



Date: March 9, 2017

## Section R318 PROTECTION AGAINST SUBTERRANEAN TERMITES

**R318.1 Subterranean termite control methods.** In areas subject to damage from termites as indicated by Table R301.2(1), methods of protection shall be one of the following methods or a combination of these methods:

1. Chemical termiticide treatment, as provided in Section R318.2.
2. Termite baiting system installed and maintained according to the *label*.
3. Pressure-preservative-treated wood in accordance with the provisions of Section R317.1.
4. Naturally durable termite-resistant wood.
5. Physical barriers as provided in Section R318.3 and used in locations as specified in Section R317.1.
6. Cold-formed steel framing in accordance with Sections R505.2.1 and R603.2.1.

**R318.1.1 Quality mark.** Lumber and plywood required to be pressure-preservative-treated in accordance with Section R318.1 shall bear the quality *mark* of an *approved* inspection agency which maintains continuing supervision, testing and inspection over the quality of the product and which has been *approved* by an accreditation body which complies with the requirements of the American Lumber Standard Committee treated wood program.

**R318.1.2 Field treatment.** Field-cut ends, notches, and drilled holes of pressure-preservative-treated wood shall be retreated in the field in accordance with AWP A M4.

**R318.2 Chemical termiticide treatment.** Chemical termiticide treatment shall include soil treatment and/or field applied wood treatment. The concentration, rate of application and method of treatment of the chemical termiticide shall be in strict accordance with the termiticide *label*.

**R318.3 Barriers.** *Approved* physical barriers, such as metal or plastic sheeting or collars specifically designed for termite prevention, shall be installed in a manner to prevent termites from entering the structure. Shields placed on top of an exterior foundation wall are permitted to be used only if in combination with another method of protection.

**R318.4 Foam plastic protection.** In areas where the probability of termite infestation is "very heavy" as indicated in Figure R301.2(6), extruded and expanded polystyrene, polyisocyanurate and other foam plastics shall not be installed on the exterior face or under interior or exterior foundation walls or slab foundations located below *grade*. The clearance between foam plastics installed above *grade* and exposed earth shall be at least 6 inches (152 mm).

### Exceptions:

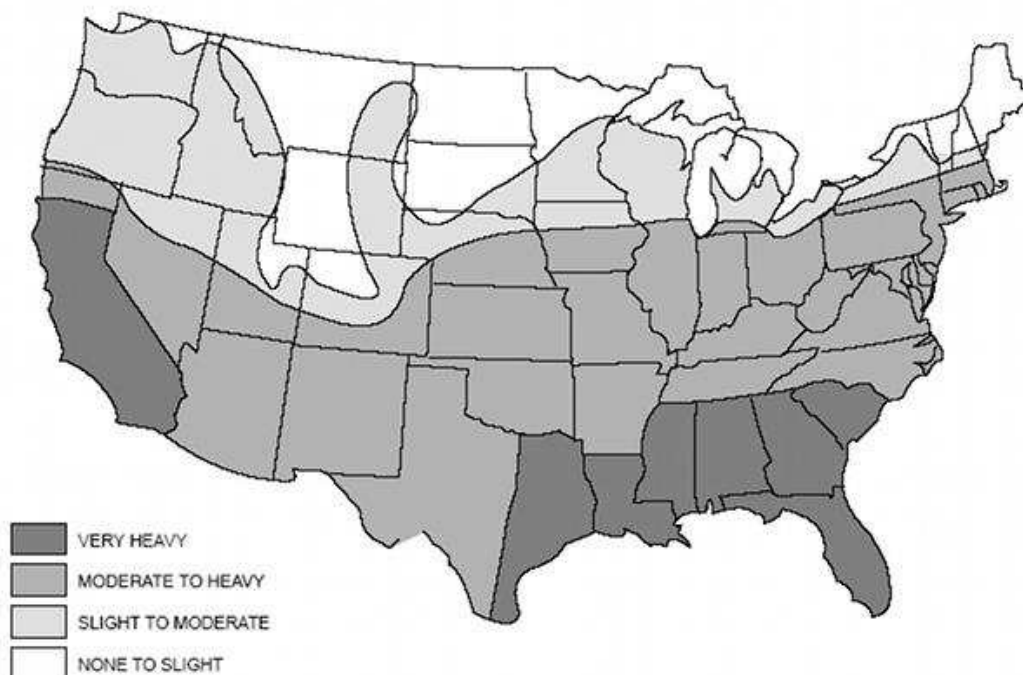
1. Buildings where the structural members of walls, floors, ceilings and roofs are entirely of noncombustible materials or pressure-preservative-treated wood.
2. When in *addition* to the requirements of Section R318.1, an *approved* method of protecting the foam plastic and structure from subterranean termite damage is used.
3. On the interior side of *basement walls*.

## Chapter 26 of IBC PROTECTION AGAINST SUBTERRANEAN TERMITES

**2603.9 Protection against termites.** In areas where the probability of termite infestation is very heavy in accordance with Figure 2603.9, extruded and expanded polystyrene, polyisocyanurate and other foam plastics shall not be installed on the exterior face or under interior or exterior foundation walls or slab foundations located below grade. The clearance between foam plastics installed above grade and exposed earth shall be at least 6 inches (152 mm).

**Exceptions:**

1. Buildings where the structural members of walls, floors, ceilings and roofs are entirely of noncombustible materials or preservative-treated wood.
2. An approved method of protecting the foam plastic and structure from subterranean termite damage is provided.
3. On the interior side of basement walls.



NOTE THAT "APPROVED METHOD OF PROTECTING THE FOAM PLASTIC" IS OPEN TO INTERPRETATION.

ICC-ES created Acceptance Criteria AC239 in order to better define the testing and performance of a "protective method" in order to boast "approved". The foam plastic is buried in a high termite area for at least 3 years, and assessed for damage by a forestry lab expert for rating vs. American Wood Preservative Association standard E7. ThermalStar X-Grade and other TalonGuard treated EPS were tested for 5 years and passed AC239.

This bulletin is current as of the date above.

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