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Standard Terminology for Exterior Insulation and Finish Systems (EIFS)¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This terminology covers terms and definitions pertaining to materials and processes used in the design and application of exterior insulation and finish systems (EIFS).

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards*:²

E2112 Practice for Installation of Exterior Windows, Doors and Skylights

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*:

accessories, *n*—preformed metal, fiberglass, or plastic members for use to form corners, edges, control joints, or decorative effects.

aesthetic joint, *n*—a deprecated term. See **aesthetic reveal**.

aesthetic reveal, *n*—a groove cut into the insulation board which serves the function of decoration or to provide a starting or stopping point for finish-coat application, or both.

back wrap, *n*—a means of terminating an EIFS by continuing the reinforced base coat from the exterior side of the insulation board around its edge to the substrate. In the process of back wrapping, the reinforcing mesh is mechanically or adhesively secured to the substrate prior to installation of the insulation board. (See Fig. 1.)

DISCUSSION—As an alternative method, back wrapping is achieved by wrapping the edge, back, and exterior side of the insulation board with reinforced base coat prior to fastening the insulation board to the substrate. This is referred to as prewrap.

base coat, *n*—the initial wet-state material, either factory or field-mixed, used to encapsulate the nonmetallic reinforcing mesh or fasten the insulation to the substrate.

¹ This terminology is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee E06 on Performance of Buildings and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee E06.58 on Exterior Insulation and Finish Systems (EIFS).

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² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

cold joint, *n*—the visible junction in a finish coat.

cure, *v*—to develop the ultimate properties of a wet-state material by a chemical process.

drainage mat, *n*—component used in some EIFS-clad drainage wall assemblies, a corrosion resistive material used as a spacer to provide a drainage path between the EIFS and the weather resistive barrier.

dry, *v*—to develop the ultimate properties of a wet-state material solely by evaporation of volatile ingredients.

durability, *n*—the capability of a building assembly, component, product, or construction to maintain serviceability over not less than a specified time.

edge wrap, *n*—the condition of the perimeter at the EIFS where the reinforced base coat is terminated by wrapping the reinforced base coat onto the edge of the substrate. (See Fig. 2.)

EIFS, *n*—see **exterior insulation and finish system (EIFS)**.

EIFS-clad barrier wall assembly, *n*—a wall assembly for which the EIFS cladding provides weather resistance for the EIFS clad portion of the assembly.

EIFS-clad drainage wall assembly, *n*—a wall assembly incorporating a means of drainage between the EIFS and a weather resistive barrier, for incidental moisture resulting from a breach in the EIFS, to the exterior of the EIFS clad portion of the assembly.

embed, *v*—to encapsulate the nonmetallic reinforcing mesh in the base coat.

expansion joint, *n*—a structural separation between building elements that allow independent movement without damage to the assembly.

exterior insulation and finish system (EIFS), *n*—nonload bearing, exterior wall cladding system that consists of an insulation board attached either adhesively or mechanically, or both, to the substrate; an integrally reinforced base coat; and a textured protective finish coat.

factory mix, *n*—a material that is prepared at the point of manufacture and is ready to use without the addition of other materials, except possibly water to adjust consistency.