

Metal Core Laminated Panels Used as Exterior Cladding

The International Building Code (IBC) has identified and provided a dedicated section for Metal Composite Material (MCM) panels since its original publication in 2000. (Section 1406)

Manufacturers of laminated panel materials made with an aluminum core sometimes claim compliance with the requirements for non-combustible material as defined in IBC Section 703.3 (2021) through an exception originally written to address the paper facing on gypsum wallboard. This exception is not intended for materials laminated together with a combustible adhesive layer and an aluminum core. This has been addressed by an approved addition to the 2024 IBC, Section 1402.8, which recognizes that there is a certain level of exposure when combustible adhesives are used in exterior wall cladding. This new section requires that metal laminate panels used greater than 40 feet above grade must meet the same performance requirements and successfully be tested to NFPA 285 the same as required for MCM panels.

To promote safe construction practices, the MCM Alliance of the Metal Construction Association promotes that these materials should be compliant with the IBC and subject to NFPA 285 testing.

For more information regarding the topic please read, “Is My Exterior Wall Material Truly Noncombustible?” publicly available on the MCA website www.metalconstruction.org

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- Technical guidance
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- Educational and awareness programs
- Advocating for the interests of our industry
- Recognition of industry-achievement awards
- Monitoring of industry issues, such as codes and standards
- Research to develop improved metal construction products
- Promotional and marketing support for the metal construction industry
- Publications to promote use of metal wall and roof products in construction

For more information, please visit the MCA Web site at www.metalconstruction.org

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