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TECHNICAL BULLETIN

U.L. Roof Deck Construction Listed As Fire Classified

Rev. April 2006

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In the U.L. Directory on Roofing Materials and Systems under Roof Deck Constructions are two sub categories. One is wind uplift and the other is fire. Fire is either listed as not investigated or classified. The fire-classified assemblies have been tested in accordance to ANSI/UL 1256 and have flame spread less than the test requirement.

The ANSI/UL 1256 test is an extended E-84 test that evaluates an assembly for under deck flame spread. The codes recognize this test as a diversified test where a 15-minute thermal barrier does not exist between the underside of the deck and foam plastic. Several unique systems have been tested which can be used without a thermal barrier.

The ANSI/UL 1256 test is similar to the code-required test for fire retardant treated wood (FRTW). The end point of this test protocol is less stringent than the code requirement for FRTW. Tectum panels have been tested and meet the code requirement for FRTW.

We have not tested at UL for the ANSI/UL 1256, as it is not a requirement of any of the model codes. This test is used for systems that do not have thermal barrier protection for foam plastics. Tectum panels of 1 1/2" or thicker meet the requirements of a thermal barrier.

Tectum panels 1 1/2" or thicker meet the FM Class 1 requirement that includes a 30-minute calorimeter test. This is the highest rating by FM for deck assemblies for resistance to under deck fires and reduced insurance rates. This test is also a code recognized diversified test for protection of foam plastic.

There are a variety of methods of code compliance. Assemblies are not required by the code to comply with UL fire classified rating. Tectum products comply based on the thermal barrier requirement of the code and does not have to meet requirements of diversified tests for use as a roof deck.