

July 10, 2025

TO: PARTIES INTERESTED IN SHEATHING MEMBRANES

SUBJECT: Proposed Canadian Acceptance Criteria for Sheathing Membranes, Subject AC38CA (20)-0925-R1 (AM/YM)

Hearing Information:

WebEx Event Meeting

[Thursday, September 18, 2025](#)

8:00 am Pacific Daylight Time

Click the date above to register

Dear Colleague:

You are invited to comment on the enclosed proposal for a new Canadian Acceptance Criteria for Sheathing Membranes, AC38CA (20), which will be discussed at the Canadian Evaluation Committee hearing noted above.

The proposed new criteria is applicable to mechanically fastened polymeric-based sheathing membranes. The method of evaluation is based on the consensus standard, ASTM E2556, *Standard Specification for Vapor Permeable Flexible Sheet Water-Resistive Barriers Intended for Mechanical Attachment*.

You are invited to submit written comments on this or any other agenda item, or to attend the Canadian Evaluation Committee hearing and present your views in person. If you wish to contribute to the discussion, please note the following:

1. Regarding written comments and presentations:
 - a. You should submit these via e-mail to es@icc-es.org by the applicable due date.
 - b. Comments are to be received by **July 29, 2025**. These written comments will be forwarded to the committee before the meeting, and will also be posted on the ICC-ES web site shortly after the deadline for submission. Written comments that are not submitted by this deadline will not be considered at the meeting.
 - c. Rebuttal comments, from the proponent noted in this letter, are to be received by **August 17, 2025**. They will be forwarded to the committee before the meeting, and will also be posted on the ICC-ES web site shortly after the deadline for submission. Written rebuttal comments that are not submitted by the deadline will not be considered at the meeting.

- d. If you want to make a visual presentation at the hearing, it must be received in PowerPoint format. The presentation is to be received by **August 25, 2025**. These will be forwarded to the committee before the meeting, and will also be posted on the ICC-ES web site after the deadline for submission. Presentations that are not submitted by the deadline cannot be presented at the meeting. **Note:** Videos will not be posted on the web site.

Presentations will be retained with other records of the meeting.

- e. ICC-ES will post to the web site, on **September 4, 2025**, memos by the ICC-ES staff, responding to the previously received public comments.
- f. If you miss the deadlines for submission of written comments and visual presentations, your verbal comments can be presented at the meeting.
- g. Proposed criteria, written public comments, visual presentations, and responses by ICC-ES staff for this agenda item are all available on our website.

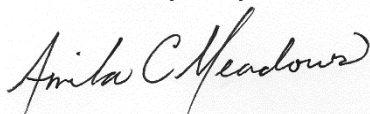
2. Regarding verbal comments and presentations:

Please plan to speak for not more than ten minutes. As noted above, visuals are to be in PowerPoint format.

- 3. Keep in mind that all materials submitted for committee consideration are part of the public record and will not be treated as confidential. It is the presenter's responsibility to certify to ICC-ES staff that no materials infringe copyright.
- 4. Please do not communicate with committee members before the meeting about any items on the agenda.

We appreciate your interest in the work of the Canadian Evaluation Committee. If you have any questions, please contact me at (800) 423-6587, extension 5232, or Yamil Moya, PE, at extension 3691. You may also reach us by e-mail at es@icc-es.org.

Yours very truly,



Anika C. Meadows, PE
Engineering Supervisor

AM/Is

Encl.

cc: Evaluation Committee

ICC EVALUATION SERVICE, LLC

RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE CANADIAN EVALUATION COMMITTEE

1.0 PURPOSE

The purpose of the Canadian Evaluation Committee is to review and approve Canadian acceptance criteria on which Canadian evaluation reports may be based.

2.0 MEMBERSHIP

2.1 The Canadian Evaluation Committee has a membership of not fewer than five, with one of the members named by the ICC-ES Vice President, Evaluation Services each year to serve as the chairperson–moderator.

2.2 All members of the committee shall be representatives of a body enforcing regulations related to the built environment.

2.3 Persons are appointed to the committee by the ICC-ES Vice President, Evaluation Services, from among individuals who have formally applied for membership.

