

FM Approvals Press Release
April 12, 2017

Subject: New Marking Requirements and Zone Category Criteria for FM Approved Exterior Wall Panels per FM Approvals Standard Class 4881, Class 1 *Exterior Wall Systems*

New Marking Requirements

FM Approvals has updated the marking requirements for FM Approved exterior wall panels. As of March 1, 2017, all FM Approved exterior wall panels must be in compliance with the new marking requirements and manufacturer’s installation instructions. Changes to the FM Approvals Standard Class 4881, dated November 2016, which will affect current FM Approved exterior wall panels can be found on our website at <http://www.fmaprovals.com/approval-standards>.

In accordance with Section 3.1 “Marking Requirements”, markings on the product or, if not possible, on its packaging, shall include the following information:

- name and address of the manufacturer or marking traceable to the manufacturer,
- date of manufacture or code traceable to date of manufacture or lot identification,
- model number or product identification,
- the FM Approval Mark, and
- the following text, “Must be installed in accordance with the Approved installation provided with the panels”

In addition, in accordance with Section 3.2 “Manufacturer’s Installation Instructions”, the manufacturer shall supply all necessary instructions and other assistance to the installer to ensure proper installation in accordance with the FM Approved wall assembly. Printed instructions shall be provided by the manufacturer to demonstrate proper installation procedures.

To satisfy the new manufacturer’s installation instructions requirement, manufacturers can either:

- provide a printout of their current FM Approval Guide listing with the panels, or
- provide a controlled installation instructions document, with the panels.



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More information about the new marking requirements and manufacturer’s installation instructions can be found in Section 3.1 and 3.2 of the FM Approvals Standard Class 4881, dated November 2016.

Zone Category Criteria

All FM Approved exterior wall panels shall be updated to the new wind zone categories and shall meet the new criteria, as shown below:

Wind Zone Category	Minimum Wind Pressure Rating +P/-P (lbs/ft ²)	Maximum Wind Pressure Rating +P/-P (lbs/ft ²)
Non-Tropical Cyclone (NTC)	+40/-40	+75/-75
Tropical Cyclone (TC)	+45/-45	None
Tropical Cyclone Missile (TCM)	+60/-60	None

The outward pressure (-P) of an exterior wall assembly’s FM Approved wind pressure rating shall meet the minimum and/or maximum pressure ratings for the new wind zone category.

The changes will not affect the FM Approved wind pressure rating, it will only change the F M Approved wind zone category.

For example, if the exterior panel was FM Approved with a +30/-42 wind pressure rating for a hurricane (H) zone, the FM Approval will be changed to a +30/-42 non-tropical cyclone (NTC) zone, since the outward pressure of -42 does not meet the minimum outward pressure of -45 for the TC zone.

No action is required by the manufacturer for changing the zone category. FM Approvals will be making changes in the FM Approval Guide and to the affected listings.

For more information about the new wind zone categories, see Section 2.2 or 2.3 of the FM Approvals Standard Class 4881, dated November 2016.

Should you have any questions about the new marking requirements, manufacturer’s installation instructions, and/or the zone category criteria, contact FM Approvals at information@fmapprovals.com

