

*The following explanation was provided by Hoot Haddock to clarify the importance of the ICC (International Code Council) approvals and the differences between some states, in this case, California and Florida.*

ThermaSAVE approvals  
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The State of California accepts the International Code Council, (I.C.C.) but also has its' own requirements. California has high wind loads on the coast, high earthquake loads and they have strict Quality Control Programs to enforce the code. The State of California also puts its' own stamp on the panel. By accepting I.C.C. you get it stamped by the State, I.C.C., the Quality Control Company and ThermaSAVE. This means all four are backing the product. I.C.C carries a safety factor of three (3).

The Florida Building Code consists of putting a wall 8' X 12' in an opening in an airtight chamber and pulling a vacuum of 142 pounds per square foot and outward pressure the same. Then pull the vacuum and check the air leakage, spray water on it to check water penetration, and shoot 8 nine pound 2" X 4"s at hurricane force that hit on the end. If it breaks through to the inside you fail. Our system passed.

This is the only part of the Florida Building Code that I saw which I thought had value. Hurricane force according to Florida and Dade County is 135 miles per hour and they don't have a safety factor in their tests nor a Q.C. Program to see that you follow what you test. Also they only test walls, no roof or floor. Their approval is written by a consulting engineer that you pick and hire to do the approval and there is no stamp on the product. Since there is no Q.C. that leaves the manufacturer to enforce the quality.

The State of Florida claims to have the highest wind loads but our system was developed in Alaska where they have up to 200 miles per hour winds, the most earthquakes, and the heaviest snow loads. Alaska requires the International Code Council, (I.C.C.) approval which means you have a safety factor of three (3). We have lots of buildings of several types in Alaska and no known problems. Our first building was a house which was built in 1984 and is still performing well.

The International Code Council, (I.C.C.) is the world standard. All building officials are members of I.C.C. The I.C.C. writes all building codes. They have conventions each quarter and building officials, engineers, architects, and report holders are invited. They discuss codes and decide if anything needs to be added, changed or deleted and then they vote on it. This is where codes come from. I.C.C. has a lot of engineers on staff and they check and approve everything and write it in the code. This is the International Building Code, National Electrical and Mechanical Codes and others.

To get an I.C.C. report you have to get a licensed engineer to write the approval you want. I.C.C goes over it and then the testing starts. There are over a hundred tests done. Everything imaginable is tested over and over and all tests have to reach three (3) times

what your engineer says it will. The tests include fire, wind, earthquake, termite, aging, freezing, thaw, moisture, all connections, fasteners, and many more things.

Then after you satisfy all their engineers you have to sign a contract with a licensed, bonded, Quality Control Company. The one hundred page manual is written and accepted by the Quality Control Company, International Code Council, and the Report Holder. You (the plant) can start building by ICC standards but the Quality Control Company has to certify the plant by building some panels and testing them three (3) times design load. You have to be trained to do the Quality Control Program then the Q.C. Company sends an inspector to come (unannounced) to check to see that you are doing all the Q.C. Program which consists of buying proper materials, inspecting all that come in, and doing daily Q.C. Tests. There are several of these daily Q.C. Tests. All Q.C. documentation has to be kept up to date.

Then you (the plant) are given a stamp that has the ThermaSAVE logo, Q.C. Company logo, address of the plant, and the I.C.C. approval number on it. Each and every panel that is built contains this stamp of approval.

This all takes between 3 to 5 years and enormous amounts of testing to achieve. But when you see that stamp you can be assured you are getting a quality product.

The Quality Control Inspections go on as long as you keep the stamp and the report has to be upgraded when the codes change.

As you can clearly see the International Code Council approval is the ultimate approval. You can also see why so few companies have one.

If you spend the enormous amount of money and time to get an I.C.C. and you fail you don't get one and there are no refunds.

All tests with I.C.C. have to be according to A.S.T.M. Standards which is the world standard.