Increase occupant comfort
- **To deliver a building that works**

# Case Study 1

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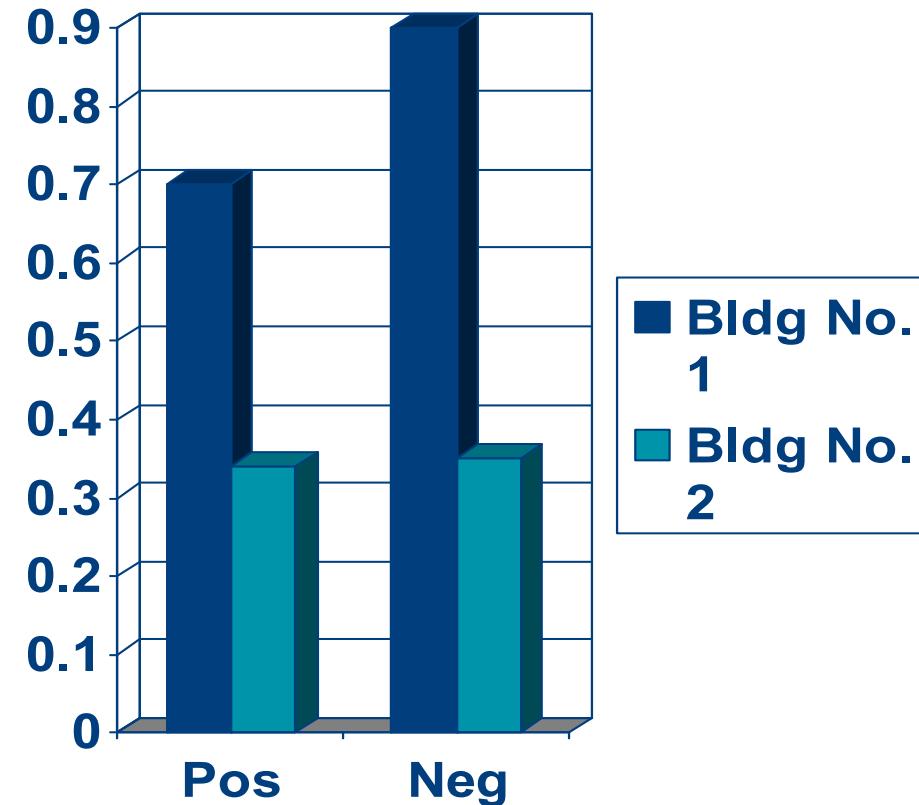
Building No. 1



Building No. 2



# Case Study 1



Whole Building Air Tightness Testing

Building No. 1 (Existing): @ 75 PA = 0.70 - 0.90 cfm/ft<sup>2</sup>

Building No. 2 (New Construction): @ 75 PA = 0.34 – 0.35 cfm/ft<sup>2</sup>

- Building Enclosure Commissioning Overview
- BECx Drivers
- **BEcx Process**
- BECx Value



- **Programming**
- Pre-Design
- Design
- Pre-Construction
- Construction
- Operations & Maintenance

# Develop the Enclosure Specific OPR

Building Enclosure Commissioning Selection Guide		
	Performance	Functional Performance Testing
Select all options that apply to specific project	-----Service Life in Years-----	▼
	<input type="checkbox"/> Beyond code minimum fire protection required	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Within 5 miles or 65 dBA or higher contour curve of airport	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Interior dBA levels less than 45	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Within 1000 ft of freeway, fire station, sports arena, racetrack	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Within 3000 ft of active railway, helicopter pad	
	<input type="checkbox"/> School, hospital, theater, mixed use residential/commercial	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Beyond code minimum energy efficiency desired	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Blast, forced entry or security performance required	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Basic wind speed in excess of 100 mph	
	-----Tolerance to Water Intrusion-----	▼ Enter applicable option from drop down box
	-----Thermal Conditions-----	▼ Enter applicable option from drop down box
	<input type="checkbox"/> LEED V3 2009 innovation point for Building Envelope Cx	
	-----Building Pressurization-----	▼ Enter applicable option from drop down box
	<input type="checkbox"/> No time loss facility (e.g. data center)	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Functional performance layers are non-maintainable	
	-----Project Delivery-----	▼ Enter applicable option from drop down box
	-----Project Schedule-----	▼ Enter applicable option from drop down box
-----Interior Rh and climate-----	▼ Enter applicable option from drop down box	
	<b>Recommended Level of Thermal FPT</b>	<b>No FPT Required</b>
	<b>Recommended Level of Acoustical FPT</b>	<b>No FPT Required</b>
	<b>Recommended Level of Water FPT</b>	<b>No FPT Required</b>
	<b>Recommended Level of Air FPT</b>	<b>No FPT Required</b>
	<b>Recommended Level of Solar FPT</b>	<b>No FPT Required</b>
	<b>Additional Miscellaneous Testing (Fire)</b>	<b>No Additional Testing Required</b>
	<b>Additional Miscellaneous Testing (Blast)</b>	<b>No Additional Testing Required</b>
	<b>Additional Miscellaneous Testing (Structural)</b>	<b>No Additional Testing Required</b>
	<b>Recommended Level of Commissioning</b>	<b>Basic Commissioning</b>

# Energy Modeling & BECx

Energy modeling influences design

- Modeling is performed in programming phase
- Used to validate design and evaluation options
- Scope of analysis is beyond MEP
- Traditionally performed by MEP professionals



- Programming
- **Pre-Design**
- Design
- Pre-Construction
- Construction
- Operations & Maintenance

- **Achieve environment separation**
- Meet durability/sustainability
- Fulfills desired use
- Simple
- Redundant
- Constructible



