



BROWARD COUNTY BOARD OF RULES AND APPEALS

FBC 8TH EDITION (2023) FORMAL INTERPRETATION (#2)

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Charles M. Kramer, Esq.

Board Administrative Director
Dr. Ana Barbosa

— Established 1971 —

DATE: October 12, 2023
TO: All Building Officials
FROM: Dr. Ana Barbosa, Administrative Director 
SUBJECT: Attachments of Ductwork to Air Handling Equipment

At its regularly scheduled meeting on October 12, 2023, the Broward County Board of Rules and Appeals approved an interpretation of Section 603.9, Florida Mechanical Code, 8th edition (2023) and section 1601.4.1, FBC, Residential, 8th Edition (2023).

These sections state that attachment of rigid fibrous glass duct work to air-handling equipment shall be by mechanical attachment, and attachment shall be by mechanical fasteners. These sections further define mechanical attachments for air distribution systems as screws, rivets, welds, interlocking joints crimped and rolled, staples, twist-in (screw attachment, and compression systems created by bend tabs or screw tabs and flanges or by clinching straps.

Broward County has a long successful history of using UL181 A/P listed pressure-sensitive aluminum foil tape and UL 181 A/M glass fabric (mesh) and mastic for attaching rigid fibrous glass duct board to cleaned sheet metal equipment flanges in residential applications. North American Insulation Manufacturers Association (NAIMA) is listed in the FMC and FRC “Reference Standards and Organizations” sections. NAIMA’s Fibrous Glass Residential Duct Construction Standard states, “Connections of fibrous glass duct board to carefully cleaned sheet metal equipment flanges may be made with UL A/P listed pressure-sensitive aluminum foil tape.”

Formal Interpretation:

The use of UL 181 A/P listed pressure sensitive aluminum tape or UL 181 A/M glass fabric and mastic are acceptable methods of attaching rigid fibrous glass duct work to cleaned sheet metal equipment flanges in residential applications.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 20, 2005
EFFECTIVE DATE: December 31, 2023

***** PLEASE POST AT YOUR PERMIT COUNTER *****