



June 4, 2007

Ms. Joann Surma
Senior Codes and Standards Specialist
Building & Construction TS&D
The Dow Chemical Company
200 Larkin Center,
1605 Joseph Drive
Midland, MI 48674

Re: Fireblocking In Wall Construction
HAI Project No. 5306-004

Dear Ms. Surma:

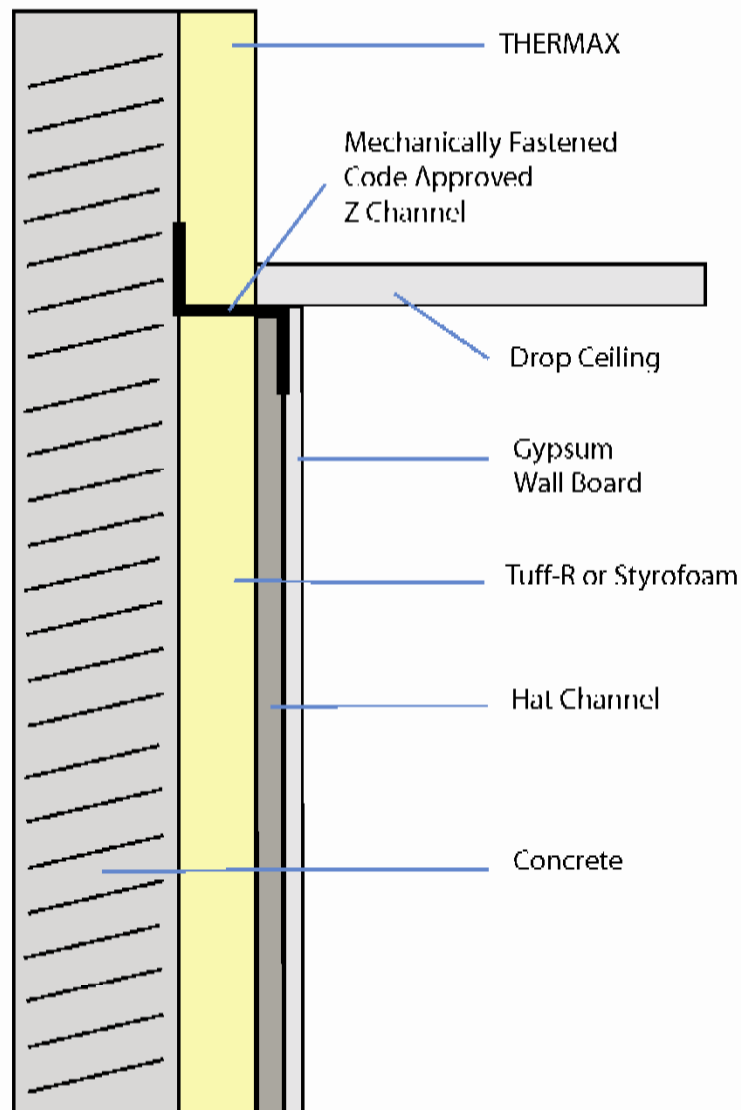
Hughes Associates, Inc. (HAI) is providing this analysis of a proposed fireblocking installation. This analysis is based on the 2006 Edition of the International Building Code (IBC).

Section 717 of the IBC requires fireblocking to be installed in concealed spaces of combustible construction, and fireblocking is required in concealed spaces of walls and partitions, including furred spaces.

Figure 1 provides a diagram of a proposed fireblocking detail. In this detail, the mechanically fastened steel “Z” channel (22 ga. or thicker) acts as a fireblock at the intersection of the wall and the drop ceiling level as well as providing additional fireblocking of vertical furred spaces when they occur.

Section 717.2.1 specifies specific materials that can be used as fireblocking but also allows “....other approved materials installed in such a manner as to be securely retained in place shall be permitted as an acceptable fireblock.” The attached detail uses a mechanically fastened steel “Z” channel as the fireblocking material. Since the channel will be securely attached and is a noncombustible material, it is my judgment that the “Z” channel can be used as fireblocking in the manner proposed and meets the intent of the Code.

Thus, the installation of the “Z” channel as shown in Figure 1 is appropriate for use as fireblocking at the at the intersection of the wall and the drop ceiling level as well as providing additional fireblocking of vertical furred spaces when they occur.



THERMAX Sheathing Insulation / Finish Boards are recommended for exposed applications for wall /roofs, attics, ducted plenums and/or ceilings in agricultural, commercial and industrial buildings such as factories, warehouses, agricultural structures, parking garages, mercantile establishments, aircraft hangers, cold storage structures, tennis courts, skating rinks, swimming pools, etc.

THERMAX is NOT to be used in plenum areas that are used as air return ventilation nor is it a replacement for duct insulation.

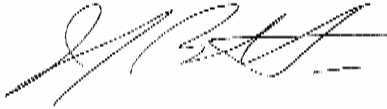
Ms. Joann Surma

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I hope that this analysis provides the information that you required and if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (410) 737-8677.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Beitel', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Jesse J. Beitel
Senior Scientist/Principal