- Achieve environment separation
- **Meet durability/sustainability**
- Fulfills desired use
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- Achieve environment separation
- Meet durability/sustainability
- **Fulfils desired use**
- Simple
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- Constructible



# Successful Design

Intertek

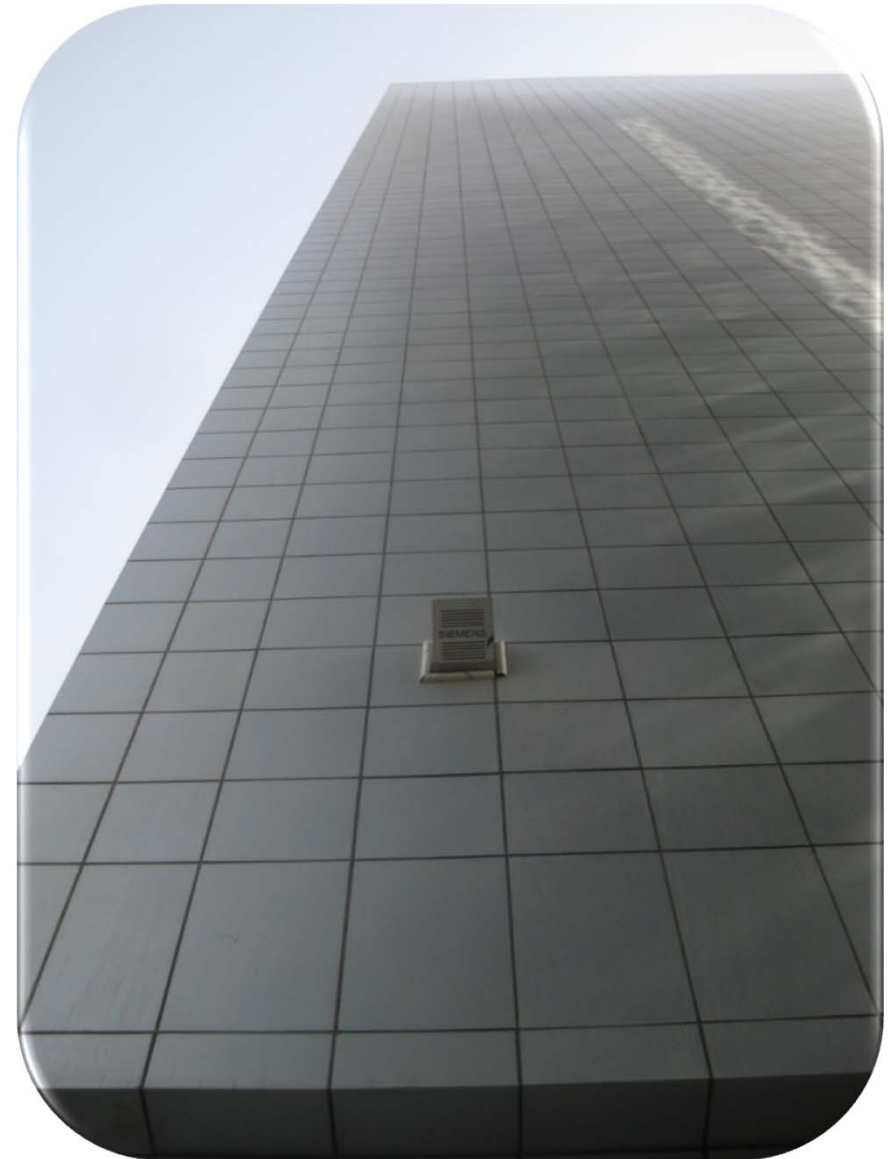
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- Achieve environment separation
- Meet durability/sustainability
- Fulfills desired use
- **Simple**
- Redundant
- Constructible





- Achieve environment separation
- Meet durability/sustainability
- Fulfills desired use
- Simple
- **Redundant**
- Constructible



# Successful Design

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- Achieve environment separation
- Meet durability/sustainability
- Fulfills desired use
- Simple
- Redundant
- **Constructible**