2.4 The ICC-ES Board of Managers, using simple majority vote, shall ratify the nominations of the vice president.

2.5 Committee membership is for one year, coinciding with the calendar year. Members may be renominated and reappointed.

2.6 In the event that a member is unable to attend a committee meeting or complete a term on the committee, the ICC-ES Vice President, Evaluation Services may appoint a replacement to fill in at the meeting or for the remainder of the member's term. Any replacement appointed for only one meeting must have prior experience as a member of the Canadian Evaluation Committee. Appointments under this section (Section 2.6) are subject to ratification as noted in Section 2.4.

3.0 MEETINGS

3.1 The Canadian Evaluation Committee shall schedule meetings that are open to the public in discharging its duties under Section 1.0, subject to Section 3.0.

3.2 All scheduled meetings shall be publicly announced. There shall be two to four meetings per year (as necessary).

3.3 More than half of the Canadian Evaluation Committee members, counting the chairperson, shall constitute a quorum. A majority vote of members present is required on any action. To avoid any tie vote, the chairperson may choose to exercise or not exercise, as necessary, their right to vote.

3.4 In the absence of the chairperson–moderator, committee members present shall elect an alternate

chairperson from the committee for that meeting. The alternate chairperson shall be counted as a voting committee member for purposes of maintaining a committee quorum and to cast a tie-breaking vote of the committee.

3.5 Minutes shall be kept and shall be the official record of each meeting.

3.6 An electronic record of meetings may be made by ICC-ES if deemed necessary; no other audio, video, electronic recordings of the meetings will be permitted. Visual aids (including, but not limited to, charts, slides, videos, or presentation software) viewed at meetings shall be permitted only if the presenter provides ICC-ES before the presentation with a copy of the visual aid in a medium which can be retained by ICC-ES with its record of the meeting and which can also be provided to interested parties requesting a copy.

3.7 Parties interested in the deliberations of the committee should refrain from communicating, whether in writing or verbally, with committee members regarding agenda items. All written communications and submissions regarding agenda items must be delivered to ICC-ES and shall be considered nonconfidential and available for discussion in open session of a Canadian Evaluation Committee meeting. Such materials will be posted on the ICC-ES web site (www.icc-es.org) prior to the meeting. Comments and submissions not meeting the following deadlines will not be considered at the meeting:

- Initial comments on agenda items shall be submitted at least 28 days before the scheduled meeting.
- A rebuttal comment period shall follow, whereby rebuttal comments to the initial comments may be submitted by the proponent at least 21 days before the scheduled meeting.
- Those planning on giving a visual presentation at the meeting must submit their presentation, in PowerPoint format only, at least 10 days before the scheduled meeting.

The committee reserves the right to refuse recognition of communications which do not comply with the provisions of this section.

4.0 CLOSED SESSIONS

Canadian Evaluation Committee meetings shall be open, except that at the discretion of the chairperson, staff counsel may be necessary. Also, matters related to clients or potential clients covered by confidentiality requirements of ICC-ES Rules of Procedure for Evaluation Reports are discussed only during closed meetings.

5.0 ACCEPTANCE CRITERIA

5.1 Acceptance criteria are established by the committee to provide a basis for issuing ICC-ES evaluation reports on products and systems under codes referenced in Section 2.0 of the Rules of Procedure for Evaluation Reports. They also clarify conditions of acceptance for products and systems specifically regulated by the codes.

Acceptance criteria may involve a product, material, or method of construction. Consideration of any acceptance criteria must be in conjunction with a current and valid application for an ICC-ES evaluation report, an existing ICC-ES evaluation report, or as otherwise determined by the ICC-ES Vice President, Evaluation Services.

EXCEPTIONS: The following acceptance criteria are controlled by the ICC-ES executive staff and are not subject to committee approval:

- The Acceptance Criteria for Quality Documentation (AC10)
- The Acceptance Criteria for Test Reports (AC85)
- The Acceptance Criteria for Inspections and Inspection Agencies (AC304)

5.2 Procedure:

5.2.1 Proposed acceptance criteria shall be developed by the ICC-ES staff and discussed in open session with the Canadian Evaluation Committee during a scheduled meeting, except as permitted in Section 4.0 of these rules.

5.2.2 Proposed acceptance criteria shall be available to interested parties at least 30 days before discussion at the committee meeting.

