

Additional Options to Comply with NFPA 285 with Piazza Stone's System

- 1) If someone is using our material, without the Piazza Z (steel channel) and Dow Board, will it still comply with NFPA 285? Would the thickness of the steel channel and dow board need to be the same?

Answer – Your Piazza stone has EPS in it so if there is no Z or Dow, you have to be careful about the air space behind the Piazza stone. This is because the EPS can burn and a larger air gap can allow it to burn worse. In your DRJ TER, the drawing shows a ¼" air space between the Dow and Piazza EPS core. This air space is created by using the horizontal channel (Piazza Track). This ¼" air space is the MAXIMUM allowed. If you have a Z with no insulation, this increases the air space. This is not allowed. So, if there is no Z or Dow, the horizontal track is attached direct to the wall, and the Piazza is attached to the ¼" track. This would comply with 285. Great Thank you!

- 2) On the test report, it says G90 2" galvanized steel channel, does this mean that any galvanized steel channel can be used as long as its 2" G90 galvanized? Can the Z also be a 1", 3", etc? Our Piazza Z (steel channel) has a thermal tape on it for our energy code and it also has notches in it. Would you think this helped in any way to pass the NFPA 285

Answer – It's best to refer to your DRJ approval instead of the 285 test report. In your DRJ approval, it says 2" max Z (steel). Any steel will work – galvanized or not. I don't think the tape or notches affected the test. Be careful about the air gap as noted above.

- a) Why is the maximum 2" Dow and 2" Z Channel? Is this because we tested it this way? If we maintained a ¼" air space could we not have 3" Dow and 3" Channel? If not, why? Is this because of there being more insulation?

Answer – the foam thickness tested is the maximum allowed because thicker foam will burn worse.

- b) If the answer to a) above is no, could we use 3" insulation that passes the NFPA and 3" channel still maintaining the ¼" airspace?

Answer – Simply using a foam brand that passed NFPA 285 is not a path that can be taken. Foams are tested with specific claddings in NFPA 285.

The NFPA 285 test is a SYSTEM TEST (i.e. it measures how everything burns together). The NFPA 285 is not a PRODUCT Test.

Any other combustible foam brand at 3" would need to be a full retest with your Piazza system.

However, If you use 3" MINERAL WOOL (non-combustible) with 3" channel and still maintain ¼" air space, this would pass 285 with your Piazza system.

If you need a 285 compliance letter for this, I'll just add this info to the letter quoted above.

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