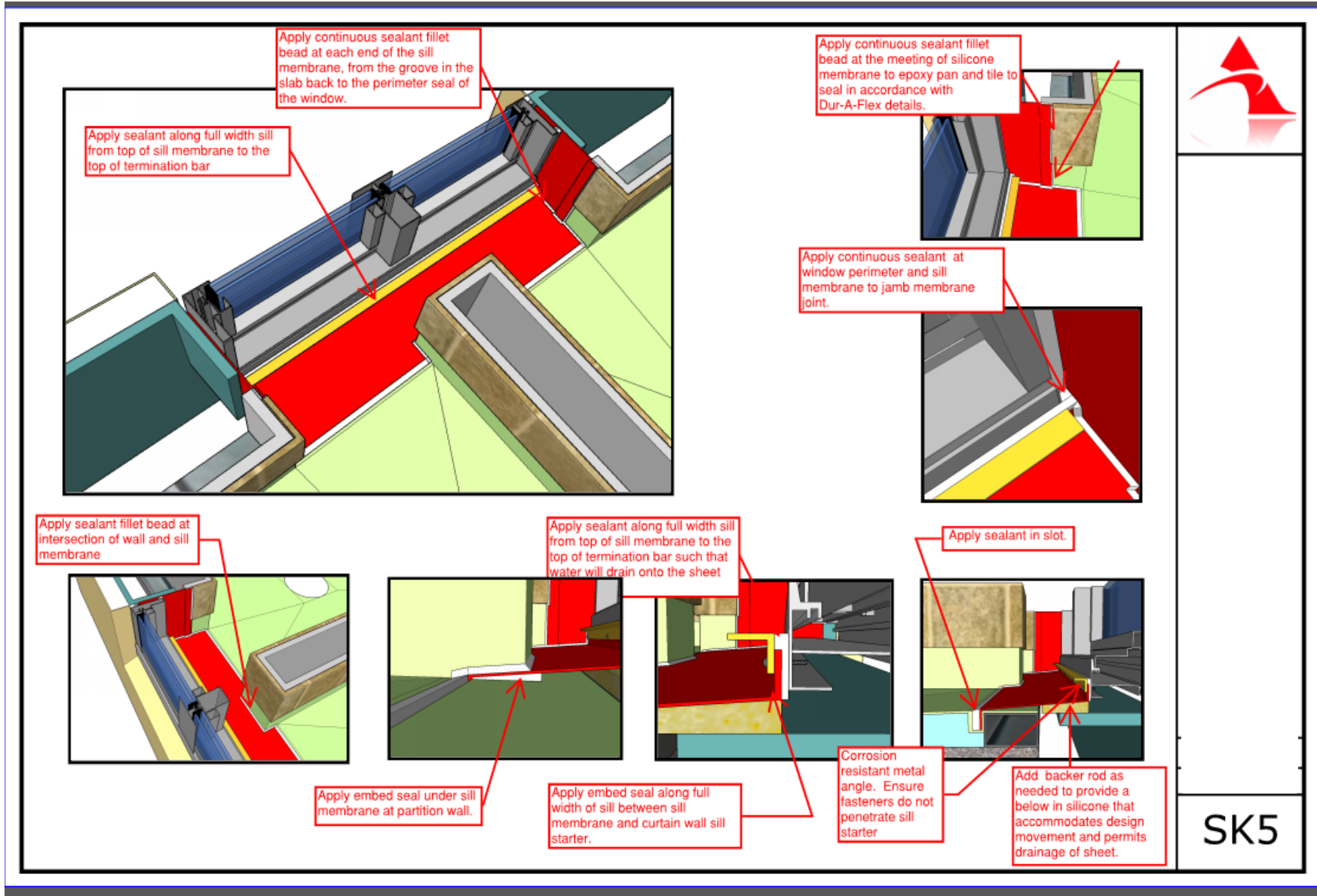
- Programming
- Pre-Design
- **Design**
- Pre-Construction
- Construction
- Operations & Maintenance

- Review design against OPR and BOD
- Perform hygrothermal computer modeling (WUFI & Therm)
- Review construction sequencing and scheduling
- Write BECx and functional performance testing specifications
- Draft BECx plan





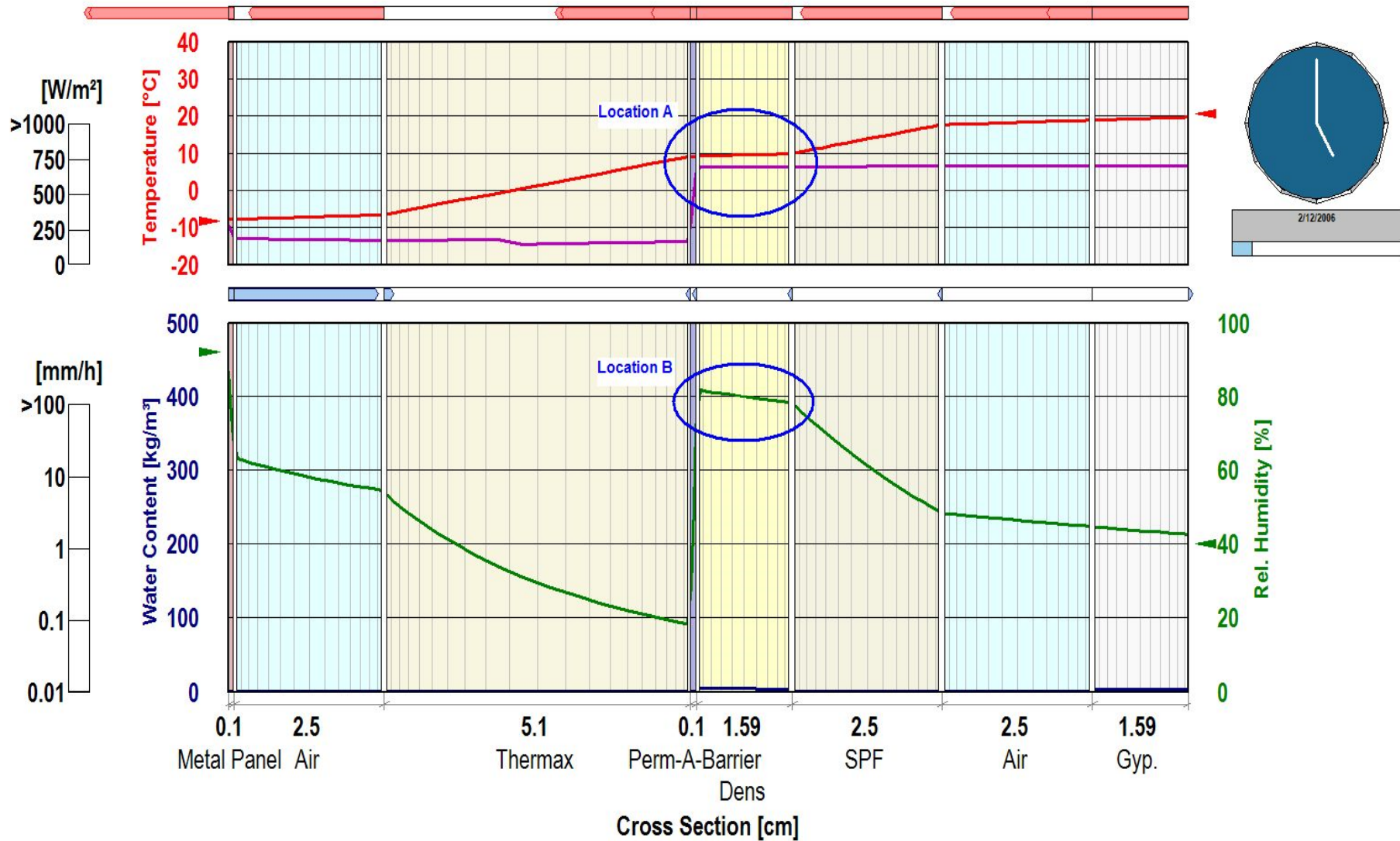
# Detailed, Functional Design



# Hygrothermal Modeling

Location: Madison; cold year;