5.2.3 The committee shall be informed of all pertinent written communications received by ICC-ES.

5.2.4 Attendees at Canadian Evaluation Committee meetings shall have the opportunity to speak on acceptance criteria listed on the meeting agenda, to provide information to committee members. In the interest of fairness, each speaker requesting to testify on a proposed acceptance criteria or proposed changes to an existing acceptance criteria will be given the same amount of time, as follows:

- a. A 10-minute time limit applies to speakers giving their first testimony on any item, which applies to both verbal testimony and/or visual presentations.
- b. A 5-minute time limit applies to speakers returning to the microphone to offer additional testimony and/or to rebut testimony given by others.
- c. A 2-minute time limit applies to speakers offering testimony on the staff recommendation to criteria.

Should a company have multiple speakers, the speaker time limits above apply to the company, in that multiple speakers from the same company shall share the testimony time, i.e., multiple speakers from the same company shall not each get their own testimony times. Time limits do not include time needed to answer questions from the staff and/or committee members. The chairperson–moderator shall have limited authority to modify time limitations on testimony. The chairperson–moderator shall also have the

authority to adjust time limits as necessary in order to get through the hearing agenda.

An automatic timing device shall keep time for testimony and shall provide the time remaining to the speaker testifying. Interruptions during testimony will not be tolerated. It is the responsibility of the chairperson–moderator to maintain decorum and order during all testimony.

5.3 Approval of any action on an acceptance criteria shall be as specified in Section 3.3 of these rules. Possible actions made by the Canadian Evaluation Committee include:

- Approval;
- Approval with Revisions;
- Disapproval; or
- Further Study.

The committee must give the reason(s) for any Disapproval or Further Study actions with specific recommendations.

5.4 Actions of the Canadian Evaluation Committee may be appealed in accordance with the ICC-ES Rules of Procedure for Appeal of Acceptance Criteria or the ICC-ES Rules of Procedure for Appeals of Evaluation Committee Technical Decisions.

6.0 COMMITTEE BALLOTING FOR ACCEPTANCE CRITERIA

6.1 Acceptance criteria may be revised without a public hearing following a 30-day public comment period and a majority vote for approval by the Canadian Evaluation Committee (i.e., alternative criteria development process), when at the discretion of the ICC-ES executive staff, the subject is a revision that requires formal action by the Canadian Evaluation Committee.

6.2 Negative votes must be based upon one or more of the following, for the ballots to be considered valid and require resolution:

- a. *Lack of clarity:* There is insufficient explanation of the scope of the acceptance criteria or insufficient description of the intended use of the product or system; or the acceptance criteria is so unclear as to be unacceptable. (The areas where greater clarity is required must be specifically identified.)
- b. *Insufficiency:* The criteria is insufficient for proper evaluation of the product or system. (The provisions of the criteria that are in question must be specifically identified.)
- c. *The subject of the acceptance criteria is not within the scope of the applicable codes:* A report issued by ICC-ES is intended to provide a basis for approval under the codes. If the subject of the acceptance criteria is not regulated by the codes, there is no basis for issuing a report, or a criteria. (Specifics must be provided concerning the inapplicability of the code.)
- d. *The subject of the acceptance criteria needs to be discussed in public hearings.* The committee member requests additional input from other committee members, staff or industry.

6.3 A Canadian Evaluation Committee member, in voting on an acceptance criteria, may only cast the following ballots:

- Approved
- Approved with Comments
- Negative: Do Not Proceed

7.0 COMMITTEE COMMUNICATION

Direct communication between committee members, and between committee members and an applicant or concerned party, with regard to the processing of a particular acceptance criteria or evaluation report, shall take place only in a public hearing of the Canadian Evaluation Committee. Accordingly:

7.1 Committee members receiving an electronic ballot should respond only to the sender (ICC-ES staff). Committee members who wish to discuss a particular matter with other committee members, before reaching a decision, should ballot accordingly and bring the matter to the attention of ICC-ES staff, so the issue can be placed on the agenda of a future committee meeting.

7.2 Committee members who are contacted by an applicant or concerned party on a particular matter that will be brought to the committee will refrain from private communication and will encourage the applicant or concerned party to forward their concerns through the ICC-ES staff in writing, and/or make their concerns known by addressing the committee at a public hearing, so that their concerns can receive the attention of all committee members.■

PROPOSED CANADIAN ACCEPTANCE CRITERIA FOR SHEATHING MEMBRANES

AC38CA (20)

Proposed July 2025

PREFACE

Canadian evaluation reports issued by ICC Evaluation Service, LLC (ICC-ES), are based upon requirements of the National Model Construction Codes of Canada, and may include other codes, as applicable.

