

## Alternate materials and methods of construction

The building official reviews alternate designs and products to determine if they comply with the purpose and intent of the code. The official must determine if the alternate is at least the equivalent to the code in quality, strength, effectiveness, fire resistance, durability, and safety. This is accomplished by reviewing testing information and research reports provided by the manufacturer of the product. To assist the building official in this process, the ICC Evaluation Service (ICC-ES) was created. This organization develops acceptance criteria for different types of construction products. It then evaluates the products to the standard acceptance criteria to determine if the product complies with the intent of the particular code.

An evaluation report includes specific information about the product being reviewed (Figure 2-4). It provides manufacturer information, installation requirements and details, and specific conditions for the approval. The report is issued for a specific time period and renewed as required. It is also approved based on specific editions of the code. Because the code is revised every three years, it is important for the current report to be used in evaluating the product for use in a project. [\[Ref. 104.11\]](#)

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### You Should Know

#### Prescriptive versus Performance

Prescriptive code example  
“Handrail height, measured above stair tread nosings, or finish surface of ramp slope shall be uniform, not less than 34 inches (864 mm) and not more than 38 inches (965 mm).”

Performance code example  
“Fire walls shall have sufficient structural stability under fire conditions to allow collapse of construction on either side without collapse of the wall for the duration of time indicated by the required fire-resistance rating.” ●

**ICC-ES Evaluation Report****ESR-1231**

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*This report is subject to re-examination in one year.*[www.icc-es.org](http://www.icc-es.org) | (800) 423-6587 | (562) 699-0543

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**DIVISION: 09—FINISHES**  
**Section: 09270—Gypsum Board Accessories****REPORT HOLDER:****EZ TAPING SYSTEMS, INC.**  
**POST OFFICE BOX 11263**  
**GREEN BAY, WISCONSIN 54307-1263**  
**(920) 429-9274****EVALUATION SUBJECT:****EZ TAPING SYSTEM "FIRE TAPE" DRYWALL TAPE****1.0 EVALUATION SCOPE****Compliance with the following codes:**

- 2006 *International Building Code*® (IBC)
- 2006 *International Residential Code*® (IRC)
- 1997 *Uniform Building Code*™ (UBC)

**Property evaluated:**

Fire resistance

**2.0 USES**

The assembly described in Section 4.2 of this report can be used where a one-hour nonload-bearing fire-resistance-rated steel- or wood-framed assembly is required by Chapter 7 of the IBC, Section R317 of the IRC or Chapter 7 of the UBC. When used in this assembly, the EZ Taping System Fire Tape is an alternative to the joint treatment required by IBC Section 2508.4, IRC Section R702.3.1 and UBC Section 2511.5.

**3.0 DESCRIPTION**

The EZ Taping System Fire Tape is a self-adhesive, fiberglass-reinforced, paper drywall tape. The tape is 1.9 inches (48 mm) wide and comes in rolls 250 feet (76.2 m) long.

**4.0 INSTALLATION****4.1 General:**

The tape is applied directly to vertical or horizontal joints of gypsum wallboard panels. The tape must be wiped down with a 3-inch (72 mm) plastic blade provided by the manufacturer or with an equivalent instrument to apply sufficient pressure to establish full contact between the tape and drywall.

**4.2 One-hour Nonload-bearing Fire-resistance-rated Assembly:**

The construction consists of minimum 0.0185-inch-thick (0.46 mm), 3<sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub>-inch-deep (92 mm) steel studs and tracks or 2-by-4 wood studs faced on both sides with 5<sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub>-inch-thick (15.9 mm), Type X gypsum wallboard. Studs are spaced a maximum of 24 inches (610 mm) on center. The wallboard is erected vertically or horizontally and attached to studs and tracks with 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>-inch-long (38 mm), Type S drywall screws for steel studs, or Type W drywall screws for wood studs, spaced 8 inches (203 mm) on center on vertical edges and 12 inches (305 mm) on center on top and bottom edges and in the field. The wallboard panels must be tightly butted, with all joints blocked. Joints must be centered on the stud face and staggered one stud on opposite faces of the assembly. The Fire Tape wallboard tape is applied to the wallboard joints in accordance with Section 4.1. Fasteners shall be treated with approved joint tape or joint compound.

**5.0 CONDITIONS OF USE**

The EZ Taping System described in this report complies with, or is a suitable alternative to what is specified in, those codes listed in Section 1.0 of this report, subject to the following conditions:

**5.1** The tape is manufactured, identified and installed in accordance with this report and the manufacturer's instructions.

**5.2** The tape is applied to tightly butted joints of nonload-bearing one-hour fire-resistive assemblies as described in Section 4.2.

**6.0 EVIDENCE SUBMITTED**

**6.1** Reports of tests in accordance with ASTM E 119, C 474 and C 475, and the ICC-ES Acceptance Criteria for Adhesively Attached Drywall Tape (AC119), dated July 1996.

**6.2** A quality control manual.

**7.0 IDENTIFICATION**

Each roll of tape is marked with the manufacturer's name (EZ Taping System) and the evaluation report number (ESR-1231). In addition, each package of product contains installation instructions, limitations on use and a plastic knife for use in applying the tape.

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