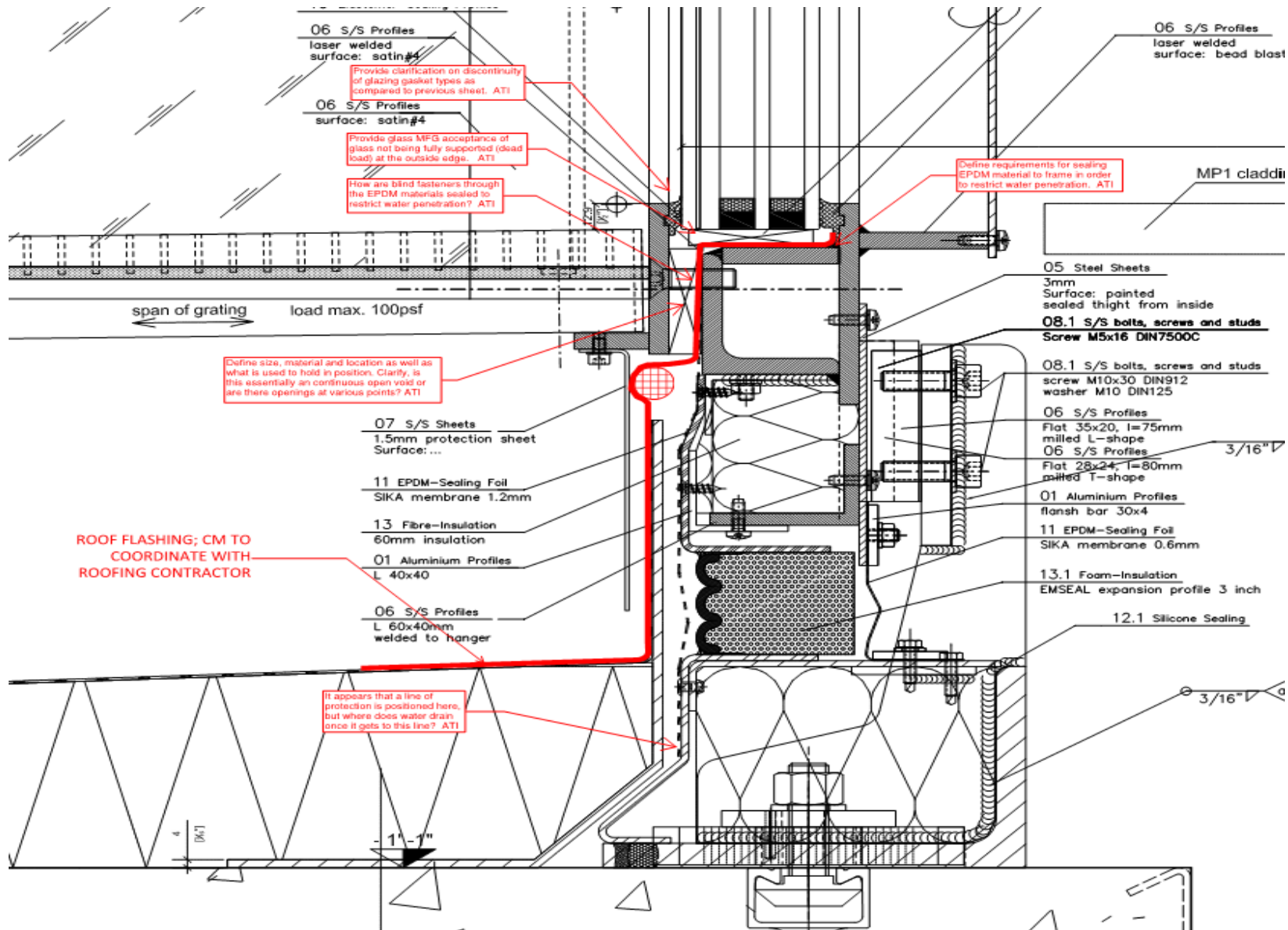
W/ Dry SPF





- Programming
- Pre-Design
- Design
- **Pre-Construction**
- Construction
- Operations & Maintenance

