

Mechanical Inspectors Code Compliance Alert 17-001

May 13, 2017

Approved Duct Sealant Tape

Some contractors are sealing ductwork with tape that does not meet the requirements of the Michigan Residential and Mechanical Codes. A Mechanical Inspector recently reported that a contractor was using POLYKEN 337 Multi-Purpose Foil Tape, and questioned his interpretation of the Code.

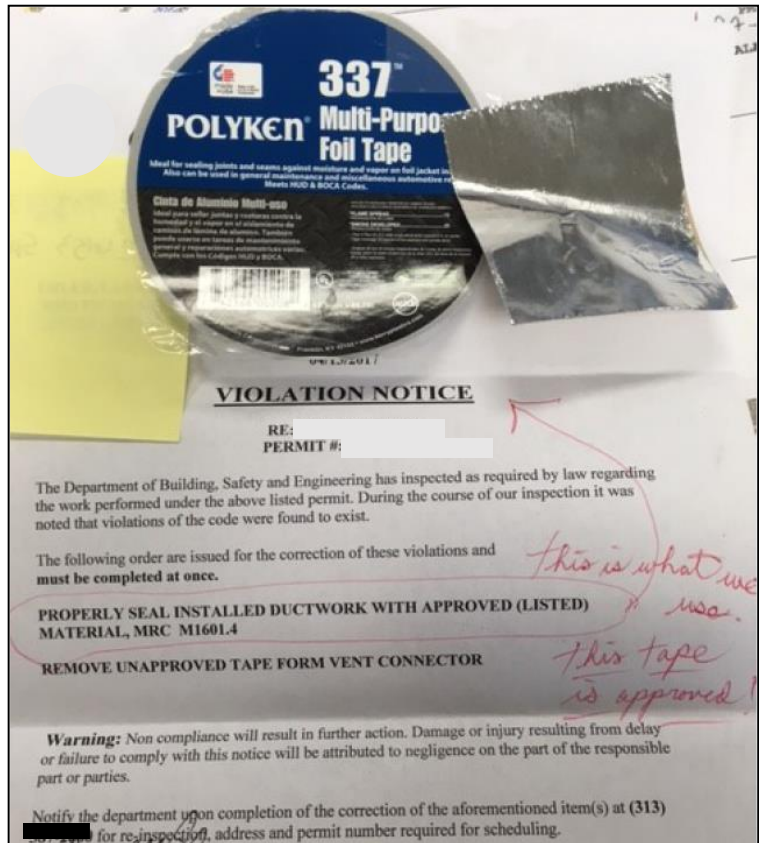
Both Michigan Residential Code (MRC) 2015 Section M1601.4.1 and Michigan Mechanical Code (MMC) 2015 Section 603.9, "Joints, seams and connection", state that "Tapes and mastics used to seal fibrous glass ductwork shall be listed and labeled in accordance with UL 181A and shall be marked "181 A-P" for pressure-sensitive tape, "181 A-M" for mastic or "181 A-H" for heat-sensitive tape. Tapes and mastics used to seal metallic and flexible air ducts and flexible air connectors shall comply with UL 181B and shall be marked "181 B-FX" for pressure-sensitive tape or "181 B-M" for mastic."

The POLYKEN 337 packaging and vendor data sheet state that this tape is UL 723 Classified, which **does not meet the requirements of either the MMC or the MRC.**

Berry Plastics Corp. manufactures Nashua and other POLYKEN brand tapes that are appropriately listed and labeled.

Suppliers sell what contractors order. It is the responsibility of contractors to meet Code requirements.

Recommendation: Specify the Code section and specific requirement on Violation Notices.



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