



LZA Technology

A Division of The Thornton-Tomasetti Group

January 25, 2002

Mr. Ray Tooth, Vice President
Earl Composite Systems
199 South Hudson Avenue
Pasadena, CA 91101

Re: MetalStudCreteSystem®

Dear Mr. Tooth:

This office has conducted a review of Earl Composite System's MetalStudCreteSystem®. This wall system consists of a two-inch concrete panel over galvanized steel studs. We have reviewed the wall system to determine whether it complies with the Florida Building Code 2001, Section 1626, High Velocity Hurricane Zones Impact Tests For Windborne Debris.

The Florida Building Code 2001 is the new statewide building code that is effective optionally as of January 1, 2002 and is mandatory as of March 1, 2002. The Code maintains the unique testing requirements of the South Florida Building Code (SFBC) by incorporating the unique provisions of the SFBC into sections at the end of each chapter titled High Velocity Hurricane Zones. These sections are applicable only in Miami-Dade and Broward Counties.

The composite panel section consists of a two-inch thick reinforced concrete panel connected to light gauge metal framing forming a composite wall system. The framing and connections are designed to the appropriate wind loads based on the governing codes.

The MetalStudCreteSystem® is deemed to comply with the referenced impact provisions of the Florida Building Code 2001 as noted specifically in Section 1626.4 - Construction assemblies deemed to comply with Section 1626, "4. *Exterior reinforced concrete elements constructed of solid normal weight concrete (no voids), designed in accordance with Chapter 19 (High Velocity Hurricane Zones) of this code and having a minimum 2-inch (51mm) thickness. ... All connectors shall be specified by the building designer of record for all loads except impact.*"

In order for the wall system to comply with the wind load requirements of the Florida Building Code, the composite panel system shall be designed to safely resist wind loads determined in accordance with ASCE 7-98. If we may be of any further assistance in clarifying the specific code requirements, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Very Truly,

LZA TECHNOLOGY


John W. Knezevich, P.E.
Vice President

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