# Pre-Construction - Shop Drawing Review

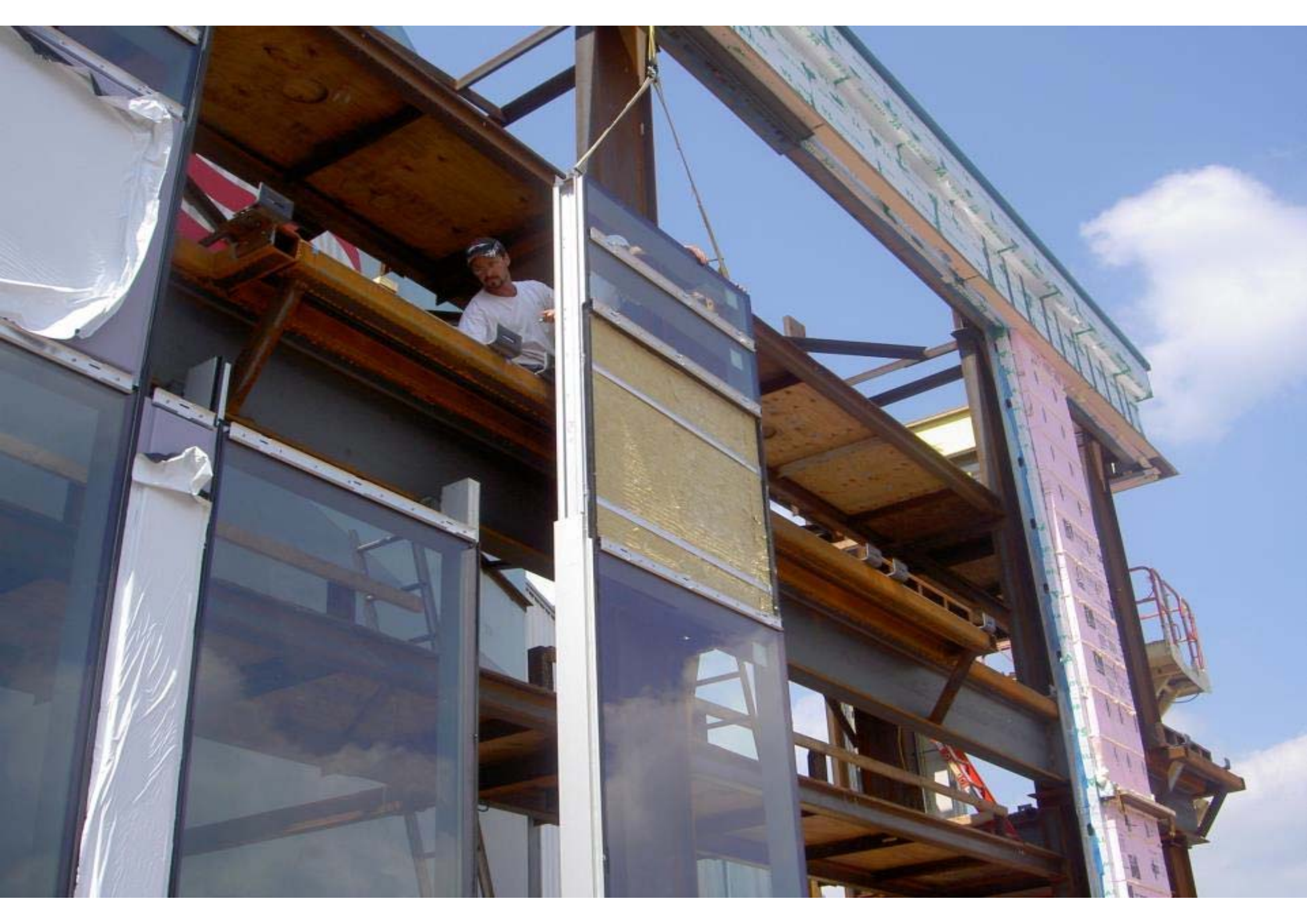


Structural  
Testing



Structural Testing





ASTME 283





Structural  
Testing









# Mock-up Structural Testing – ASTM E330

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Leak Location 2

Leak Location 1





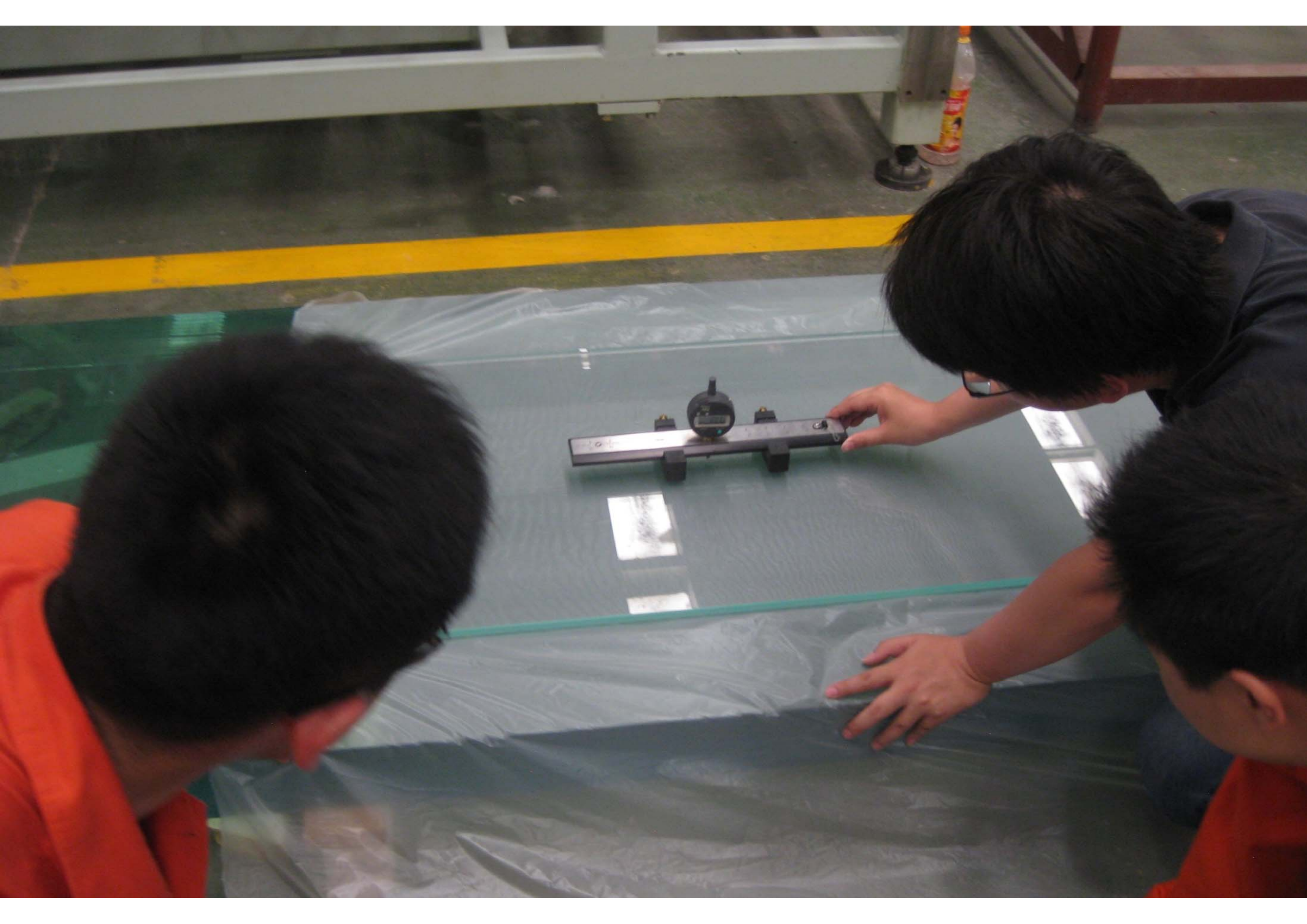




- Programming
- Pre-Design
- Design
- Pre-Construction
- **Construction**
- Operations & Maintenance











28/04/2003

# Thermal Losses







# Installation Inspections







**Project Name:** U Penn Fisher Translational Research Center  
**Location:** Philadelphia, PA  
**ATI Project No.:** 84941.01-115-27  
**Reported by:** B. Monahan - Architectural Testing Inc. (ATI)  
**Reported to:** G. Swallow - UPHS  
**Weather:** Clear - 42° F  
**On/Off Site Time:** 8:45 AM - 1:00 PM

**Client:** University of Pennsylvania Health System (UPHS)  
**Present:** B. Monahan                      ATI  
                   G. Swallow                                UPHS  
                   J. DeFelloe                                LF Driscoll (LFD)  
                   K. Whalen                                  National Glass and Metal Co. (NGMC)

**Work In Process:** Stip window glazing installation at northwest corner, snap covers at north elevation  
                           Insulation and vapor barrier installation at west elevation, 4th floor  
                           Louver pan flashing completed at 5th floor, north, east and west elevations

**Field Report No.:** 4  
**Site Visit Date:** 03/12/09

Item:	Observation:	Attention Required By:	Floor:	Elev.:	Location:	Photo No.:
11	The sealant applied between the back leg of the sill starter and the sill frame is adhered to the window sticker of the sill frame. All sealant substrates are to be cleaned and prepared in accordance with the manufacturers recommended installation procedures. NGMC removed the sealant and sticker, prepared the sealant substrates and reapplied the sealant prior to ATI leaving the site.	None	3	North	Column Q-2	1194
