Is my FPIS Wall Assembly Required to Comply with NFPA 285 Testing?*

Foam plastics used in buildings of Types I-IV construction require an assessment of their ability to resist vertical and lateral flame spread. Often, this requires testing a wall assembly using NFPA 285 and the use of engineering extensions to allow substitutions of other products that would perform equal to or better than the tested assembly.

This decision tree will help you determine whether the building code actually requires the assembly to be NFPA 285 compliant. This decision tree is based on the 2012 and 2015 versions of the International Building Code.

START HERE

Is the wall assembly located in a building that is of Type I, II, III or IV?

- No
  - NFPA 285 compliance not required.
- Yes
  - NFPA 285 Compliance IS required, proceed to design the assembly.

Is the FPIS covered on each face by not less than 1" masonry or concrete?

- No
  - NFPA 285 compliance not required.
- Yes
  - Is there an airspace between the concrete or masonry and the insulation?
    - No
      - NFPA 285 compliance not required.
    - Yes
      - Is the FPIS flame Spread Index 25 or less AND there is 1" or less airspace between the FPIS and the Concrete/Masonry?
        - No
          - NFPA 285 Compliance IS required, proceed to design the assembly.
        - Yes
          - NFPA 285 compliance not required.

Do ALL of the following apply?
- This is a one-story building
- FPIS flame spread index is 25 or less
- FPIS smoke developed rating is 450 or less
- FPIS thickness is 4" or less
- Building is equipped with an automatic fire sprinkler system
- One of the following covers the FPIS
  - Minimum 0.032" Aluminum OR
  - Minimum 0.0160" corrosion resistant steel

*This decision tree applies to FPIS wall assemblies ONLY. For other product types, consult the applicable section of your building code.