

ALPOLIC® Metal Composite Materials *Above 40 Foot*

Mitsubishi Chemical Composites America (MCCA) has always been committed to the safe use of its ALPOLIC Metal Composite Materials (MCM).

To us, that means that ALPOLIC should always be used in accordance with applicable local and national model codes. The International Building Code (IBC) has drawn a line at 40 foot above grade. Above that line, products meeting NFPA 285 are to be used, such as ALPOLIC®/fr. Below that line, the NFPA 285 is not a factor, so standard ALPOLIC can be used.

The origin of the 40' line is lost in the mists of time, but, as a practical matter, it means this: Most 1 or 2 story buildings are under 40'. Most buildings 4 stories above, are over 40'. 3 story buildings are not so clear; many are over 40', some are not.

Another thing to remember is it's not the height of the building that matters, but how high the MCM is installed. It's perfectly acceptable to put standard ALPOLIC® on the first 2 stories (up to 40') of an 8 story building, as an example.

Another thing to keep in mind is how close the MCM is to another building. The IBC requires a 5-foot fire separation distance from any adjoining building. So if the buildings are closer than 5' apart (think New York City) ALPOLIC®/fr must be used.

From a practical point of view, it does not make sense to mix ALPOLIC® and ALPOLIC®/fr on a building. After installation, it is very hard to tell them apart. This makes mistakes a real possibility and inspections difficult.

MCCA takes a very active role in trying to prevent the inappropriate use of ALPOLIC® MCM. Since it is not unusual for a fabricator to be unwilling to share project information with us and we are not involved in the actual project contract or chain of command, Customer Service has developed a procedure (see attached) to try and flag orders that may be intended for projects over 40'.

If you suspect a project may have ALPOLIC® MCM installed inappropriately, these are the questions that need to be answered:

- 1) How many stories is the building?
- 2) How high is the MCM installed?
- 3) Is the nearest building more than 5' away?
- 4) If the MCM is installed more than 40', is it ALPOLIC®/fr?
- 5) Who is the fabricator?
- 6) Who is the GC?
- 7) Who is the designer?

If necessary, a visit to the job site documented with pictures is in order.

If a project is determined to have used ALPOLIC MCM inappropriately, we will, as a company, take steps to inform the appropriate parties.

Be PROACTIVE on this issue.