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Standard for Rainscreen Terminology

RAiNA
RAINSCREEN ASSOCIATION IN NORTH AMERICA

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Foreword

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in RAiNA's Policy for Balloting Official Documents.

Please submit any questions or any feedback on this document to admin@rainscreenassociation.org.

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1 Introduction

This document is intended to provide standardized terms and definitions for the rainscreen industry and associated systems, assemblies, sub-assemblies, accessories, materials, and products.

Standard for Rainscreen – Terminology

2 Scope

This document provides a vocabulary of terms used in the field of rainscreen industry along with related industries that covers materials, products, accessories, components, sub-assemblies, assemblies, systems, installation, and applications. Some of the terms can have a different meaning when used in other industries or applications.

The purpose of this terminology is to provide meanings and explanations of technical terms in the buildings field, written for both the non-expert and the expert user.

Terms are listed in alphabetical sequence. Compound terms appear in the natural spoken order.

3 Normative References

There are no normative references in this document.

4 Terms and Definitions

4.1 Cavity

Space within an enclosure wall assembly.

4.2 Cladding

Non-load bearing wall element, inclusive of any coating and/or finish, serving as the outer layer, that is unprotected from exterior environmental conditions.

4.3 Drainage Cavity

Space in an enclosure wall assembly between the *cladding* and the water resistive barrier that provides a passive means of directing liquid water to the exterior.

4.4 Exterior Cavity

Space in an enclosure wall assembly between the *cladding* and the backup wall.

4.5 Non-load Bearing Wall Element

Material or system that transfers load to the structure, does not augment overall structural performance, resists its own weight and loads imposed by surface-mounted accessories allowed by design.

4.6 Rainscreen

Assembly applied to an exterior wall which consists of, at minimum, an outer layer, an inner layer, and a *cavity* between them sufficient for the passive removal of liquid water and water vapor.

4.7 Rainscreen Cavity

Space in an enclosure wall assembly between the *cladding* and the water resistive barrier that provides a passive means of directing liquid water to the exterior and sufficient airflow to remove water vapor.

4.8 Rainscreen Cladding

Cladding that is the water shedding outer layer of a *rainscreen* assembly.

4.9 Water Control Layer

The continuous layer comprised of one or more materials that resist the passage of liquid water.

4.10 Drainage

The removal of liquid water from the wall enclosure by gravity.

4.11 Vented

Limited passive exchange of air between the *cavity* and exterior through openings. Contrast with “ventilated.”

4.12 Ventilated

Passive exchange of air between the *cavity* and exterior through multiple openings that facilitate uniform airflow.

4.13 Drained and Vented Rainscreen

A *rainscreen* assembly with a vented *cavity* drained to the exterior.

4.14 Drained and Ventilated Rainscreen

A *rainscreen* assembly with a ventilated *cavity* drained to the exterior.

4.15 Pressure Equalized Rainscreen

A *rainscreen* assembly where, in theory, the air pressure acting on the exterior of the *cladding* is always equal to the pressure in the *rainscreen cavity,* thereby resulting in no pressure difference across the *cladding*. See “pressure moderated rainscreen” for practical application of this concept.

4.16 Pressure Moderated Rainscreen

A *rainscreen* assembly where the pressure acting across the *cladding* is substantially reduced but does not achieve the theoretical state where the pressure on the exterior is always equal to that in the *rainscreen cavity*.

4.17 Drainage Planes

Surfaces located at and/or outboard of the *water control layer* on which drainage occurs.

4.18 Subframing

An assembly of linear members including, but not limited to, rails, girts, furring, related clips, fasteners, and accessories used to connect the *cladding* to structure or backup wall and resist and transfer the loads from the *cladding* to structure or backup wall.

4.19 Rainscreen Cladding Joint, Open

Rainscreen Cladding Joint, Open: a gap or reveal between adjacent cladding edges or between cladding panels and adjacent components that is designed to accommodate movement and allow water, air, and daylight to penetrate into the *rainscreen cavity*.

4.20 Rainscreen Cladding Joint, Closed

A gap or reveal between adjacent cladding edges or between cladding panels
and adjacent components that is designed to accommodate movement and configured to limit the penetration of water, air, and/or daylight into the *rainscreen cavity*.