The criteria set forth in this document are the requirements to be met in order to demonstrate compliance with Division B of the National Building Code of Canada (NBC) as either an acceptable or alternative solution, as defined in Division A of the NBC, Subsection 1.2.1 "Compliance with this Code."

ICC-ES may consider alternate criteria for report approval, provided the report applicant submits data demonstrating that the alternate criteria are at least equivalent to the criteria set forth in this document, and otherwise demonstrates compliance with the requirements of the codes. ICC-ES retains the right to refuse to issue or renew any evaluation report, if the applicable product, material, or method of construction is such that either unusual care with its installation or use must be exercised for satisfactory performance, or if malfunctioning is apt to cause injury or unreasonable damage.

Canadian Acceptance criteria are developed for use solely by ICC-ES for purposes of issuing ICC-ES evaluation reports

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PROPOSED CANADIAN ACCEPTANCE CRITERIA FOR SHEATHING MEMBRANES AC38CA (20)

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose: The purpose of this criteria is to establish requirements for evaluation of mechanically fastened polymeric-based sheathing membranes in ICC Evaluation Service, LLC (ICC-ES) evaluation reports under the *National Building Code of Canada* (NBC) 2015 and 2020 editions.

1.2 Scope: This criteria is limited to mechanically fastened polymeric sheet materials used on exterior walls as sheathing membranes under:

- Article 1.2.1.1.b Volume 1 Division A
- Table 5.9.1.1., Volume 1 Division B
- Sentence 9.20.13.9.(1), Volume 2 Division B and
- Sentence 9.27.3.2.(1) Volume 2 Division B

of the 2015 and 2020 *National Building Code of Canada*

1.3 Definitions:

1.3.1 Sheathing membrane: A material behind an exterior wall covering that is intended to prevent liquid water that has penetrated behind the exterior covering from further intruding into the exterior wall assembly.

1.3.2 Polymeric-based Barrier: Polymeric-based barriers are proprietary polymeric sheet materials for use as sheathing membranes and are mechanically fastened.

1.4 Codes and Referenced Documents: For the applicable editions of the referenced standards, see Table 2 of this criteria.

1.4.1 National Building Code of Canada 2015 and 2020 editions, National Research Council Canada.

1.4.2 ASTM D779, Standard Test Method for Water Resistance of Sheet Materials in Contact with Liquid Water by the Indicator Method, ASTM International.

1.4.3 ASTM D882, Standard Test Method for Tensile Properties of Thin Plastic Sheeting, ASTM International.

1.4.4 ASTM D5034, Standard Test Method for Breaking Strength and Elongation of Textile Fabrics (Grab Test), ASTM International.

1.4.5 ASTM E96, Test Method for Water Vapor Transmission of Materials, ASTM International.

1.4.6 ASTM E2556, Standard Specification for Vapor Permeable Flexible Sheet Water-Resistive Barriers Intended for Mechanical Attachment

2.0 BASIC INFORMATION AND REPORTS OF TESTS

2.1 Product Description: Descriptions of the materials and the manufacturing process shall be submitted.

2.2 Installation Instructions: Installation instructions shall be submitted. The instructions shall include the following requirements:

- the membrane must be installed according to Article 9.27.3.3 of the NBC,
- the upper layer must be lapped over the lower layer not less than 100 mm (3.94 in),
- joints around window and door openings must be taped, and
- the barrier must be covered from UV-exposure within a maximum exposure time permitted by the manufacturer.

2.3 Packaging and Identification: A description of the method of packaging and identifying the material shall be submitted. Product labeling shall include the evaluation report number at regular intervals. Product identification shall be in accordance with the product identification provisions of the ICC-ES Rules of Procedure for Evaluation Reports.

2.4 Testing Laboratories, Reports of Tests and Product Sampling:

2.4.1 Testing laboratories shall comply with Section 2.0 of the ICC-ES Acceptance Criteria for Test Reports (AC85) and Section 4.2 of the ICC-ES Rules of Procedure for Evaluation Reports.

