

4TH QUARTER NEWSLETTER

2023

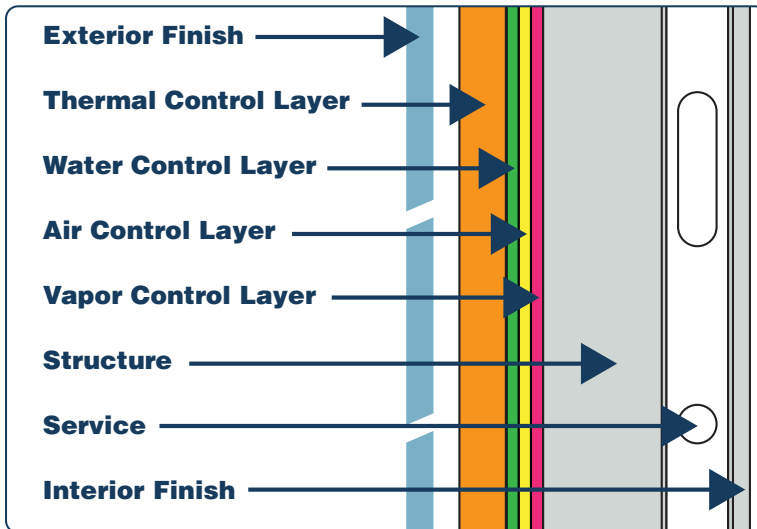
air barrier
abaa
association of
america



PART 1: "THE BASICS"

Weather Barriers, Water-resistive Barriers, Air Barriers, and Vapor Retarders – Are They Not All the Same?

by Laverne Dagleish & Brian Stroik



In the Codes, the terms weather barriers, water-resistive barriers, air barriers, vapor retarders (formerly called vapor barriers) are terms used to identify different control layers within the building enclosure. An additional control layer is thermal insulation, but that term is not used in the Code but uses the terms thermal insulation, thermal resistance-R value and thermal transmittance, U-Factor.

Control layers are not materials. Each control layer provides a different function in a building enclosure assembly and are not specific to materials. The Codes has performance requirements for a material to be used to provide that control function.

For a material to be used to provide a control layer function, the material must meet the ...

Terms and Definitions

- **Weather Barrier**
Designated set of assemblies designed to resist the loads imposed by all elements of the weather, including solar, wind, air borne debris, heat, flooding, liquid water, and water vapor, commonly referred to as the building enclosure.
- **Water Resistive Barrier**
Designed material behind an exterior wall covering that is intended to resist liquid water that has penetrated behind the exterior covering from further intruding into the exterior wall assembly.
- **Air Barrier**
Designated plane of material(s) to reduce airflow between different environments.
- **Heat Barrier (thermal insulation)**
Material of relatively low heat conductivity used to shield against loss or entrance of heat by radiation, convection, or conduction.
- **Vapor Retarder**
Material or assembly designated to reduce the water vapor transmission rate through the material or building assembly...

➤ READ FULL ARTICLE: <https://bit.ly/3tjqKTS>

GREETINGS

from the Chairs

We hope you all enjoyed a wonderful Thanksgiving and are gearing up for an amazing holiday season! We know this is a busy time of year, both professionally and personally, so we wanted to take a brief opportunity to provide a year in review for 2023.

We are pleased that ABAA continues to grow and increase its membership to 688 members (the largest amount ever!), 92 of which are new to the organization. We are also proud of our 2,700 plus certified and registered installers. On the educational front, over 18,000 individuals have taken part in our webinars and face-to-face symposiums. Thank you to all those who attended, and a BIG THANK YOU to our speakers and presenters!

Our committees have also been hard at work and deserve appreciation with the QAP Committee developing an

additional program for prefabrications/panelization and new solutions for digital credentialing, the Technical Committee for updating material evaluation requirements and guide specifications for Division 1, as well as drafting 2- and 3-dimensional details for roof-to-wall; the Marketing Committee for revamping the website and creating promotional videos; the Contractor's Committee for working with the fireproofing industry and hosting contractor-focused educational events; the Education Committee for developing a training program for General Contractors and CABS study resources; the Research Committee with the NIST video tutorial for energy modeling and securing a contract and partnership with University of New Mexico for an air leakage research project.