12	The joints between the back leg and end dam of the metal pan located below the louvers are unsealed at several locations. ATI notified LFD that sealing the joints of the metal pan is required to properly drain water collecting in the pan.	DeMeyo	5	North and West	Column P-6-5, Adjacent to columns L-2 and H-2	1188, 1189, 1191
13	Two fasteners penetrating through the metal pan flashing below the louvers were unsealed. ATI notified LFD that all fasteners through the flashing are to be sealed as indicated in the shop drawing detail.	DeMeyo	5	West	North of column E-2	1192

**Additional Comments:**

The above conditions represent discrepancies that we observed in the installed work compared to construction documents, installation instruction, shop drawings and good industry practice. Additionally, we noted conditions that are repairs or steps that are repairs or steps that they installers took in reaction to our observations. This report does not include our opinion regarding the merits of the remedial efforts, but we would be pleased to provide our opinion or other consulting services upon request. Unless the condition above states that it was repaired during our site visit, the condition remains outstanding. Our inspections do not constitute 100% inspections and Contractors are responsible to carry out 100% inspections of their work and corresponding repairs. Repeat conditions are indicative that this inspection is not being performed by the contractors.

# Field Testing











# Quantitative Field Air Testing





**ASHCROFT**  
www.ashcroft.com

On  
Off

Zero  
Clear

280  
MAX 10

4









# Tracking Non-Compliance



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## JOB SUMMARY DASHBOARD

Job Name: Utah State Hospital  
Job Number: C0478.01-000-00

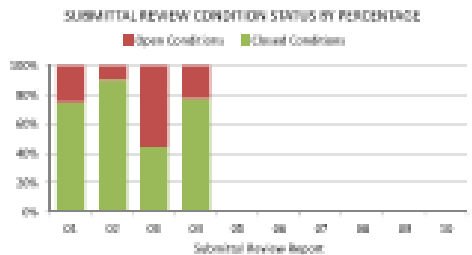
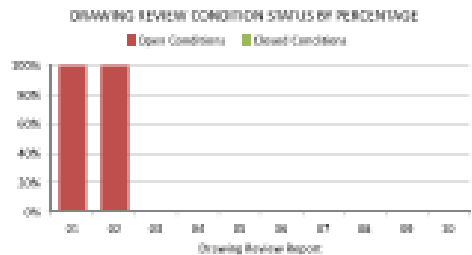
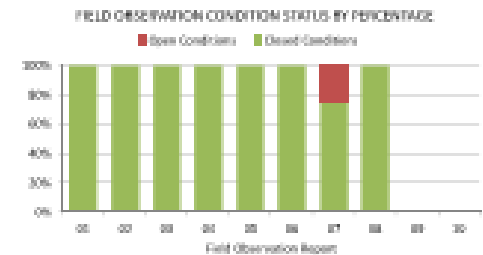
Client: DFCM  
Contact: John Buckingham  
Email: [john.buckingham@utah.gov](mailto:john.buckingham@utah.gov)  
Phone: 801-848-7278