2.4.2 Test reports shall comply with AC85.

2.4.3 Test specimens shall be sampled in accordance with Section 3.2 of AC85.

2.4.4 Unless otherwise specified in the applicable test method, a minimum of five specimens shall be tested.

2.5 Qualification Test Plan: A qualification test plan shall be submitted to and approved by ICC-ES staff prior to any testing being conducted.

3.0 REQUIRED DATA

3.1 Data in accordance with ASTM E2556/E2556M shall be submitted.

3.2 Reports of test for water vapor permeance in accordance with ASTM E96 and Section 4.2 of this criteria shall be submitted.

4.0 TEST METHODS

4.1 Testing shall be performed in accordance with ASTM E2556/E2556M, except as specified in Section 4.2 and meet the requirements of Table 1 of this criteria.

4.2 Testing to ASTM E96/E96M shall be conducted using the Desiccant ("Dry Cup") method and achieve a water vapor permeance (not permeability/transmission) of $\geq 170 \text{ ng/Pa}\cdot\text{s}\cdot\text{m}^2$ (see ASTM E2556/E2556M, Appendix X, Section X1.4.1.4 for discussion on NBC requirements).

5.0 QUALITY CONTROL

5.1 Quality documentation complying with the ICC-ES Acceptance Criteria for Quality Documentation (AC10) shall be submitted for each facility manufacturing or labeling products that are described in the ICC-ES evaluation report.

5.2 A qualifying inspection shall be conducted at each manufacturing facility in accordance with the requirements of the ICC-ES Acceptance Criteria for Inspections and Inspection Agencies (AC304).

5.3 An annual inspection shall be conducted at each manufacturing facility in accordance with AC304.

6.0 ENVIRONMENTAL PRODUCT DECLARATION (Optional):

Environmental impacts shall be assessed via an Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) based on a LifeCycle Assessment (LCA). The LCA and EPD shall be conducted in accordance with ISO 21930 and the appropriate Product Category Rule(s) for the product type. ■

PROPOSED CANADIAN ACCEPTANCE CRITERIA FOR SHEATHING MEMBRANES AC38CA (20)

TABLE 1 – REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO USE AS SHEATHING MEMBRANE

DESCRIPTION	TEST METHOD ¹	REQUIREMENTS ³
Pliability	ASTM E2556 Section A1.3	The material shall not crack when bent over a 1.6 mm (¹ / ₁₆ inch) diameter mandrel at a temperature of 0°C [32°F]
Dry tensile strength or dry breaking force (choose 1) (machine and cross direction)	ASTM D882 -Control specimens -Aged specimens ²	Minimum 3500 N/m [20 lb/in.]
	ASTM D5034 (Grab Method) -Control specimens -Aged specimens ²	Minimum 178 N [40lbf] (machine direction) Minimum 156 N [35lbf] (cross direction)
Water resistance test (choose 1)	ASTM D779 -Control specimens -Aged specimens ²	Minimum 10 minutes
	ASTM E2556, Section A1.1 (<i>Water Resistance Ponding</i>) -Control specimens -Aged specimens ²	No water shall penetrate through the membrane in 120 minutes.
Water vapor permeance test	ASTM E96 (Desiccant “Dry Cup” Method)	Minimum 170 ng/(Pa-s-m ²) [3 perms]

¹Testing must be performed in accordance with ASTM E2556, except as noted in Section 4.1.

²Specimens must be aged in accordance with ASTM E2556, Appendix A, Section A1.2. Aged specimens must meet the minimum requirements as outlined in ASTM E2556 and Table 1.

³Compliance with the NBC only requires compliance with the minimum requirements of ASTM E2556/E2556, Type I membrane, outlined above, products who meet the minimum requirements of ASTM E2556, Type II membranes as outlined in ASTM E2556 Table 1 (which has implications for US code applications) are deemed to comply with Type I.

TABLE 2 – REFERENCED STANDARDS

Standard	NBC 2015	NBC 2020
ASTM E2556 ¹	-10(2022)	-10(2022)
ASTM D882 ¹	-18	-18
ASTM D5034 ¹	-21	-21
ASTM D779 ¹	-16(2022)	-16(2022)
ASTM E96	-13	-16

¹Not a code referenced standard