Last but certainly not least, the efforts of our Accredited Standards Development (ASD) Body and Whole Building

Airtightness Certification groups have made amazing progress in 2023! ASD continues to work hard toward obtaining ANSI accreditation and creating the related corporate structure, which would help put ABAA in a position to uphold rigorous quality values and produce consensus standards. Regarding Whole Building Airtightness Certification, we launched multi-level certification programming, and we even have our first few certified individuals. ABAA also coordinated with the State of Washington regarding local code provisions and assisted with adopting ABAA Whole Building Airtightness Testing as a requirement!

Again, we reflect with gratitude on the year the ABAA has had, and we know it is due to our active members. So, with great appreciation we cheer to you and we are looking forward to what 2024 has in store for the ABAA!



SARAH K. FLOCK, NCARB, BECxP, CxA+BE

Co-Chair – ABAA | Co-Chair – ABAA Research Committee
Principal – Raths, Raths & Johnson, Inc.



MR. ANDREW DUNLAP, AIA, CDT, LEED AP, NCARB

Co-Chair – ABAA | Co-Chair – ABAA Research Committee
Principal – SmithGroup

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We want your feedback!

Have some feedback for us? We would love to hear it!

hhowell@airbarrier.org



Is Your Organization Getting All the Education Benefits ABAA Has to Offer?

Progress | On Continuing Education Provided to the Industry



13

HOSTED 13 ABAA WEBINARS

With topics ranging from wall systems, mass timber, whole building airtightness, air leakage control, rainscreen systems.

2

**PRESENTED AT
2 MAJOR CONFERENCE
METALCON and IIBEC BES**

2

**PARTNERED WITH
5 BEC/CSI/AIA CHAPTERS**

Including BEC Salt Lake City and CSI Metro NY.

JANUARY THRU
NOVEMBER

ATTENDEES
16,612

EVENTS
109

CONTINUING EDUCATION UNITS
18,212

abaa2024

 building enclosure conference

MAY
7TH & 8TH

**RESERVE
HOTEL** <<



**AIA
Continuing
Education
Provider**

THANK YOU TO OUR EARLY SPONSORS



abaaConference.com

BLOWER DOOR TECHNICIAN CERTIFICATION PROGRAM



CERTIFICATION BENEFITS

The Blower Door Technician Certification Program certifies individuals to conduct whole-building air tightness tests on commercial and large buildings in compliance with testing standards.

Certification is now required by the state of Washington.

Enhanced Credibility

ISO 17024 certification is an industry standard for blower door technicians with architects, engineers, and building owners, showcasing knowledge, skills, and commitment to quality.

Higher Quality Work

Certification validates proficiency in blower door equipment and air barrier testing principles, improving test results quality, reducing errors, and improving accuracy.



THE PROGRAM CONSISTS OF TWO LEVELS.

Level I

Technicians competent to conduct a blower door test on commercial and larger buildings.

Level II

Proficient blower door technicians that tackle complex and sophisticated buildings.

Meet Rising Demand

Whole-building air tightness testing is the definitive way to verify air barrier systems were installed correctly. Increasingly, jurisdictions require such testing, and many design professionals and building owners now demand it to validate proper installation.

Certification Scope

The Blower Door Technician oversees and implements all activities associated with developing and executing a test plan, covering a wide range of responsibilities within their domain.

CERTIFICATION



- 09-Feb • Master Specifier’s Retreat - San Juan, PR
- 03-Mar • SPFA Conference - Las Vegas, NV
- 08-Mar • IIBEC Convention & Tradeshow - Phoenix, AZ
- 18-Mar • BEST6 Conference- Austin, TX
- 07-May • ABAA Building Enclosure Conference - Reston, VA
- 30-Oct • MetalCon Conference - Atlanta, GA

Upcoming ABAA Education

- 09-Jan • CSI Tech Talk – QAP Program
- 11-Jan • Webinar – The Building Science Advisor
- 17-Jan • IIBEC Chicago – Ground Hog Day: Recurring Field Installation Issues, The Big Disconnect
- 18-Jan • Mid-TN BEC Chapter
- 23-Jan • AIA E. KY & AIA Central KY Air Barrier Rodeo – Failure is NOT an Option, Building Enclosure Architectural Details, The Big Disconnect
- 28-Feb • Ron Blank & Assoc; CE Academy – How to Specify an Air Barrier
- 12-Mar • CSI Denver – Air Barrier Retreat
- 12-Mar • CSI/BEC MN – Half Day Symposium
- 13-Mar • BEC/AIA Salt Lake City – Half Day Symposium
- 13-Mar • CSI Chicago – Half Day Symposium
- Oct-23 • IIBEC Atlanta – Material Testing & Evaluations, Why Does My Roof Leak When It’s Not Raining
- 08-Nov • BEC Iowa – Half Day Symposium