Contractor: Layton Construction  
Contact: Brian McBeth  
Email: [brian@laytonconstruction.com](mailto:brian@laytonconstruction.com)  
Phone: 801-848-6999

Architect: HRC  
Contact: Sara Thompson  
Email: [sara.thompson@hrc.com](mailto:sara.thompson@hrc.com)  
Phone: 801-511-5188

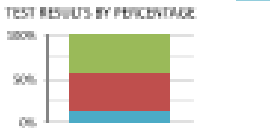
Co Agent:  
Contact:  
Email:  
Phone:

Notes: DFCM Project No. 1306400  
DFCM Contract No. 147987



## FIELD TEST REPORT SUMMARY

Field Test Reports	8
Specimens Tested	25
Specimens Retested	18
Total Tests	43
Passed Tests	23
Failed Tests	20
NA Result Tests	7



- All Test Specimens have received a PASS result.
- Test Specimens remain with a FAIL result.
- Test Specimens remain with a FAIL result but continued testing is not required.
- Field Testing was completed as required.
- Field Testing modified from the original contract.

Notes: The Pediatric and the Payne building mezzanine testing was abandoned before all specimens could be tested to a PASS result due to scheduling issues. Failed specimens were not always retested because of access or availability of a rough frame (r/f).  
 The Pediatric and the Payne building mezzanine testing was abandoned before all specimens could be tested to a PASS result due to scheduling issues. Failed specimens were not always retested because of access or availability of a rough frame (r/f).

## FIELD-OBSERVATION REPORT SUMMARY

Report	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	Totals
Observation Date	06-25-2013	06-08-2013	06-29-2013	09-24-2013	10-03-2013	10-09-2013	12-17-2013	01-14-2014	N/A	N/A	
Total Conditions	18	13	26	7	6	22	8	1	0	0	81
Closed Conditions	18	13	13	7	6	22	8	1	0	0	81
Open Conditions	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1

## DRAWING REVIEW SUMMARY

Report	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	Totals
Drawing Set	11111 USH Phase 1	11111 USH Preliminary	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	

- Programming
- Pre-Design
- Design
- Pre-Construction
- Construction
- **Operations & Maintenance**

