



Clark County Department of Building & Fire Prevention

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Division:	Plans Exam, Engineering, & Inspection	Code Interpretation	BD-CI-018
Subject:	PLASTIC CEMENT FOR USE IN MASONRY MORTAR	Effective Date:	05/01/2007
Code:	2009 IBC 2103.8 or 2012 IBC 2103.9	Review Date:	12/12/2016

A. CODE REQUIREMENT

Mortar for use in masonry construction shall conform to ASTM C270 and shall conform to the proportion specifications of ASTM C270 Table 1 or the property specifications of Table 2.

B. INTERPRETATION

Plastic cement shall not be used in masonry mortar for mortar types M, S, and N. Type O mortar is not allowed in structural masonry. Type N mortar and masonry cement are not allowed as part of the participating elements for structures sited within Seismic Design Category D, E, or F.


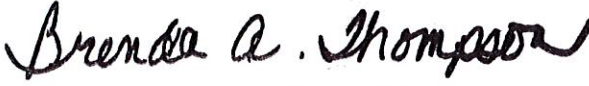
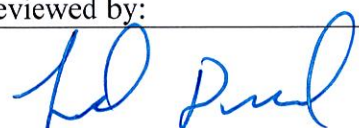
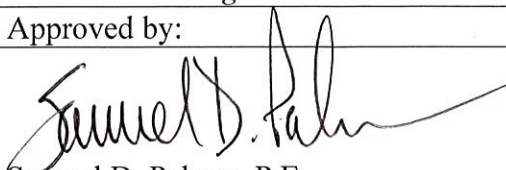
C. RATIONALE

1. The International Building Code (IBC) provides for masonry construction in Chapter 21. The term “mortar” is defined in section 2102 and masonry construction materials are addressed in section 2103 of the IBC. Section 2103.9 requires mortar for masonry construction to comply with ASTM C 270. A review of ASTM C 270 provides for both the proportion and property specifications listed in Table 1 and 2, Section 5.0 Requirements lists cement/lime mortar, mortar cement mortar and masonry cement mortar as permitted masonry mortars. Section 5.0 also requires compliance to the materials specified in Section 4.0. Section 4.0 of ASTM C 270 has requirements for cementitious materials, aggregates, water and admixtures. Plastic cement is not listed as a cementitious material within section 4.0 of ASTM C 270. Therefore, plastic cement is not an approved material for masonry mortar under Chapter 21 of the IBC.
2. The fact that type O mortar is not permitted in structural masonry is an interpretation of the Quality Assurance Provisions of Section 2105 of the IBC. Type O mortar is not listed within the section and is therefore deemed a mortar for nonstructural construction.

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Revision History:

POLICY #	TITLE	Effective Date	Revised	Reviewed
AD-CI-IBC-012	Plastic Cement For Use In Masonry Mortar	05/01/2007		
BD-CI-018	Plastic Cement For Use In Masonry Mortar			08/15/2008
BD-CI-018	Plastic Cement For Use In Masonry Mortar		05/20/2011	12/28/2012
BD-CI-018	Plastic Cement For Use In Masonry Mortar			10/30/2013
BD-CI-018	Plastic Cement For Use In Masonry Mortar			03/02/2015
BD-CI-018	Plastic Cement For Use In Masonry Mortar			01/07/2016
BD-CI-018	Plastic Cement For Use In Masonry Mortar			12/12/2016

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