



New Fiber Stucco Lath Creates Industry Buzz

For years, construction professionals have relied on metal or wire lath for stucco wall reinforcement. BASF® Wall Systems looked to create an alternative lath using self-furred, glass fiber that offers corrosion resistance because it's non-metallic, as well as improved handling and application. BASF's efforts resulted in the release of an innovative alternative called PermaLath® 1000. This glass fiber reinforcing stucco lath is designed for use with cementitious exterior wall coatings (one-coat stucco) and traditional ASTM C 926 stucco, and can also be used as a mortar base for a lightweight veneer facing, such as stone veneer.

Before the product could be introduced to the market place as an alternate to the lath products listed in the *International Building Code*® (IBC®) and *International Residential Code*® (IRC®), BASF Wall Systems needed an independent evaluation process to demonstrate code compliance. (continued)



The two rolls carried by this worker contain enough, PermaLath 1000 to cover nearly 1,000 square feet

Testing Techniques;

With no existing standards available to evaluate certain properties of glass fiber lath, BASF Wall Systems developed and incorporated the necessary test methods with guidance from ICC-ES to build on the existing Acceptance Criteria (AC) developed by ICC Evaluation Service® (ICC-ES®), a subsidiary of the International Code Council® (ICC®), for alternate metal lath (AC 191). The new criteria for glass fiber lath, AC 275 for **Glass Fiber Lath Used in Exterior Cementitious Wall Coatings or Exterior Cement Plaster (Stucco)** was approved by the ICC Evaluation Committee during open public hearings.



Self-furring PermaLath enables stucco keying.

Eric Auman, BASF Wall Systems Engineering Specialist, says, “Our product required criteria that would include all exterior wall applications for glass fiber lath, including use with proprietary one-coat stucco, traditional ASTM C 926 stucco mixes and masonry veneer.”

After this approval BASF Wall Systems worked with ICC-ES to provide an independent technical assessment of its newest product and aid code officials in evaluating the product’s code compliance. The ICC-ES evaluation report opened the door for BASF Wall Systems market entrance by proving this original product met code requirements.

The ICC-ES issued Evaluation Report ESR-2429, recognizing PermaLath® 1000 glass fiber lath from BASF Wall Systems under the ICC-ES Acceptance Criteria AC 275 in May 2008.

ESR-2429 for PermaLath 1000 Glass Fiber Lath confirms the product’s compliance with the 2006 International Building Code (IBC) and the 2006 International Residential Code (IRC). It also recognizes PermaLath 1000 for use in combustible, non-combustible, and fire resistive construction with ASTM C 926 (three-coat) stucco, as well as with BASF Wall Systems’ StuccoBase products. Systems with PermaLath 1000 are recognized with wood framing, and minimum 20-gauge steel framing along with sheathings that include OSB, plywood, ASTM C 79 paper-faced gypsum and ASTM C 1177 glass mat-faced gypsum.



PermaLath can be installed vertically, horizontally and even diagonally.

Winning Combination

One of the first contractors to put PermaLath to the test was Alan Fraker, President of A Custom Hand Plaster, Inc., in Windsor, CO. Fraker has been in the construction business for 20 years. He and his crews have experience installing metal lath, stucco netting and PermaLath.

BASF Wall System’s Market Manager Ashley Feit says, “Each PermaLath 1000 roll can cover 487.5 square feet (54.2 square yards), yet weighs only 31 pounds. It provides keying and continuous reinforcement for stucco used on vertical wall applications with solid backing. It may also be used as a mortar base for light-weight stone veneer products.

PermaLath 1000 is the second product in the BASF Wall Systems family of non-metallic laths. PermaLath was introduced in 2005 as an alternative to metal lath for one-coat stucco applications up to ½-inch thick. PermaLath 1000 has been developed for use in stucco applications ½-inch to 7/8-inch and as a plaster base for precast stone veneer.

To find out more about this product, view **ESR-2429: PermaLath 1000 Glass Fiber Lath** by visiting www.icc-es.org/reports/pdf_files/ICC-ES/ESR-2429.pdf. All Evaluation Reports can be accessed and downloaded free of charge at www.icc-es.org/evaluation_reports and are readily searchable based on attributes such as product type, manufacturer, or report number.

This article is intended to provide information on a new or innovative building product or system for which an ICC-ES Evaluation Report has recently been issued. It should not be construed as a product endorsement or a recommendation for its use.