**DO NOT MAKE REPAIRS OR ALTERATIONS  
TO THIS STANDING SEAM METAL ROOF  
WITHOUT APPROVAL  
FROM THE BASE ENGINEER**

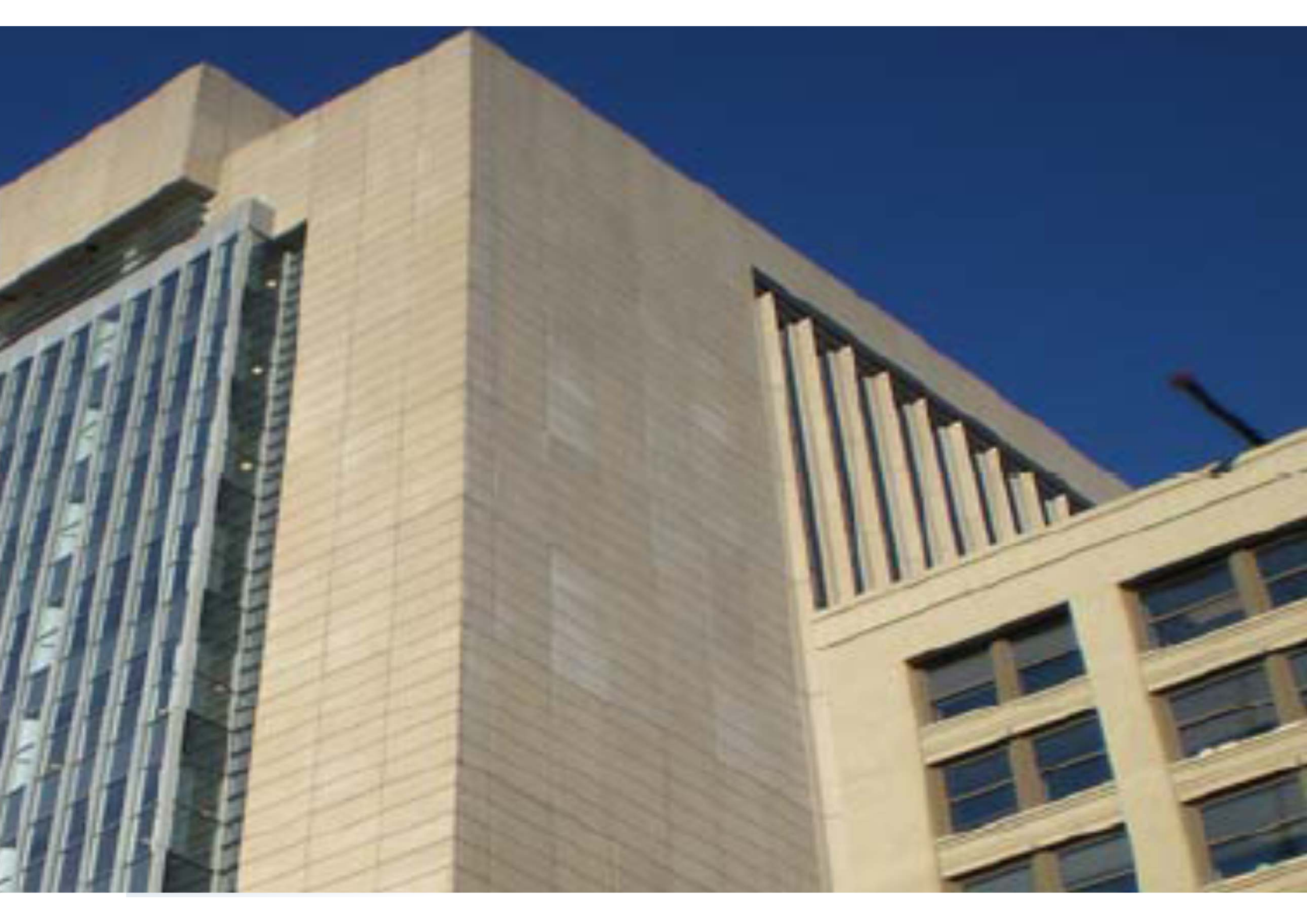
**THIS PRODUCT IS WARRANTED UNTIL  
SEPTEMBER 2031**

**BY FIRESTONE BUILDING PRODUCTS  
250 WEST 96TH STREET, INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46260**

**PH: 800-428-4511  
FAX: 317-575-7227**

**DATE OF INSTALLATION: SEPTEMBER 2011**







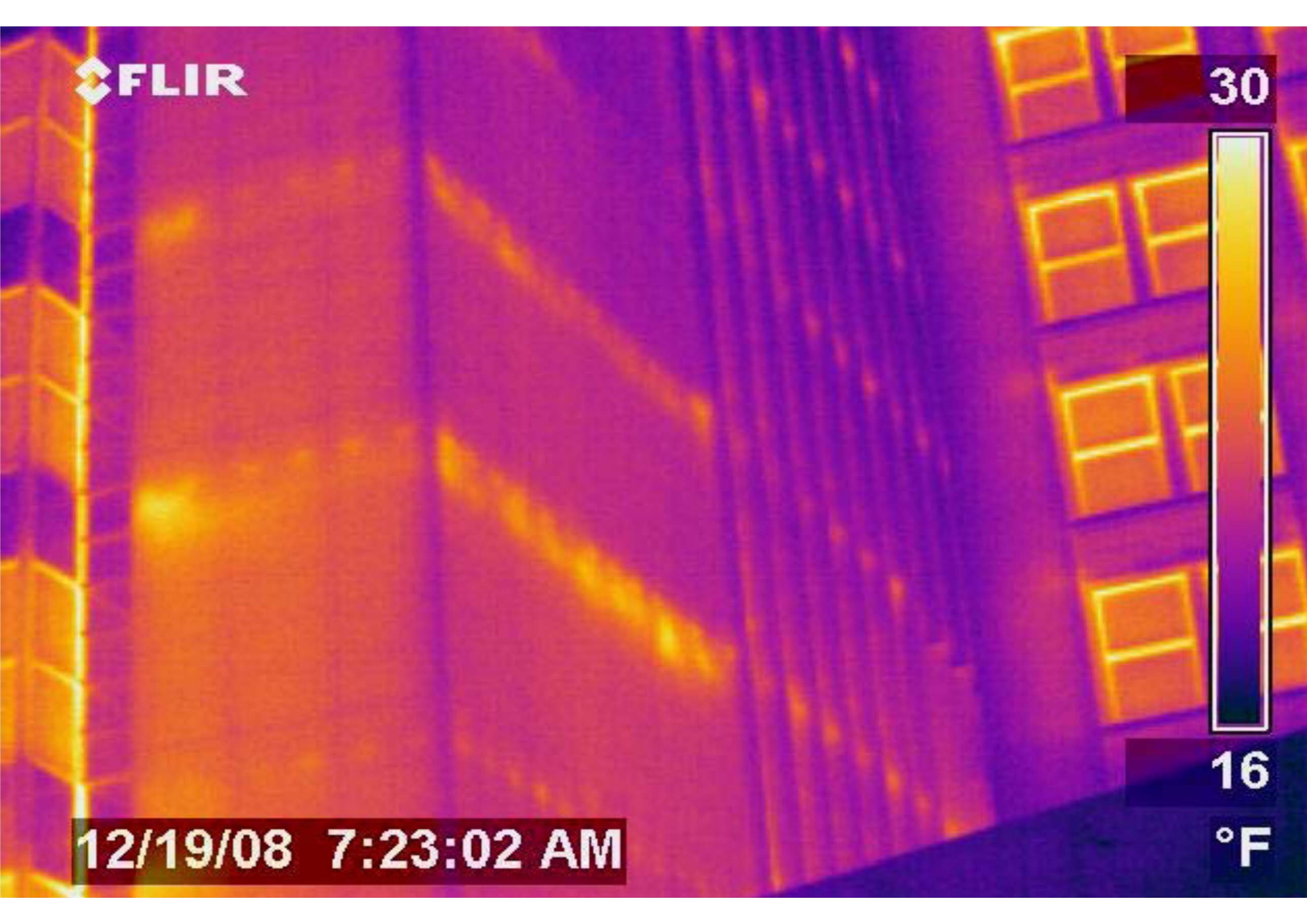
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- Building Enclosure Commissioning Overview
- BECx Drivers
- BECx Process
- **BEcx Value**

# BECx Value Proposition



Valued Quality. Delivered.

- Early Project Learning
- Design / Model Reviews
- Minimize Delays
- Tested Mock-ups

Time

- Process Pays for Itself
- Minimize Change Orders
- Early Failure Identification
- Reduces Risk/Call Backs

- Value Based Service
- Minimize performance Errors
- Verifies Performance
- Focus is on End User Needs

Quality

Cost

# Questions?

**Intertek**

Valued Quality. Delivered.



**Intertek Locations**

**Contact:**

**Gilles PC Vandevoorde**

**[gilles.vandevoorde@intertek.com](mailto:gilles.vandevoorde@intertek.com)**

**+971 50 612 1974 (Mobile)**