Upcoming Certification Training

Self-Adhered & Fluid Applied	Whole Building Airtightness	Sprayed Polyurethane Foam Installer	Field Auditor
Jan 16-18 - Virtual May 7-9 - VA May 21-23 - OR	Mar 25-29 - WA	Mar 3-4 - NV May 7-9 - VA	May 7-9 - VA
<i>Certify yourself or your team! Register Now!</i>			



Wilde Lake Middle School

➤ See [process photos](#)

This is the first Net Zero School in Maryland. We had to perform a whole building air leakage test to confirm the building's airtightness levels. When the testing was completed, the expected air leakage was less than half what the expected result was. The agency that performed the testing indicated that the testing results achieved was the best that they have ever observed.

Architect: TCA Architects

General

Contractor: Oak Contracting/Wayne Temple

Accredited

Contractor: Bel Air Foam & Roofing Inc.

Location: Columbia, MD **Type:** New Middle School

Building (sq. ft.): 110,000 **Air Barrier (sq. ft.):** 39,670



Quickly Calculate Cost

We have a simple QAP calculator, try it out!
airbarrier.org/qap/qap-calculator

Showcase Your Project

Your QAP project could be featured here!
Contact Louise at: Lhardman@airbarrier.org



ABAA QAP [Quality Assurance Program]

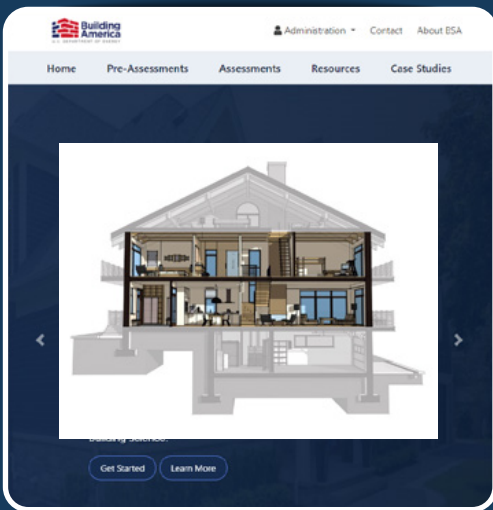
Learn how to make QAP part of your success story in 2024. We have outlined what it takes, the many benefits, and how much it costs to mitigate risk for a variety of building type and sizes.

➤ [Brochure](#)

➤ [Landing Page](#)



BUILDING SCIENCE ADVISOR TOOL



A No-Cost, Web-Based Tool

The tool leverages expert knowledge and a database of thousands of pre-simulated hygrothermal models to provide rapid feedback and expert guidance on wall assembly design, tailored for the user's location. BSA is designed for builders, architects, engineers, and students of building science.

[Check It Out](#)



AIA
Continuing
Education
Provider

CEUs On-Demand

- Updates in Whole Building Airtightness Testing
<https://bit.ly/46wLbLC>
- Designing Walls for Control of Air, Water, Thermal and Vapor
<https://bit.ly/3rElmJc>
- Cracking - Why Buildings Move ✓
<https://bit.ly/3rElmJc>
- QA or QC: What to Specify for High Performance Building Enclosures
<https://bit.ly/3TrVRHn>
- Building Enclosure Control Layer Fundamentals ✓
<https://bit.ly/3Rmt3h0>
- New Standards and Tools to Update Your Air Barrier Specifications
<https://bit.ly/45xAUgx>
- Moisture Movement in Building Enclosures ✓
<https://bit.ly/46Thu6E>



Have an Article Idea?



Do you have an article or idea in mind? Publishing an article can be a great way to advance your career and create new opportunities.

We pair ABAA Members with ABAA Mentors that will advise you on your article, and verify technical details.

You have skills and knowledge others are trying to obtain. We are looking to assist with articles on a wide range of air/moisture barrier topics, from absolute beginner to highly technical. Contact us to get started!

Contact Louise at:

lhardman@airbarrier.org